

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG288 – What Does Scripture Say About Us?

Hi, and welcome to the podcast. This is a special edition for our *Growing In God* podcast, as it is produced from a Zoom call that we at Hargrave Ministries have occasionally with our donors. When we have these times together and feel it is important for others to be a part of what we are discussing, we create the meeting into a podcast for release. So I hope that you will enjoy this podcast; and if you like being a part of these discussions, I would encourage you to go to our website at hargraveministries.org and join our Fellow Workers.

Of course, you who know me know that this is what I do; I am not trying to preach or teach or whatever, I am trying to share with you what I am doing in seeking the Lord, and what I am finding and what I am trying to walk in, just in reality in my own life. And so, it is more trying to share with you what is being alive and real to me, and I hope it is a blessing and alive to you also.

We have been talking a lot about this idea of the spirit world, the quantum realm, if you want to call it that, and how things really function in the world around us. We know that there are at least two realms, if you want to simplify it, and that is the natural realm, the material world that we live in, and the spiritual world that we live in. I know that can be divided into many different parts of manifestation, but just to keep it simple, there are these two realms. And I know there are prophecies that we have had as a group, for those of us who were part of the Living Word Fellowship, about the idea of being able to walk and move in these two worlds at once. I think that is really who we are, and that is what God has put us in the earth for and with that purpose.

When we look at His creation, His creation really is one; but when we try to relate to it from where we are, immersed in time-space, we see it as two different worlds. One world is of spirit, which is very difficult for us to work with from our human frailty and our human body. We still sense it, we know it is there, and we have a lot, honestly, in Scripture that tells us about the world of spirit and some of the functions of that world, even though it is less easily grasped by us than the material world around us. Of course, our physical bodies are made to be in this material world, right? And so we have a very easy time relating to it. We can touch it, taste it, feel it, see it, all of that; and yet, we do not seem to have that as easily in the world of spirit. But to move as God's instruments in the earth, which I believe we are here in this generation by the will of God, by the purposes of God which rest upon us, we must find how we are to play our part in this age.

I know a lot of people say, "I wish I could have been on earth when Yeshua was here and walk with the disciples, and be a part of that timeframe and see all the things. If I could have been around Yeshua and sat around the campfire with Him, it would have been much easier to grasp what a walk with God is all about." And I do not really believe that. I think we are as chosen to be in this time and space as He was in that time. It says that in the fullness of time He was brought forth (Galatians 4:4), and I think that in the fullness of time we likewise are brought forth. So, our finding and coming into connection with the reality of who we are and what our purpose is in this earth is needed now, because I believe we have as much of a purpose and a calling as Christ had.

In our meeting a couple weeks ago, we were going over this Scripture out of John the seventeenth chapter where it talks about the fact that the Father loves us as much as He loved Christ; as much as He loved Yeshua, He loved us. Now sometimes that is hard to wrap our heads around. That is really a lot of what this meeting today is for, because I think that we have a tendency, and we have a conditioning, that when we come into contact with or we read or get stopped by certain verses of Scripture, it is really hard for us to take it literally, and really tough for us to grasp that this is being said. I know since I was first taking notes of this there is just so much unfolding with this that the notes are in total disarray and disorganization; they have become useless. So I just have to talk to you, because it has been coming so alive in such a flow that I cannot honestly keep up with it. And of course, some of it comes while you are out walking the dog and, you know, picking up his droppings, which does not seem like the most spiritual atmosphere to be in; but you know, God just is speaking and flowing in these things. So we come across these Scriptures, like this Scripture that the Father loves us as much as He loved Yeshua, His Son, the Christ. And to me, that is one of those things like when you are reading Psalms, it is always going *Selah*, which means, "Hey, you better stop and ponder this for a minute, because if you just jump to the next verse you are not going to get what it is that God is speaking." David had such a concept of this. As he was speaking the Word of God, he was so blown away with what was coming out that he would have to go, "Okay, wait, wait, wait! I have to stop. I have to think about it. I have to really absorb this and let this come alive in me." And that is what I want us to be doing for the next week or two. It will be two weeks before we have our next connection, so at least we are going to try to do this for the next couple of weeks until we get back together.

We are going to be finding Scriptures like this, and we are going to be typing them up, as we said, and we are going to be emailing them to Pua who is going to coordinate it and work with Sil on this project. But I want us to find Scriptures that are showstoppers. As I was beginning to say, when I was first doing these notes, I started to title this, *Did God Really Mean That?* Because I think when you hit some of these Scriptures, they have to kind of do that to you. That is what John 17 did for me, is to stop me in my tracks and go, "Gary, God loves you as much as He loves Yeshua, His Son." And man, I spent at least two weeks going over and over that, because I am going, "Okay, does God really mean this? Does this Scripture really mean what it is saying?" Or should I reach for some type of a linguistic nuance and say, "Oh, this is a parable," or, "This is a poetic expression in the Scriptures, and so you cannot really take it at face value." When you study in seminary, you go through all those methodologies that linguistics play in the Bible. But part of the concern I have is that many times what it does is become kind of a way out of believing that what is being said can be taken at face value; and yes, God really means what He is saying, and He is speaking to us to impart to us and get us to move in something that, being in this flesh, we have a hard time accepting.

But I think the Word of God is supposed to do that. I think the Word of God is supposed to challenge our humanity. We have to remember that Christ was the Word made flesh, and that is what we are supposed to be. He was the firstborn among many brethren. That is where you can look at the Scripture, "God loves us the same as He loved Christ His Son," and realize that if you believe that, then the other Scripture sort of makes sense, that He was the firstborn among many brethren; because God is going to love His sons as He loved Christ. Christ was simply the first of many, and they are not going to be graded on sort of a horizontal type of line; it is going to be standing shoulder to shoulder.

So I want you to find Scriptures that challenge your ability to believe them. You are going to have to practice this and work at it, because I want it to be Scriptures that do not talk about a blessing that you

are being given, but talk about what you are becoming, what you are inside of you. That to me is where really the showstoppers happen.

Let me give you a Scripture as an example. This one is a little long, but I like it anyway. What I like about it is I think it does fall into one of these categories of something that, if you are with us and you have been part of a Living Word Fellowship church over a period of time, you have probably heard over and over again; and it is that kind of Scripture that I think at some point loses its impact. And so, I am going to read this; and like I say, it is a little bit long, but I think all of it is important because it comes along with what in the beginning these churches were about seeing manifested in the earth.

Ephesians 4:11-12. "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." Now let me just say that when you talk about equipping, equipping means to install something into you. If you are going to equip your car with a speedometer, it means that you take a speedometer and you graft it into the car, you hook it all up so that when it is moving you can see how fast it is going. So this idea of being equipped means that the manifestation of these gift ministries was with the purpose of installing into the saints for the work of service. So, if something is installed into us, then the work of service is born out of what is installed. In other words, we have to get out of this idea that we are working towards something, or we are doing a job out of dedication. Many times we think of the Scripture, "Faith without works is dead." Okay, but this is not talking about dead works; dead works are that which comes out of our humanness. What I am talking about is what comes out of our divinity, because what is installed into us is the divinity of the Father, the divinity of the Son, and it is from that installation and growth that the work of service comes.

I do not want us to get confused here as we read on, because the fact that we are working is still not the main point of these verses. And I think some of us in our faith have been workaholics for years and have worked so hard at things that we have missed where God was taking us. Verse 13, "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man." What is real to me so deeply in my walk with God is what the podcast is titled, *Growing In God*. We should be growing and maturing in ourselves of what we are in God bringing us forth in this hour, "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to..." and this is what should hit us, "to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." So we are to become the fullness of Christ. That is the way I read it. If I just take it at face value, then I am to mature to the fullness of Christ. Now what was the fullness of Christ? He was the Godhead made flesh, in bodily form. I hope this is hitting you, because this is what I am talking about. I want Scriptures that are not talking about some blessing, but about what we are, who we are, what God has put us on this earth to be. You may say, "But we are maturing into something, so I do not think that is what I am." Well, Christ came as the Son of God and He matured, right? He grew in the knowledge, He grew up in all things in the favor of God, the favor of man (Luke 2:52). So that is the significance of the fact that for us to get this, Yeshua had to be born as a baby, because we have to understand that as a baby He was the Savior.

I remember going through this in school. I had a Hebrew professor and we were translating a Scripture about Joseph, and it came to the word *na'ar* in Hebrew, which means *a young lad*. That is a valid translation, but it was a Scripture about Joseph. And so, the professor graded the paper, the translation I did, and sent it back with not a very good mark. And I talked to him, I said, "What is wrong? I do not understand what I did wrong with this." And he goes, "Na'ar? You are calling Joseph a *na'ar*? You are calling him a little boy! From the moment he was born, he was the crown prince of Egypt." God brought

him into the earth as the crown prince of Egypt; and certainly he matured and he went through many things. He was put in jail and went through the experiences he went through and that matured him. But that was simply maturing what he was. It was not making him something different. And so, that is that reality.

I know it is a great example, and I am glad I can use the bad grade I received for something. But anyway, the reality is that from the moment he was born, Joseph was the crown prince. And this professor understood enough about the reality of spirit and how it works, and the difference between the natural realm and the spirit world, that he saw Joseph in his youth being already the crown prince of Egypt. Now he may have been growing; we know the Word says that until the Word came to pass, it tried him (Psalm 105:19). What did it do? It matured him into that. So, you are not looking to become something that you already are. I cannot call you a na'ar, just like I cannot call Joseph a na'ar, because when God brought you into this earth, He brought you into this earth as what He called you here to be. You were that, you are that, and you will be that. It is the same as the name of God, *eheyeh asher eheyeh*, I am that I am. It is that constant reality that is manifest in the now, that we are what God brought us here to be.

Now is that maturing? Is it perfecting? Yes. But get out of the idea that you are becoming something different, or that you need to become something different than what you are, because God brought you forth already equipped. There was not this point in His life where all of a sudden God implanted the Savior aspect of Yeshua into His body. He was that. He was the Savior when He came. That was even recognized by those that came to the manger and began to worship Him as the Messiah. They saw Him; at that moment while He was wetting His diaper, they saw Him as the Messiah. He was that at that moment. And He was going to become that, and He was going to be that, but He always was that.

Now I hope this is getting through to you, because this is why we are looking for Scriptures that impact our minds about us along these lines. That is why I think this Scripture is important, because for us as saints who have walked in a way where God is perfecting us and bringing us forth as what we are, He gave apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors and teachers to equip that, to mature that thing; until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man. What is that mature man? The measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. You are called to the fullness of Christ. That is what you are brought here for, to be the fullness of Christ. People have and will call it heresy, saying, "You are going to be like Christ?" Yes, He was the firstborn among many brethren, He is bringing many sons to birth. Because He is bringing that maturity within us, He is maturing what was implanted into us. He formed us in our mother's womb with this calling, but it has to be brought forth.

I think one of the greatest hindrances to this process, if you want to call it that, is our ability to excuse these verses of Scripture that really are meant to confront us with this reality. That is why I was going to call this, *Is God Really Saying That?* or, *Does God Really Mean That?* Is He really wanting us to hear it that way? I think the answer is yes. There are so many verses of Scripture where God is trying to get us to see the reality of who we are and that we were brought forth. And I think that a lot of what happens in church, and a lot of what happens in the way that we are taught to read the Bible, or we maybe just fall into a habit of reading the Bible, is that we kind of pass over things like this, thinking, "He cannot really mean that. It cannot really be saying that," because it is too wonderful for us to grasp the calling that is on us. But He has called us into these things.

I am going to go to John the fourteenth chapter and start reading with verses 5-7. This is a good one to me because it is Yeshua speaking with the disciples, and He is trying to get this across about Himself. I think it shows us how difficult this was even for the disciples, and how little they understood this. And of course, we are in John 14, so we realize we are reading Scriptures that were at the end of Christ's walk on the earth with His disciples, where He was equipping them as Ephesians talks about. So we will start at verse 5. "Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father.'" So here we begin to see it. In other words, we know the Scripture talks about the fact that Yeshua was the fullness of the Godhead bodily, in human form. It is very clear that is what Yeshua was. He was the Father; and He was given to us so that we might observe what God was looking to do, not only with Him, but with us also, what He was looking for with mankind also. You have to get that part.

So He says, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also." In other words, there is no separation. Christ was the Father in human form. "From now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Christ is saying, "If you have seen Me, if you have looked at Me and you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." These are heavy terms. The disciples certainly stumbled over it, after living with Him for the time He was in the earth.

Verses 8-10, "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father.'" See, he is doing what I am talking about, he is passing over. Christ is being very clear with this Scripture, saying, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father," and it goes over Philip's head. He cannot receive it. He will not hear it, or cannot hear it, whatever. "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father [He says it again]; how can you say, "Show us the Father."?'" Is this pretty clear to everybody? I mean, if we read it and go, "Take this literally," then what He was saying to the disciples was that He wanted them to take what He was saying literally, but they almost could not do it because of the conditionings in their minds. And what I want to confront in me – like I said, I am always just talking to you guys out of what I am trying to move through. What He is trying to say is, "I already told you. If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father," which is what He is saying to me. There are many other Scriptures here that are speaking absolutely clearly to you about many things about yourself that you are and are maturing into; and you need to stop being a Philip and just letting it pass over your head and going on to the next verse. We need to have that spirit of David resting upon us where we go, "Selah. Stop. Wait. I have to take time with this. I have to meditate on this." Not only just to know it, because there is a knowing that is a mental knowing and ascent; but there is a knowing which is an understanding, "This is my reality. Right now, this is my reality." That is the knowing I want us to come to.

Verses 8-10 again,

So Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding Me does His works."

I love this one because you could ask the question, "How many miracles did Christ perform?" And you could answer that by saying, "None." Because it was the Father in Him doing His work. Does that make

sense? And Christ got that: "This is the Father. I say those things that I hear the Father say, I do those things which I see the Father do." He understood that He was the Father in human form in the earth, and the Father was doing His work through Him. It was not Him, but it was Him, because He and the Father were one. And it is that reality.

One of the most difficult things for us to grasp, living in the physical world, is any kind of a true concept of oneness; because oneness in a material world does not exist, not like it does in a spiritual world. You cannot drive a car into a brick wall and have them become one; it is not going to happen. Now there is a lot that is going to happen, but they are not going to become one. And this is part of the problem. That is why I like Ephesians, because the oneness becomes a part of what that is saying. Again, in John 17, oneness is a part of that idea. And I think somehow it is having a revelation of oneness as my current reality: "I am one with the Father, I am one with Christ, now." You may say, "Well, I look at you and you have a long way to go." Hey, fine, I do not care. It does not take away from what I am, it only means what is at work; and there is a big difference.

So Christ sees this. I will read verses 10-11 again. "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves." Because see, the works that were happening surrounding Christ were coming out of Him as a vibrational spiritual level because He was the Father. It was the Father working, and it manifested outside of Him. We see that with Peter, right? He walks down the street and his aura falls on people, and they are healed. Well, that is the Father. It is the Presence. Peter finally got it and became it, and that is where we are going too with this.

Verse 12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these will he do; because I go to the Father." There is another showstopper, right? That is talking to us. That is talking to us. And it is one of these things that somehow our mind kind of blocks and parries off so that we do not let it really hit us like it needs to hit us; that Christ is in us and the Father is in Christ, and the Father is in us and Christ is in us, and we are one. He is working in us and through us in this age that we are in, and whatever is to happen of what would be called works or miracles or whatever, that is not us, that is this reality of the Father in us and coming through us. We have had the terminology, "Yes, Christ is in me. The Father is in me. The Holy Spirit is in me." But it needs to hit me. I mean, I need to be able to go, "No, this is real. This is real, and it is the reality." And I have to come into this reality until I am matured to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ in the life that I am living now, with all the inputs that are coming into me.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do." What does it mean, "Believe in Me"? It means believe that He is in me. Believe that is why I am here, because I am to be the manifestation in the flesh of the Son who is now at the right hand of the Father. "Truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father." See, He is with the Father but no, He is in me, and so He is still here working through me.

Verses 13-18,

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that

is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

All of these may seem like mystical things, but honestly they are not. They are very straightforward statements, and we need to start seeing them.

So what I want us to be doing is looking through Scriptures and finding verses like this that just confront us in the reality of who we are; the reality that the Father is in us, Christ is in us, and coming to grips with what that means, recognizing that the Father was in Christ, and Christ was a child, and Christ matured into a full-blown son of God and manifested the salvation of the Father to the world. Because that is what He did, He manifested the forgiveness of God to the world in the fact that the Father was in Him doing that. That is why He was here, that is what He came for. So I have to ask myself, "Well, Gary, why are you here? What did He put you here for? What are you doing? What are you maturing?" Because I cannot just say I am maturing, I have to be maturing into the purpose that is already in me that I do not clearly see. And that is what He was saying back here. He was saying, "Because they do not see Him, then they do not believe or understand." I think there is a way in which we have not seen clearly; but I think God wants us to see clearly. I think He wants us to move into these things. I think He wants us to be equipped. I think it is part of our relationship with one another; because somewhere in us and around us abide these apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, brothers and sisters, and that which is bringing forth this process of maturing us into what we already are but may not even know it, and may not quite see it yet. But others are going to see it, and we are going to have it come alive to us.

So this is what I would like us to do. I would like you to read the Bible and maybe go to some of your favorite verses, things that have really been important to you over the years. Look at them again and go, "Gosh, have I maybe skipped over this a little bit where I do not really let it hit me like it needs to hit me?" That yes, God means what He says, and He says what He means. I do not want to go into more Scriptures today, because I want you to find them. But there are Scriptures that talk about God in us, God in Christ in us, the Holy Spirit, our oneness with one another, all these realities that we are going to come to grips with because they are going to come alive. We are going to walk in two realms at once. And part of that, to me, is seeing in the Spirit; and one of the first things we are going to see is who we are.

And so, I believe for that, I believe in that, and I really bless us. What I am going to do now is quit, because I do not want to go any further. Like I said, I want you guys now to take the ball and really, really run with it. Let this come alive, find the Scriptures. You can do one, or you can do five, however many really hit you this way and you feel like, "Boy, everybody needs to be hit with this one." Copy and paste those into a Word document or whatever else you use and attach it to an email, send it to Pua, and we are going to get this ball rolling. We will just see how it unfolds and what comes in. But at least we have two weeks before our next meeting, so try to get as much as you can. And if we decide in the next meeting that we want some more time with this, great, we can take more time with it, because I think it is important for us to engage with what God is speaking to us here.

I hope this makes sense, I hope it is a blessing, and we will believe that we really are able to walk in it. What I would like to do now is, Mitch, would you bless us out of Ephesians, that the eyes of our hearts be enlightened.

Mitch White: Absolutely. We believe that we can see things anew when we read them. We believe that our eyes are going to be open in a way that we are going to be very surprised, maybe even shocked, at what we see when we read again such familiar Scriptures that we have known, and suddenly realize, "That is talking about me." So we bless this word as a starting point to go deeper and deeper into bringing us into the actual manifestation of all the things we have believed for all these years. Amen.

Gary: Amen. Beautiful, thank you, and we do bless it. We will see you in two weeks, and let's believe that the Kingdom is furthered far beyond even our ability to grasp within these two weeks. Amen.