

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG289 – Times of Refreshing

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.

Alright, very special day. I know there are some things that we want to do. We have a couple people here that we want to step in and say hi to all of you. Our guests from Brazil, Silas and Shuma are here with us this morning, and there is Leo and his girlfriend Carina. So they have been here, they actually leave tomorrow.

Okay, so here we go. Silas, we bless you. Bless this word. Thanks for being with us and we loose this time. Amen.

Silas Esteves: Hi you guys. It is very fun, very, very emotional to see you. It is a very good emotion and I miss you all. God bless you all. It is so fun and it is special to be here with Gary and Silvana. We are here for ten days, and we thank God for this time here with them, and right now this time with you.

I want to start by asking you to be with us in prayer for the School of Prophets in Mexico. We have Janneth and we have Nayeli with us, if she would show up in the screen for a minute, two of our mothers and leaders in Monterrey. So, that is going to happen over the Easter time, and you obviously have an open invitation if anybody wants to be there with us.

Also, I want to bless you, starting with something in my heart just to prophesy times of refreshing from the Lord. I know there is a message from John with that title. But also, the current word that we are getting in the blogs and podcasts opens the door for a transformation, for an atmosphere of times of refreshing in the Presence of the Lord.

I want to start by reading Acts chapter 3. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the inauguration of the Church, and everything that opened there, there is this message in this tremendous word. I will start from verse 18: “But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.” Thank God for the Word being fulfilled, and we believe for more. Verses 19-21,

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient times.”

I know that we have been receiving for decades, some of us probably for centuries, I do not know how old you are, or I am; I am old now. But we have been receiving a word that has been a process, a godly process of restoration in the body of Christ. We have seen restoration of divine order, many things. You guys

probably know way more than I do, things that under the apostolic voice of John Stevens were restored; like the worship and prophecy and divine order, the fivefold ministries and many things that the church world came to experience worldwide. But there is more, there is more. Times of refreshing; it is something that our brain, our minds, when we look at the scenario around us, in all the experiences we may have a hard time believing that we are walking into times of refreshing from the Presence of the Lord. But I want to prophesy that every tear that you poured doing your walk with God will be wiped away. Everything will be done according to the will of God in order for you to have times of refreshing in His Presence.

Obviously, Peter in Acts 3 is talking based on the prophecy of Joel, and I am going to Joel chapter 2 because it is a beautiful unfolding. The Christian world nowadays and for many years has talked about revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we do believe that. It is in the Scriptures and it is one of the prophecies that John talked about a lot, Gary talked a lot about it too; and I can recall messages where we are focusing on that. But there is an expression in Joel 2:28 that really intrigued me and I want to share this with you, when he says, "After this." Joel says "After this," and then he describes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. So, I want to know, "After what?" What happened that prepares for this time of an outpouring that will be global? To me, that is an open door for a new day of the Kingdom that we believe for. And what is that? That is what I want to be objective about and share with you what happens.

The term *after this* in Hebrew is *achare ken*, which is clearly meaning that there are some specific things that must happen before that event, or whatever comes after that. So when you read Joel chapter 2, and I am not going to read the whole chapter because we would not have the time for that; but it starts with an alarm, the sound of the trumpet, the day of the Lord as a warning. It is a crisis that is actually being appointed as something that is going on. But if you go back to chapter 1, you see that the joy of the human race, of humanity, will be withered away; so it is very, very much the times we are living now. But what can we do in order to prepare as a school of prophets, as a company of sons and daughters, looking for this major outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

From verses 1 to 11, and I am still in Joel chapter 2, you are going to see this alarm, this brokenness, this sound of the trumpet calling, invoking a brokenness before the Lord. Phase number two he starts in verse 12. Verses 12 and 13 actually are a convocation for a brokenness of your heart; for tearing the heart, not the garments. It is a real return. It is not a religious performance, it is a restoration of your personal relationship with the Lord; going back to the thought of Acts chapter 3, that things must be restored and the heavens are kind of retaining, or are literally retaining, the return of the Lord until things are restored. And part of it is the restoration of our personal relationship with the Lord. It is a process of inner transformation.

Then we go to the next step, which is a corporate humility in intercession. From verses 15 to 17 it is proclaiming a solemn assembly, gathering people. But it is interesting, because from elders to children to nursing infants and the bridegroom, as you can read there – I am not going to read all those details – but you can see that everybody is being called to a time of humility. You may even think about this few years of our lives as a time of humility, a time of deep changes that our brain cannot explain, cannot understand. It is the Holy Spirit putting us in a place of being humbled before the Lord as we seek for His Presence and restore this relationship with Him. Everyone is involved, that is what I like about that part, because from the elders to nursing infants, everybody is called to repent, to change. And that is a step.

Then from verses 18 to 27 comes something that is amazing. It is God's reaction, or response; it is restoration. When the shame is removed, when the ears are restored, and when people return to praise... which personally, I believe for a new day of a personal lifestyle of worship before the Lord. To me that is a restoration, that is a new level of worship. I know we love the corporate worship, and we will never abandon that. But there is something very deep in our personal life of worship, or lifestyle of worship before the Lord, as a temple of the Holy Spirit. This temple must have this light, this lamp of worship, being lit every single day. It is not something that we can let go; and it is personal. And again, I believe and I prophesy that we will experience again awesome, amazing times of corporate, congregational worship. But I tell you, this is referring to something deeply personal that we need to exercise in our times before the Lord in an individual worship or family worship, which is another deep experience that we can seek before God.

And it is a time of healing. That is why I do believe we are there. We are at the time where the Holy Spirit will heal many people in their spirit, in their soul, in their emotions, and with physical healings. But I want to also emphasize the fact that the Holy Spirit is creative, not just repeating the miracles and the amazing things we read about in the history of the Church, which are amazing; we want to see that and we want to repeat that. But there is way more than what our eyes have seen or our ears have heard, that we have read or we have experienced. There is way more. And there is something where the Holy Spirit is calling us for this preparation time.

Then comes verse 28. Only after all of these things, all of these experiences – and I am going very fast here, but we can dig deeper into each phase of this chapter 2. But then verses 28-29,

“It will come about after this [after all those experiences] that I will pour out My Spirit all on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

But there is a time of preparation, a time of seeking the Lord, which I do believe we are into. We are living in those days, and many times not even understanding things that are happening or why things happen, but God is preparing us. Peter says in his letter that God is not delayed as many may think (2 Peter 3:9). He is waiting for our repentance, for many to repent. That is part of restoration, where we need to find out this deeper repentance. John Stevens and Gary Hargrave always opened the doors for a School of Prophets with a word of repentance. But that is a lifestyle that we have been trained to experience in our personal lives.

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit is a global experience. Gary has prophesied several times about global salvation, you know, millions, billions of people meeting the Lord; and things will happen, but we need to know that there is a sequence. This thing will happen. The Christian world is believing for revival, but we need to go to the Scriptures and see that there is a sequence of experience that will trigger this outpouring, this global outpouring. And I have heard from theologians trying to explain this term, “Well, it is not really *all mankind*, it is going to be more on believers, or on saints.” No, no, the Scripture says “*all mankind*.” Something global is about to happen. And I know we focus on and we know that during these days people talk about tribulation, this and that; but our brain, our thoughts, our imagination, our desire, the desire of our hearts, must connect with these times of refreshing in the Presence of the Lord, which includes deep healing to my spirit, your spirit, to our minds, our thoughts. Our thoughts need healing. Our emotions need to be healed. Our physical body needs the touch of life, a resurrection life that comes with this experience of having the ears that were robbed from us being

restored. I believe the work of restoration that the Lord started through John Stevens includes this phase of restoration, emphasizing a restoration of a personal meeting with the Lord and lifestyle before God. The Spirit is poured sovereignly, but He rests comfortably where there is repentance, humility, and alignment to His will.

Joel chapter 2 is not teaching about gifts or a manifestation first. It is a teaching or a sequence or a roadmap of how to get to this major global outpouring of the Kingdom of God, of the Holy Spirit. And we will end by saying that "After this" means the outpouring follows a pathway, and we need to respect the divine order of the Scriptures that describe this formula. I could call it a formula, but it is a pathway, there is a spiritual order. God does not change, but people must be aligned. We must align to His way of thinking and what He wants, what He desires. When Jesus came, when John the Baptist came, saying, "Repent, because the Kingdom of God is here," it is not repenting only because of shame. Actually, it is part of the promise that the shame will be removed. It is not dealing with shame, it is dealing with return, with restoration of a human relationship with the Lord. As we are here on this earth, living a human experience as divine beings, we need to have that reconnection with the Father, with the Holy Spirit, before it is poured out over the whole of mankind.

I believe for that. I prophesy that the simplicity of Joel chapter 2, which includes the mighty people, which includes the fact that the land behind these people is a desolate desert and in front of these people is a Garden of Eden; it is all prophesied there in Joel chapter 2. But we need to know that this is a call to repentance, a call to humility, a call to a covenant relationship, an individual personal relationship with the Lord, because we are one in Him. We work and we can talk about oneness, but it is not a matter of writing documents. It is a matter of each one of us being one with Christ, one with the Father, one with the Holy Spirit; and then our oneness is absolutely a consequence, a fruit of that personal covenant relationship with Him.

So we know that repentance is not punishment, it is a doorway back into the love relationship with the Father. Real repentance is not shame-driven. Shame says, "Hide, you are unworthy." Repentance says, "Return, you belong." You belong to the Father. You belong to the plan of God for this hour. And I see the faithfulness to connect with Israel, the faithfulness to be in the word that you received for many years, and I believe that we are following a pathway towards this great day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in times of refreshing. And I bless that, in the name of the Lord.

Gary: Amen. Beautiful. Such a blessing to have Silas and the family with us, and thank you for this word, Silas. Many of you know that we have a prayer group just before these meetings, and so a lot of times we have gotten into many things. And I feel like one thing that Silas was saying here at the end I just want to emphasize a little bit, because sometimes this terminology about repentance and humility and all of that, we can take it negatively because we are almost conditioned to have it be a negative thing. But there is such a positive. God's purpose is the times of refreshing. It is the positive thing He is looking to do for us and with us, and that is where we have to keep our focus. How He takes us there – I think we have to recognize that God will do whatever He needs to do to get us into His eternal purpose for our existence. Because we are not just here living this human experience right now, we are living our eternity with God, and this is just one phase of that eternity.

And so, one of the Scriptures we had this morning in the prayer was Job 38. And of course, if you read the Book of Job, it is very easy to take a lot of what happened to Job in a very negative light and say, "Wow, that's not fun." Many times we talk about the Book of Job and we laugh about the Book of Job, and a lot of times we cry over the Book of Job. But when we get into these last verses, we really see

God's purpose. God comes to Job to do much of what Silas is talking about. He is humbling him here. He is bringing him into a repentance that is very, very deep; and He does it, but He is doing it by showing him something of the greatness of what his existence has been part of and where he is going. So I just want to read some of these verses out of Job 38, and I encourage you to get more into them; and I also encourage you to really get notes from rewatching the recording of this that Silas was reading, because I think it would be good to spend more time in all of these Scriptures and really get the meat out of them.

I will start at verses 1-2 of Job 38. It says, "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?'" And I think, "That kind of explains my relationship with God." When we get into this mood where we think He is doing everything wrong and we are doing everything right, or "Why are You doing what You are doing?", and "Gee, I do not really deserve that." I know none of you have ever had that thought; I am just exposing myself here, which I would gladly do. But we just recognize what God is saying in verses 2-3: "'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me!'" And I think, how many times have you really been ready to instruct God? I mean, you have just had enough of the dealings of God, enough of what you are going through on whatever level He is taking you through something, and you think, "Okay, God, just sit down for a minute. I am really ready to instruct You on a few things." Again, probably none of you, but I have gone through that once or twice.

So He says in verses 4-7,

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding, who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

I think it seems like what God is doing is humbling Job; and He really is. He is bringing Job to a place of humility, but not that it is a negative thing. He is really bringing him back to the memory. The Scripture says, "We have the mind of Christ"; He is bringing Job back to the memory of who he really is and what his relationship and walk with God really is all about. If Job was to answer that first question about "Where were you?" after going through this humbling experience, he would have to say, "Oh yes, now I remember, I was there. I am one of those who was shouting for joy. I am one of those sons of God, one of those morning stars, that was experiencing watching You bring forth the creation." And talk about bringing us back to the place of remembering; I always remember that the purpose of Christ is to restore us to the Father. And that is kind of what you can see and hear with Job; he is being restored into this relationship with the Father, of being one of the audience, the grand audience that was beholding all that God was doing at the creation of the world and the setting of the foundations, and shouting for joy, singing for joy.

We talk a lot about oneness, but boy, here is oneness. Here are the sons of God shouting for joy in oneness as they are beholding Him. So it is looking at where God is taking him; and rather than thinking of words like repentance as negative or hard, or humbling as a painful experience, I like to think of it more as God breaking the shell off of our minds and hearts so that we can again see who we are and what the relationship is. Christ came to restore us to the Father, to restore us into that relationship and to see that restoration, because He is coming to bring us into times of refreshing.

There may be difficulties, there may be all that you have gone through, but God a lot of times has to break the conditioning of our mind. It says that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind. Well, how does that happen? One of the ways it happens is that God breaks the conditioned shell off of our mind of how we even perceive things. And I want us to take this message from Silas today and really think about it, because again, these words can seem hard, they can seem painful. It is almost like I am being corrected because I have done something negative. But God is just breaking off of us our inability to see and perceive.

That was one thing about Christ, He said, "The Father and I are one." He knew that relationship with the Father, and there was nothing clouding that; then it comes and says, "We have that mind of Christ." And so, I bless us that we can take these verses and read them and see them again. This is what we are doing with all these Scriptures we are looking up right now. We are trying to see them in a different way. We are trying to let it go so deep into our heart of what God is saying and telling us that we are, and telling us what He is. And what is He saying? "You are My temple, and the Holy Spirit lives in you." And Christ is saying, "My Father and I are taking up Our abode in you." This is where the joy comes from. This is where the release of the times of refreshing comes from. If we can see in truth and honesty who we are and what God is doing in our life, repentance is not negative, humility is not negative. What He is doing for us is nothing but positive to get us to this place of being able to see and understand who we are, and what we are, and that He is in us, and that He is working through us. We are in a Sabbath day, and what does the Sabbath say? "It is finished. It is complete. I have finished My work in you." And He is looking to dwell in us.

I was reading something about comparison of religions. One thing about the Christian faith, no other religion, other than Judaism and Christianity, shows a God who is driven to live in His people. That is a pretty heavy statement, because that is what God is after us waking up to, the fact and the reality that He is in us. And so we bless this time today. We are thankful for this word. Let's dig into these verses as we go through these next two weeks.