

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG294 – Our Gratitude for Christ in Us

Welcome to this podcast. I hope you are having a great day, and I believe for this podcast to make it even greater. I want to talk to us about our gratitude for Christ in us. Let me read Colossians the second chapter, starting at verses 6-7. It says, “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

I am going to read a little bit more of these verses, but first I just want to deal with this part. We have received Christ Jesus our Lord into our lives, and we are to walk in Him because He is living in us; and we have been firmly rooted and now we are being built up in Him and established in our faith. That is what these verses are talking about, and the reality of that is great. I go back to the very name of this podcast, *Growing In God*, because the purpose of it is for us to grow and mature and to be increasing, through our walk with Him, to greater and greater manifestations in our lives of the fullness of Christ, of God, of the Holy Spirit. I believe this is what Paul is referring to when he says, “Having been firmly rooted and now being built up.” We have been firmly rooted in our salvation through Christ, believing in Him as Messiah, believing in Him as one dwelling in us with the power of His resurrection; and now we are being built up.

Our walk with God is a process of growth. It is a process of maturity. It is a process of more and more being imparted and manifesting within us. And so we are now being built up in Him and established in our faith. Our faith is something that is hugely important. I talked in a recent podcast about the fact that faith is like spiritual gravity. It is not something that we pump up when we need it; it is something that is manifesting in us, at the level we have attained it, all day long. So that is what he is saying: we are established in our faith. Whatever faith you have, whatever level you have attained to, you are established in that faith; and we are looking to being built up in Him and growing in our faith, as well as in all aspects of our walk with God, “...just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” I love that, because that is what I really want to express in this podcast today, that there is an overflowing of gratitude that we have.

I think many times it really escapes us that God is driven to dwell in us. Christ came to reconcile us to the Father, and Christ said that He would dwell in us, and that He and the Father would come and take up Their abode with us. We see that God the Father, Yeshua the Son, and the Holy Spirit live in us. This is the purpose and drive of God, that the fullness of Himself would dwell in His people; and all that He is doing is moving us towards that goal. Sometimes we lose the sharpness of, “What is it that God is doing? What is our walk with God all about?” It is the great reality of the fact that we have received Christ Jesus, our Lord, into our life.

Yeshua dwells in us. We are firmly rooted and grounded in Him. We are being built up, we are maturing, we are growing, as Ephesians talks about, until we attain to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ in our lives. And we are to be established in a faith that is of the highest level, because faith is the substance of what is hoped for; and that hope is that we would be as He is in this

world, that we would be Christ's manifestation. Christ Himself said, "As the Father sent Me, so send I you." What did the Father send Him to be? He sent Him to be His representative, and more than that, His manifestation in this physical world. Christ is the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in bodily form; and as Christ was sent, He says, "So send I you." He also says, "The works that I have done, greater works than these will you do."

I want to really overwhelm us in our minds with this reality that God is a God driven to dwell in and among His people. This is what our instruction teaches us. And he said, "...just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude." I want there to be an overflowing gratitude that comes out of me constantly. Because one thing about gratitude, gratitude is an emotion, which I think emotion is very foundational to our walk with God in everything that we attain in our growing in God. But the emotion of gratitude is very special, because it is a sign of having received. You are grateful for that which you have received. You are not grateful because you are hoping for something. You are not grateful when you are believing for something to take place, or for something to happen in your life. You are grateful after you have received it. And we have received this, and that is what Colossians is telling us here. The book of Colossians is telling us, Paul is telling us, that we are overflowing with gratitude because Christ is in us. He is established in us, and we are being built up in Him, we are growing constantly.

He goes on in verses 8-12 to say,

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

We have been crucified with Christ, and truly it should no longer be we who live according to this world, or according to the flesh or the material surroundings that we have, but we are crucified and raised up with Him. We are raised from Him into the life of resurrection. When He comes into us, He comes into us as the resurrected Christ. He comes into us with all of the power and authority. He is head over all things, all rule, all authority. He comes into us as the fullness of the Godhead, of the Deity, dwelling in bodily form.

He comes into us with all that He is from His resurrection, not merely as the Messiah who walked in the earth prior to His resurrection. Yet even at that point, He and the Father were one; and He did nothing but what He saw the Father do, and He said nothing but what He heard the Father speak. But when He comes into us, and as we receive Him, which verse 6 is talking about, "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him," we have received Christ. We are not just saved from sin and thus rejoice that we have been forgiven of our sins and that we will live eternally – Oh wait! More than that has happened in our salvation experience. And we need to walk in a sense of gratitude, because as we express that gratitude, we have to confess and believe that we have received it.

You cannot be grateful for something unless you have received it; so this is what we have received. Colossians is talking about what we have received when we received Christ Jesus. When we received Yeshua the Messiah, the risen Lord, into our lives, then we received Him in all of these things. We received Him as the one who was the fullness of Deity dwelling in bodily form. We received Him as the one who has made us complete. We received Him who is the head over all rule and authority. We

received Him who has circumcised us with a circumcision not made with hands, but that literally has removed the body of flesh from us by faith.

“Therefore it is no longer I who live, but Christ living in me.” I am not just this human that was born and lives on the earth as any normal mortal, but I have received the circumcision that cuts away the old man and the old flesh. And instead, I have put on and I have received into myself through the crucifixion, or the circumcision, of Christ, not only the burial with Him in death to the old man and the old flesh, but also I have received the resurrection of Christ through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead; and likewise am I raised from the dead in resurrection.

Paul said, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.” (Philippians 3:10) Paul did not see his experience with Christ only as something with the one who had lived and walked on the earth; he saw instead and understood, which he is expressing here in Colossians, the fact that he had received Christ, he had received Yeshua into his life, and after being buried with Him in baptism, he was raised with Him in resurrection. That same power of the resurrection, the resurrection Christ, dwelt in him. And that is what he was longing to walk in and to know and to express and to minister out to this world and to the believers, as he led them as the apostle to the Gentiles.

We should be overflowing with gratitude. We should find ways every day to express this gratitude. We should hold in our minds a gratitude, because it is our confession of faith. If I am grateful, if I can live in gratitude, and Paul says, an overflowing gratitude; if I can live daily with an awareness of this overflowing gratitude, it connects me with the power of all that Christ is, living in me. I think it is very important, and I think it is time that we recognize all that He is through His life, His crucifixion, His burial and His resurrection, living in us. And we are to be an expression of that in this earth.

Paul talked about this revelation of Christ dwelling in us. He talks about it in Ephesians 3, among other places, but I want to look at verses 16-19.

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints... [God bless the body of Christ to come into this reality], to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

We see here the purpose of God in Christ and in all that He did through Christ, and all that God is waiting for and looking for as the fruit of the Son of God coming to earth and suffering on the cross – and that is that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. What gratitude we should have, and what gratitude we should live in, that God daily is working and growing and dwelling in our hearts, wanting us to be filled to all the fullness of God. Do not faint in unbelief. Instead, manifest this through an overwhelming sense of gratitude that you live in day after day. I bless us that we may see the body of Christ, the whole body of Christ, filled up to all the fullness of God.

Amen.