

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG295 – Did God Really Mean That?

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](http://hargraveministries.org) and join our Fellow Workers.

We have been working for a few weeks now on this idea of coming up with Scriptures that really are kind of in your face. I started it with the title, *Did God Really Mean That?* We could expand it and say, did Paul really mean that when he said that? Did God really mean it? Did Yeshua really mean that when He said that? Because we recognize that some of the time Scripture can be really confronting; it should be confronting to us of the reality that we have to walk in these things. And I just thought, "This would be great. Let's concentrate on it." I feel like we are kind of finished with this now. I do not know if anybody was really wishing we would keep collecting, but I think that we have a good set of Scriptures here. I want to thank Pua for all the work that she has put into it for us, gathering them, putting them all together. She was working with Silvana on that, and it has been a lot of work.

The copy that we now have is just like one Scripture after another, Scripture after Scripture. Some people had put comments into it, and so we took that out to have just the Scriptures. I did read all the comments, so do not worry, I got your commentaries; but I wanted to see just the Scriptures. Now we are calling it complete as of this morning, and really what we have is twelve pages of just Scripture. There are twelve pages of Scriptures, and then there are two more pages that give us the names of everybody who contributed to the project. Think about that, twelve pages, just Scripture after Scripture that people came up with, which I think is wonderful. And so, Silvana is going to get it emailed to you, and we will all have this same thing. What I would like you to do is read over it. There are Scriptures in here that feed us promises, and the promises are wonderful. Then there are other Scriptures in here that fall into this thing of the Lord putting His finger on your chest, going, "Okay, do this."

I was looking for those hard-hitting ones. I mean, let me just pick one that falls in that category. How about, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Is that a good one? Love your neighbor as yourself. That is the kind of thing that, for me, is what started this. I have been into going back over the Scriptures and looking for things where God is just saying, "Look, do this. Think this. Be this," where there is not a choice. It is not like a promise that is out there. It is not like, "When the Kingdom comes and everything is at peace, and we come to the last verse in the book of Revelation, then you will have this and this." I love the promises, and I do not want to remove Scriptures from this that are promises because I think they get us to where we are going. But I also want to emphasize the Scriptures that are just like Him saying, "You. Hey, you. Do this now. This is how you should live and be and think and walk as we do this."

So that is one of them, Galatians 5:14, "Love your neighbor as yourself." How about, "Now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ." Alright? No more condemnation. We cannot have a problem with condemnation. It is over, it is done. Stop having condemnation, that is what this tells me. There is no more condemnation to those who are in Christ – done, finished. Not something we play with, not something we keep repenting over, not something we are going around a merry-go-round with, you know, "Gee, I fell into condemnation again."

I want to take this because I think there is a power in the Word that if we take it as being like, "Oh my God, God is telling me to do this!" We kind of started this morning in Chronicles with that: "If you humble yourself, if you stop your wicked ways, then I will heal the land." So this whole idea of Purim is tied up in saying, "Hey, stop walking in a way that is not pleasing to Me, and just do what you know to do." Because for me, if God says it, then He empowers us to do it. We know we cannot do it in ourselves; but if He is saying to do it, He does not tell us to do something that we cannot do. "Love your neighbor?" Where do you go with that? I go to Him and say, "Lord, I am receiving Your love for all mankind, because I cannot love my neighbor, but You do. And Your love in me...." I followed that thread out for a while and all of a sudden I found myself going, "I am loved." Why? Because the Scripture took me to, "You love your neighbor as yourself." Now at first that one was easy for me to walk in, because I could despise myself and my neighbor all at the same time and I am fulfilling the Scripture, right? Love your neighbor as yourself. Okay, it did not say to love yourself, it just said to love your neighbor as yourself. So if I am not loving myself and I am not loving my neighbor, hey, I am in with that one. Then there was a little bit of conviction that kind of flowed with that, so I realized, "I have to start with me." Now the Lord is really using that to tell me, "This is a wake-up call. You have to know you are loved." I have to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. It cannot be a question to me. It cannot be a doubt. I cannot play with that. I cannot know some moments that He loves me, and other moments not.

All of a sudden we start going to where I am looking for this to lead us, and that is, there is a change in this that takes place internally. I am looking for this internal change for me. I am looking for it for you. And I think that is where these Scriptures take us, that just kind of nail us to the wall and say, "You are going to do this. You are going to love your neighbor as yourself." And so, I do not play with that. I go, "Okay, I have to love myself then, to love my neighbor. So You are calling me up short in how I am seeing myself." Now I have to go deeper and realize, "Christ is in me, so I have to love Christ that is in me. I have to love myself because Christ is in me."

Where I am trying to get us to move is the thread of when we have these really impactful Scriptures, that they deal with us on a level that really brings change into our lives. We started this weeks back when somebody in the prayer group brought out the Scripture in John 17:21, "That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us." So all of a sudden, They are one and They are in us, They are in me. This is something that we as the body of Christ have to come to grips with on a different level. And I am never telling you anything other than what I am working on in me, so do not ever be offended by what I say; because I am never speaking against you, I am always challenging myself in what I see the Word is bringing up as a need in my own spirit. And that is what this does.

In John 17, Christ talks about what we went on to say we understand, that the Father loves us the same way that He loves Christ. (John 17:23) Oh boy, anybody ever have problems with that one? I have problems with that one. When I find these things, what I do is I sit down and start talking to myself. Generally when I talk to myself, I get some pretty good answers. Now, other people may think I have

some mental issues, but that is beside the point. The answers I start to get on that are, if I believe that Christ and the Father are one, that the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father, and that They are in us, how can I live a normal life if I believe that the Creator of the universe lives in me? When I am talking to myself, it seems to me, Gary, like there should be a different way of living. There should be a different power, a different anointing. There should be a different enabling that comes through. There should be a different respect that I have for my physical body. There should be a different respect that I have for my spiritual reality, because I do have a spirit, right? I know it seems like it gets crowded in there, because you have the Father that is in me, you have Christ that is in me, you have the Holy Spirit that is in me; then I have my own spirit that is in me, and then I have my whole biology that is running around in there. So, there is a lot going on in there. But I think it is a reality that all of that is going on, even within my physical body, because I have been placed here; I mean, what does it say about Christ? It says, "He was the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form." And then He said, which is one of these Scriptures, "As the Father sent Me, so send I you." If the Father sent Yeshua into the earth to be the fullness of the Father in bodily form, then I think, "Wow!" I mean, I can think that very easily about Christ. I can picture Him being the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and if I have any problems, I just read the Gospels and see all the things He did and how He walked and what came through Him to realize it is not just a statement – He was in fact the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, and He walked that way. Then He says, "As the Father sent Me, so send I you," and then I have to think, "Okay...." Then I read this Scripture that says, "My Father and I will take up Our abode in you," and that, "You are a temple of God, and the Holy Spirit dwells in you."

See, it is these kinds of Scriptures that I want us to be able to go through from this list and have them really challenge us. Probably the question is, as it came to me, how can I walk the way I am walking if this verse is true? If this verse is true, if it is saying what it is saying – and that is where I came up with the title, *Did God really mean that?* Or, you know, was it just a joke that He was playing on us humans? But if it is a reality, then to me, something has to change in my life now, not in the future. Something changes now in my life, because we understand the power of the Word.

I am going to go to Ephesians the third chapter, starting at verses 13-16. It says, "Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you...." Now listen to this, this is one of the Paul things: did Paul really mean this?

"Oh, come on, really Paul? Did you mean this?"

Now we are talking about Paul. We are talking about the guy who went into the heavens and saw the resurrected Christ with the Father dwelling in those heavenly places, and witnessed the reality of the resurrection and the ascension of Christ, and saw the way things really were. That is why when you want to learn about taking Communion, it is good to go read Paul's description, because he said, "This is what I was shown." (1 Corinthians 11:23) Where was he shown that? He actually observed it, because he was not in the Last Supper, right? so he had this experience. So you have to put some weight on some of these things that Paul is saying.

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...." Now that right there is powerful! Christ already said in John 17, where we just came from, "I gave them My glory that they should all be one." (John 17:22) So this glory, to me, has already been granted to us through Christ. "...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.” There you go: “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” Christ lives in you. “The Kingdom of God is in you,” the Scripture said. There is another zinger, isn’t it? “The Kingdom of God is in you.” (Luke 17:21)

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 what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge... [in other words, this knowing has to come from outside of our carnal mind, so that we might] “know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge [it is outside of the context of human understanding or knowledge], that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Why are we to understand and know the love that Christ has for us? Because if we know that love, we will be filled up to all the fullness of God. Wow, wow, and wow! Amazing! We have to take this at absolute face value. I mean, this is not a parable. This is not Paul teaching us through parables or through some other type of literary context; he is saying what he means and he is meaning what he says. And I think that what I want for me, and therefore I really want it for you, to somehow crack this shell we have developed around ourselves that when we read or hear verses like this, we are able to somehow downplay them or not have them impact us to the extent that we go, “I must walk in this. He is saying that I must walk in this. God is in me. Christ is in me. The Holy Spirit is in me.” We still struggle with the flesh; but according to the Scriptures in Romans 8, if the Spirit of God dwells within us, then He will quicken even our mortal body. See, there is a reason why we should stop kind of downplaying or putting this off or shoving it aside, or hearing it but not hearing it. And I have to put that in; I do not necessarily want to call it unbelief, but maybe it is a style of unbelief – we are not hearing. I want to hear, and I want to hear it with the power that is in His Word, a power that is able to change me into something.

I do not know if anybody has ever heard this Scripture, “The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Hebrews 4:12) The Word of God is powerful. I want to stop having things in me that take the power out of the Word of God. When the Word of God hits me, I want it to be with a force that is powerful beyond any power that we have seen or known. It is literally the power of God that has the ability to transform us into those new creatures that we are. “If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” There is another zinger. Maybe we should call that “the zinger list,” because it is just striking us with these messages that we have to stop saying they are not working. It has to stop for me. I want it to stop being okay that these are not working in my life right now, in the now moment. I want them to work with the complete power of God in my life to transform me. And I think this is the transforming of the mind that the Scripture is talking about, so that if our mind is renewed, then we are transformed. And this today is a renewed way of beholding and working with the Word of God, the Scriptures.

It is the Sabbath today, and one of the things about the Sabbath that we look to do is enter into the Sabbath rest. I wanted to read about that, because it takes us to Hebrews. I will start with Hebrews 4, verses 1-10. “Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.” And maybe we do call it that; maybe we say we are not uniting the Word when we hear it with the faith that manifests it. Because we know what faith is, faith is the substance of the thing that we are hoping for, and it is the manifestation of what we believe. So maybe faith is correct: it is the faith in those who

heard; “for we who have believed, enter that rest.” If we believe these words, we are entering the rest. And it is Sabbath, and Sabbath is all about this rest.

“For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, ‘as I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest,’ although His works were finished from the foundation of the world [so from the moment He spoke these words, the work was finished, and it is waiting only for me to step into it. I think that is a fair translation]. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all His works’; and again in this passage, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today” [it is today, everyone, today], saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, ‘Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.’ For if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have spoken of another day after that. So there remains of Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.”

Why? Because when we hear these words in the power that they are spoken, then we are transformed into it. Not by a work of our own, but we are transformed by that Word, and therefore we enter His rest because we are not trying anymore. We have been trying for so long, and we have been trying so hard, to walk with God and to break through into things of the living Word and of the Kingdom; and we are going to stop doing that. Because we are going to enter His rest, because we are going to let His Word impact us with the power that it was spoken with, and realize that power is completed. It is done. It is finished. He has rested, and we are going to rest in it, because it is going to create us into what He has already said and made our reality.

Verses 11-12,

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It is powerful enough to tell us how we are relating to the Word, and it is powerful enough to work its work in us. And the answer to the question, which is the title, *Did God Really Mean That?* is yes. He meant the things that He said, and the power is in the Word to create them in our hearts.

Verses 13-16,

There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Yeshua the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin [He became the Word of God manifested in human flesh, He became the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and He was tempted not to be that, but He became it]. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It is Sabbath, and so we do, we draw near to You, Lord. We draw near to Your throne. We draw near to the Father and we open our hearts, because in us, when we read these words, these verses, we see that they are in us now, and we see that this Word is powerful to create everything that has been spoken.

And we see that it is the Sabbath, and that these things are finished, they are not for a future day. Today if we hear this Word, we do not harden our hearts; we enter in by faith.

I bind every lie and I bind every fear that comes from satan to say, "We cannot do this. We have tried, we have worked at it, and it has not worked in the past." I do not care if we have tried a thousand times, it only takes one time. And today we enter in with the faith that says His Word will change our lives, and it will manifest us into becoming those new creatures in Christ. The power of God will live and work through us in our generation; and the power of Christ will live in us and work through us in our generation; and the power of the Spirit will live in us and work through us in our generation. We believe that He has called us to the Kingdom for such a time as this.

We bless this word, Lord. Let it be living in our hearts. We will get this list to all of you. I encourage you, read it, let it wash over us in the power of God. Let's be praying for each other to walk in these things. We are not alone in this, we are doing it together; and we believe that we will have the faith, because this honestly is what we have lived for, for so many years.

God grant us the grace to have the fulfillment of You in us today. Amen.