

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG306 – The Oneness of Christians

In the US we have the Day of Prayer happening, and with the Catholics, we have the Day of Oneness among Christians taking place. Silas will give us a report on some of what he has been involved in with them on those events. And we have Pentecost coming up. We have really a lot taking place, and I think that is significant. I think there are many things coming together, so we want to be really connected together as these events are happening. We want to be in a real oneness with our hearts and spirits, and continuing in prayer a lot over this next couple of weeks.

I think we should really have a drive in our hearts and minds together to see something; I don't know, I just personally keep feeling like there is a lot that the Lord wants to do. I am looking for a definite, powerful impartation to all of us, to believers, to the body of Christ in this time.

I want to have Silas give us a little report. As I said earlier, one of the events that is transpiring now is this celebration of the Catholic Church which they term the oneness of all Christians. Of course, this is something that we have worked with for a long time, because really what they are talking about in a major emphasis is the oneness of the Catholics with the Protestants; this is because there are so many Protestants still who believe that the Catholics are not even Christians. And so, I know one of the events we are having is the National Day of Prayer; but since many Protestants do not see the Catholics as being Christians, the Catholics started their own little oneness thing here, which we have been a part of for a long time. And I appreciate the fact that Silas is still major part of that; he was speaking last night at an event in Copacabana. And so, Silas, just tell us how it went last night and tell us what else is going on. We all are really excited to be blessing this time there.

Silas: Yes, last night in the Catholic cathedral in Copacabana we talked with a large group of Christians of every denomination, starting this week of prayer for the oneness of Christians. This event is before Pentecost, that is when it happens in the Southern Hemisphere; in the Northern Hemisphere it happens in January every year. And so now Dom Orani, the cardinal, and myself are in contact with different priests of the Orthodox churches, and also the Anglicans and Lutherans and Presbyterians and Methodists; we are all in connection and having service basically every day, from last night until Saturday the 23rd which will be an all-night of prayer at the Catholic Church, again in Copacabana. Tomorrow I will go for the first time to a large Catholic cathedral probably three or four hours from here. The city hall is sending a car with a driver to pick me up. So I will be speaking at 3:00 PM tomorrow in this other town with a lot of denominations and local pastors and everybody, praying for the oneness of Christians.

Basically, the word last night, which was a major point, was a principle that Gary brought years ago: maybe we are facing a time of an outflowing instead of an outpouring. Instead of waiting for an outpouring and something happening like we read in Acts chapter 2, maybe this is time when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and we are drinking from the Lord, and the rivers of living waters will flow out. So it is time for an outflow. That was absolutely a meeting with God for everybody who was there last

night. And I am getting a lot of responses, including from the cardinal who was not there last night but heard everything about it.

Then this morning, Father Fabio, who is also a friend of Gary and Silvana and myself, we performed a wedding together at the Catholic Church as part of the week of prayer; because the groom is a part of us, has been part of us, the Living Word, for a long, long time, and the bride is Catholic. They decided to have that marriage, so we did it, kind of "by accident," but it happened to be this morning. So Shuma and I went to Rio, to the Saint Peter Cathedral, which is absolutely a beautiful place. Father Fabio, our friend, is the director of the seminary there, as well as assistant to the cardinal. And so, we had that, It was absolutely a beautiful, beautiful wedding. But the place is absolutely classic. And now Father Fabio, besides being an assistant to the cardinal and also director of the seminary, he is also a parishioner of this new place; which is actually next door, literally the next property to the seminary. And by the way, I will speak in the seminary on Thursday. So this coming week we have appointments every single day until next Saturday, when we are going to have Orthodox Coptic believers, and the Orthodox Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, and Syrian churches, and also the traditional churches. So anyway, pray for us. It is not easy. I tell you, the atmosphere, it is not easy. But when we speak, like when I spoke last night about this concept of an outflowing, it was absolutely an open door where I could feel the anointing and the Holy Spirit confirming we are getting to that time.

Gary: Yes, I appreciate that, and we will all be in prayer for you. It is such a burden on my heart. I mean, we have talked for years about oneness, and it is something I know that God was working in the hearts of people who were connected with the Living Word. I think there was a deep oneness that we felt like we had that got tested, and it seems like it is blown out of the water. But God refines things through the fire, and it comes out with a deeper purity. And one thing that I refuse to let go of is this idea that there is a body of Christ that is absolutely going to be one as Christ and the Father are one. This was a prayer of Christ, and I do not think the Father is going to let that go until it absolutely is fulfilled.

We also know that it is going to take God Himself by the Holy Spirit, and it is going to take Christ in the power of being seated at the right hand of God, to make this a reality. But a reality it will be. And I always take it that because He spoke it, it already is, and it is not something I am waiting for; it is something that has been created. We are, again, always at this place – which is why I love having our meetings on the Sabbath, because that means everything is finished by the time we are sitting here together. Oneness is something really that is finished, it is complete. It was completed when the Father spoke it, it was completed when Yeshua spoke it, when the prayer was voiced; and I just think that we live in a faith because all we are going to do is watch the unfolding of the manifestation, which right now our eyes cannot see, but it does exist.

I think oneness is so much a part of what we call the end time, the returning of the Lord. I mean, for me it is one of the key elements that has to be in manifestation for the Kingdom of God to be coming into the earth. So we bless this. We can go back to many, many messages that John Stevens brought about the World Council of Churches, talking about how negative all of that was. And people can look at this now and say, "Well, it just sounds like an update of the World Council of Churches." And maybe in some people's hearts and minds it is, but not in mine. In mine, it is at least taking steps towards the reality that the body of Christ is one by the Word of God, and it is going to manifest in its oneness. And I think that the more we believe for it and speak it, we are challenging it to blossom into a visual reality for us

as part of His Kingdom becoming a visual reality and manifesting on this realm. Just because it is not seen on this realm does not mean it is not seen and does not exist in other realms.

So we do, we bless it. We bless you, Silas. We bless the anointing that is on you to voice these things and for you to be a force and to represent all of our hearts that have this scream that says, "We believe."

Last night in our Shabbat we were reading out of Psalm 133, as we do every Friday night, because it is, "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Because it is in that atmosphere of the oneness of the body that resurrection life manifests, life forever, eternal life, manifests. And so, that is how important this issue of oneness is to me. If we really want to see a manifestation of life and resurrection, then it is going to be in an atmosphere where the oneness of His body is our reality.

So we do, we bless it, Silas. Give our love to all of those that are there. It is really fun that you got to do that wedding today with Father Fabio. He is really an awesome guy, and so many of those ones are. And I know that the group there in Rio of the Spirit-filled Catholic Church is really an amazing group. Their worship is phenomenal, and their hearts are really awesome. So we bless all that is happening with that, in the name of the Lord.

Silas: One last thing about it. The lady who was leading the worship last night with Father Antonio José, she was the one who asked us years ago to teach worship in the Spirit. So at one point last night they went all into worship in the Spirit. I just lost it. I cried, and it was a meeting with the Lord; it was also part of this influence and impartation that comes from us all as a body of people.

Gary: Amen. Beautiful. We do, we bless it.