

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG307 – Don't Battle Flesh and Blood

Hi, and welcome to this podcast. I have had such a burden since this past weekend. We had a wonderful time with a prayer group here in our home, which we do every Sabbath, and something has been on my heart since that time and since the prayer we were into that I wanted to share with everyone on the podcast. I hope this will be a blessing to you.

Again, this podcast is entitled *Growing In God*, and my name is Gary Hargrave. I invite you to go and visit our website at [hargraveministries.org](http://hargraveministries.org) and see not only the podcasts that we have available, but also the different Bible study guides as well as the blogs that are there, and information about all that we do in support of Israel and for really needy causes in the land of Israel. I just wanted to add this little advertisement for all that is going on here with the ministry, and now, let's dive into this message.

I want to title this, *Don't Battle Flesh and Blood*. I think that this is such an important issue right now. You know, we live in an age of anger and rage and outrage and division, and it is promoted so much in our media. It is promoted so much on YouTube and other social media channels that are keyed to feed you these types of events that want to definitely polarize our society, our life, our hearts. I think it is something that is really dangerous for us as believers, and for unbelievers alike, because it tries to bring us to a point of actions which are going to eventually be very negative in their outcome. And so I just want to give a little bit of a scriptural illustration of another way to react or to think.

I do not believe that we as believers are supposed to get into this age of outrage and to live in it, and to be those who are spreading division and polarization instead of spreading the love of Christ, the love of God, the oneness, the truth of who we are as children of God, as God's creation. We are all one, and in my opinion, to try to separate us is obviously something that is very demonic and has purposes to destroy our society, our life, our families. I think we need to recognize, more and more every day, that this is the purpose behind some of these things that we see. It brings us to violence, it brings us to war. And one thing about it, when you think about war, at some point, yes, there will be a winner and there will be a loser in that war; but on the deeper side, you really never change anybody's thinking. Those who win the war believe that their mindset and their thoughts and their ways are justified, and those who lose the war do not come around to say, "Oh, we lost the war because our way of thinking or governing or whatever is incorrect, and so now we are going to change our mind."

This is very important to us in this day and age that we live in, because we see all that is going on, especially within the Middle East. We see ourselves up against the religious jihadists and the Muslim thinking of taking over the world, and all that goes along with that mentality; it is something that you need to study and look at. But one thing I can guarantee you is that you can go in and you can fight jihadists all you want to, you can fight the radical Islamic faith all you want to, but you will not change people's way of thinking about it. There has to be another approach, there has to be another way of dealing with it; and I think that is one thing that we should be looking for as Christians, as believers.

We see the same thing in our politics; obviously in America we see that it is very widespread. There is so much division, so much finger-pointing, so much blame, so much hatred. We have spent endless hours trying to impeach the president and point a finger of blame at people for all kinds of occasions, but it is

never producing anything beneficial. It is never going anywhere, and all it does is take us down deeper and deeper into this rabbit hole of hate and anger. That is always, always a destructive thing, it is never a positive thing. So I think my hope here is that we can at least begin, as believers certainly and even as non-believers, to investigate, to look for, other ways of functioning and other ways of handling our problems rather than violence and rather than division and polarization.

I want to read out of Mark the fifth chapter, and I will start with verse 1 just to get the context of the story. This is about Yeshua going across the Sea of Galilee. It says, "They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes." Now if you know a little bit about the geography and the Scriptures, you know that this was very interesting because Yeshua, who was Jewish and was a Jew, and who said that He was here for the lost house of Israel, is now going across the Sea of Galilee and ministering to the Gerasenes; and these ten cities across the Sea of Galilee were all known to be Gentile. So He is ministering now to Gentiles, and we see this tremendous thing that happens here as, in a sense, the first evangelization of Gentile nations since maybe Jonah going to Nineveh. So it is really impactful for that reason.

Let's go on. It says, "When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain." So obviously he was disturbing the communities surrounding these tombs and the graveyards that he was living in. He was being a problem to the city, to the people dwelling there, to the point that they had tried to bind him with chains and to imprison him for his actions, and they were not able to do so.

Verses 4-18 say,

Because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him [no one was strong enough to subdue him; so we see the power of this individual was really tremendous, that he was able to break chains and shackles]. Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And he was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened. Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine. And they began to implore Him to leave their region. As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him.

He wants to become a disciple now. So Yeshua says to him, "No, do not come with Me. You go back and report to people what happened." And this man is known to have been quite an evangelist throughout this area of the ten cities on the other side of Galilee, and therefore this became a place of great faith and believing in Yeshua as the Mashiach, the Messiah.

So here we have this story that is really impactful. What I want to use it to talk about is for us to recognize the fact that, number one, there is such a thing as spirit possession, demon possession, satanic possession, Nephilim manifestation, which would be satan himself entering into an individual. We see through the story that all of these things are possible. Many people question why Christ allowed these demons to go into the swine, so that the swine were tormented by the demons and they ran off and committed suicide by jumping into the sea. Of course, there they were drowned, and we do not really know from that point what happened to the legion, the many, many, demons that were involved in this story.

But we see that there were two thousand swine. So this terminology of legion, the number of these spirits that were in this man being a legion, was a lot of spirits, because obviously it infested two thousand swine. Even if there was just one demon or one spirit in each swine, that is a lot of demons to have in a person. And maybe the whole reason that Christ allowed these demons to go into the swine was to point this out, and to give a lesson, even to us; because I think we live in an age where this idea of demon possession is not believed so much. So we see here that in the story, we recognize that there is a truth behind spirit possession, demon possession.

We know that Christ cast demons out of even those who were close to Him. We know that He bound spirits in order to bring healing. I just want us to grasp this, because again, in this day and age we consider ourselves very educated, very scientific in the way we approach things; and we can say, "Oh, nobody believes in this idea of demon possession, or the impact of the spirit world upon humanity or what is going on in the world," because we are so educated and we know so much now. But sometimes we need to turn around and look at how ignorant we are in our great wisdom that we have come to, that we are actually so clouded in our thinking and our belief system that we now believe that men can give birth to babies. And when you look at a lot of the woke mentality, it is just ridiculous. When you look at a lot of what is being propounded even in the halls of Congress, we see how idiotic this thinking is.

I am saying that because I want us to recognize, and the heart of this message is to recognize, that there are spirits in this world; that the spirit realm actually is more significant in the beginning roots of things than what starts from this material world that we live in. And in fact, the material world we live in is very driven by what is taking place or has taken place or will take place within the world of spirit. And so we learn a lesson here, and I wish we could see it and recognize the influence and the power of it.

Here was this man who was possessed by so many spirits. Again, it was not just one spirit, this guy was possessed with a legion of demons, of spirits, maybe even satan himself at times; he potentially had that Nephilim contact and ability. So we know he was powerful. He was able to break chains and shackles, and he was tormenting the community around him. All of this stuff is reality, and you have to see it as a truth; and not only that, but see it as something that is very real in the world in which we live today. The reason I am saying this is because with the age that we are in of the anger and the rage and outrage, and the polarization and hatred and violence, it drives us to be human against human. But we need to recognize that a lot of times the actions, the thoughts, what is going on in and with people,

is not something that is really rooted in their humanity or in their life as a human being, but they are being driven.

This man was driven by these spiritual influences and possessions that were in him. And it is interesting to me that Christ, when He came, did not react to this man as a human. In fact, it is not till the end of the story that we see Christ even relate to the man who was involved, to the human being that was involved. He first went after what was really the problem. He saw the problem, and He immediately addressed this demonic possession that was taking place within this person. Even when the countrymen came and saw him, it says that he was in his right mind and he was cleansed; he had cleaned himself up and he was in his right mind again. I think that we need to recognize that. And sorry, I know a lot of people are going to have blowback on this and want to just throw off the reality of how the spirit world may be influencing what they are doing. Yet I think that even we as Christians need to evaluate and see, is it the Holy Spirit driving us, or is there another spirit driving us? Possession by other spirits than the Holy Spirit is not out of context for Christians, and I have seen Christians who are very motivated. You may say, "It is not possession." Well, it does not necessarily have to be possession in order to be control or influence of people's thinking and actions. And we need to be able to discern this.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is discerning of spirits. We should be able, as believers in Yeshua, to discern the spirits that are at work and are at action behind what is going on and taking place in the world around us. And I do not think we are doing that. I do not think we spend a lot of time in church having exercises and lessons and working to teach people to sharpen their discerning of spirits and their ability to recognize what spirits are behind what actions and what is taking place.

I personally think that there is an awful lot going on in the world today. I think we see it tremendously in politics in general. We are getting ready for midterm elections in this country, and I think there is a lot going on that is set to influence. We have seen riots over the last years. I mean, the last eight years have been rife with this type of action being motivated by spirits. We need to come to grips with it if we are ever going to deal with it, because if we cannot see the truth behind what I am saying, then obviously there is no way we can deal with it. You have to know the truth, and the truth will set you free from the misconceptions of what is happening around you, and cause you to recognize that there is a great deal of it. And it is not going to get better, it is going to get more and more intense as we go along in these days of what we believe are end time realities happening all around us.

So we need to find a way to deal with it. And what I love about this story is that it shows us that Christ did not go after the man. He did not blame the man. He did not condemn the man. He did not try to restrain him or contain him. He simply recognized, through the discerning of spirits, what the problem was, and He dealt with that problem. Once He dealt with the problem and the man was back in his right mind... my God, would it be fun to see our world and our society come back into its right mind! You look at some of the things transpiring around us in our schools, in our universities, our education, our city governments, our federal government, and you see all the things that are taking place, and you just say, "People are just not in their right mind." But how are we going to deal with it, and what are we going to do about it? If we, as believers in Christ, are going to have any kind of an impact on that, we are going to have to know how to deal with the spirit world and the reality of that spirit world.

Christ knew how to do that. He brought this man back into his right mind by relieving him of the spirits that were tormenting him, that were driving him, that were motivating him to the actions that he was involved with. And I believe that there must be this ability within the body of Christ. I do not think we are simply supposed to pray and be throwing prayers up to heaven, saying, "Oh, dear God, please

change this, stop this.” I think that we need to be a voice on this earth that is going to have the same authority that Christ had in order to end the demonic control.

There are places in the Scriptures where satan is called the god of this world, the god of this age, and we see that playing out very well. Yet at the same time, we know Christ on the cross said, “It is finished,” and this day and age of satan being the god of this world is done. We know that when we read Revelation the twelfth chapter we see war in heaven, and the end result of that war is that satan was cast out of heaven down into the earth, and there it says he rages, because he knows he has but a short time. And that rage that he has is the rage that we see being imparted to the society and the world around us. That rage must be dealt with.

In Ephesians the sixth chapter, verses 10-14, it says,

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm....

We see that our weapons are powerful, our weapons are mighty through God to the tearing down of strongholds, and that is what we must know and understand. We must know how to wield these forces that we have, this warfare that we are able to fight. To do that, in the beginning we must know that this battle is not a struggle against flesh and blood. As long as we see people as the problem, then we are never going to solve the problems we are facing. We must recognize that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against these rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places, and that it is these things that are motivating the anger, the rage, the hatred, the absolute insanity of ignorance that exists in the world today. And if we know that our weapons are mighty to the tearing down of strongholds, as the Scriptures say, then we know that we are going to be able to discern and to cast out these spirits that are motivating what is taking place.

I want to jump to Matthew the sixteenth chapter. You can begin reading in verse 13, where Christ is talking to His disciples and He has that great conversation about, “But who do men say that I am?” They tell Him, and then He says, “But who do you say that I am?” So I will pick it up in verses 16-17, but you can go back and read starting with verse 13.

“Simon Peter answered [this question that Christ was asking], ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.’” Peter, at least one time we know, was moving strictly by revelation from God; and that is what we need. That is what discerning of spirits is all about. It is revelation from God so that we can truly understand through the confusion. Christ is asking, “Who do men say that I am?” And they are answering, “Some say You are John the Baptist. Some say You are Elijah. Some say You are Jeremiah. You are this, You are that.” Some said He was demon-possessed. That was the confusion, that was what was going on surrounding Christ. Then Peter comes with revelation, nails it down, and says, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

In verse 17, Yeshua says to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” We as the body of Christ need to move this way

again, where we are not being moved by what flesh and blood says; we are not being moved by what Facebook says, by what YouTube says, by what the media says, by what the nightly news says. That is not what is moving us. But instead, we are moved by revelation, the revelation that comes from God, the Father in heaven.

He says in verse 18, "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church." What rock is He talking about? The rock of revelation, that Peter saw by revelation what He was talking about. And believe me, when you look around in this day and age, there are not a whole lot of people moving this way; you do not see it on the news very often that somebody is talking out of the rock of revelation a word from God. He says, "Upon this rock," the rock of revelation, "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." We will not be overpowered as the body of Christ, as the ecclesia of God, if in fact we are moved by the revelation, speaking a word from the Father in heaven. This is something we must recognize.

Going on from there, He says in verse 19, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." This is what Christ did when He confronted this man who was filled with a legion of demons. He bound those demons, He took authority over them. He cast them out; He had the ability to cast them out. He knew how to do that, and He had both the discernment and the authority. And in this age, the body of Christ must grow in God to the point where we have the discernment and the authority to deal with what is actually going on around us in this world we are living in. If we are able to do that, we will bind on this earth. We will bind what is happening as Christ bound these spirits that were possessing and motivating the actions of men on earth. And He said it was bound already in heaven. It is finished. Christ finished it on the cross. It is no longer that satan is to be the god of this age and to be in any place of authority.

We must follow the example in Revelation 12, and as he was cast out of heaven, we must see him cast out of this earth also, and all of those spirits that are working with him. We must see this as something that is already done. It is not something we have to do in ourselves, but Christ won this battle on the cross, and the authority is His. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He has given the Holy Spirit to His church. And as we are filled, as it says, we are a temple of God filled with the Holy Spirit; through Holy Spirit, we are able to bind on earth that which has been bound in heaven and see this all change.

But I think one of the first things we must do is get out of our hearts and minds that our battle is against flesh and blood, and against other people, against other individuals. Yes, people are being motivated to do many horrible things. Wickedness is abounding. But we cannot turn this battle into one against flesh and blood. We must see that it is ours as the body of Christ to bind on earth that which has been bound in heaven, and to see these forces that are holding humanity captive cast out once and for all.

I bless this to be our reality and our portion.

Amen.