

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG309 – Know God’s Love for You

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.

We appreciate the impartation from you guys to feel a part of what this is. It is kind of unfair because this is impossible to explain; it just goes beyond words. But I know that in talking to different ones at different times, there is always a heart for making this Solidarity Trip happen. The heart of it is to go and express your love to the Jewish people, to go and support them and make them feel blessed and loved by you.

I was thinking about that last night and this morning, and the Lord really made real to me to bring a blessing to all of you guys. You may say that you have not been to Israel; but don't say you have not been there, say you have not been there yet. The thing the Lord made real to me is that to go and minister this love to them, you have to know the love of the Lord for you. And it was this really deep thing that the Lord spoke to me, touched me with, that we need to be so much more aware of how much God loves us. I mean, we go there to try to express love to them because they are in all these situations, they are dealing with many, many difficulties on many, many levels. And again, the heart behind the trip is to go bless them; the heart behind what we do at Hargrave Ministries every month in donating to eight organizations is just to say one simple thing: "We love you, we bless you, we are with you." But what the Lord was making real to me is, "You need to feel My love more for you. How do you give what you do not have?" And I thought, "Wow, whatever awareness of His love for us that we have, it is not the depth He is looking for."

I really became aware because Paul talks about this in the verse about the Jewish people almost being enemies for our sake. (Romans 11:28) It is hard to understand sometimes what in the world that statement really means, what the significance of it is. And I just thought, "Well, if we are going to minister love to them, we have to take down our walls on another whole level to the way the Lord loves us." How do you give a hundred dollars to somebody when you do not have a hundred dollars to give? And we know the Scripture about, "How do you run without tidings ready?" (2 Samuel 18:22, KJV) I just think that whatever we have, it is like the Lord is wanting to increase it; and He is using this connection that we have, that we are going to continue having with Israel. At least as far as I am concerned, at Hargrave Ministries we are going to continue this connection and this relationship because, as was said a couple times here in this account of these guys going to Israel, I felt more than what I was giving. I felt their love for me, their appreciation for me, more than what I was there to try to impart to them. And that is highly significant.

This idea that we have, the foundation that we move from in what we are doing, is the fact that we are really wanting to impart a love and a faith and a belief in the Word of God over them, over their lives and over this land. It is something that we want to refresh and have continually be alive in the Jewish people. This is what motivates us. Yet at the same time, we do not see the level to which God is using this occasion to make us recognize even more how much He loves us. And I just felt this drive to impart to you guys today what the Lord was imparting to me, that I have to know His love way more. Whatever walls I have to take down, or whatever experiences I have had that have made me not open to really the level of love that God has for me, have to go.

I was thinking this morning about people you read or you hear about, which I know Silvana and I have watched different programs and read books and articles about people who have had near-death experiences. Probably a lot of you have read a book like that. And without exception, one of the biggest things that people experience out of those near-death experiences of coming into the Presence of the Lord, or going into the realm of what we call the heavens, is they are blown away by the love, just blown away by the love that they feel. They are so encased with that love and surrounded by that love and ministered to by that love that no matter what they were going through before this experience, it is like they do not want to come back. They do not want this to be a near-death experience, they want to keep going into the Presence of the Lord. They want to stay there in that Presence, they want to stay there in that atmosphere of the love they feel that God has for them. And I thought, that is what God wants us to feel. That love is there. All of a sudden somebody has a near-death experience, and they go from where they are into this Presence of God and into this Presence of His love, and they are just blown away because it is something they have never felt before, they have never had before.

And I just thought, “But why don’t we have that?” His love is there all the time for us. That is who He is, it is what God is; and the only reason the Scripture says that we love is because He first loved us. Yet I just felt like God is grieving over the fact that it does not impact us, it does not come through to us with the strength that He feels it for us constantly. And it is what I want us to do with Israel, in all that we are doing with Israel and with the Jewish people. I want them to feel God’s love. We are not trying to convert them to Christianity, but we know where the love comes from. It comes from the Father. It comes from Christ. Christ opened the door to reconcile us to the Father – what does that mean? It means that we are reconciled to the love that God has for us to the place where we should be just speechless over that level of love. And when we go to Israel, when we work with the Jewish people, and then take that as just a small portion of what God wants us to do as His ambassadors to this age, all we care about is ministering that love. But I thought, “How do you expect to minister that love, Gary, if you are not feeling it in a greater way than you are?” And I realized that the first thing we should do is just take down our walls on another level, because I believe in the heart that we have. I believe in why we minister to Israel; it is to get across the love.

Every time I have talked to different ones about being there, it is just like speaking to people saying, “We just came to spend American dollars and make you know that we love you. We are not trying to convert you to Christianity. But we know; we are Christians, and we want the love of Christ that we are so aware of to come through to you. Not to make you become Christians, but to reconcile you in a way to God.” Because that is what Christ was about. Christ came to make the world aware of the love of God for them, and I think that is what we are as ambassadors. It is not a matter of trying to convert this religion to that religion, there is only one care – God so loved the world that He gave to the world His Son. Why? So that His Son would make people aware of the Father’s love for them on every level, from every nation, every tongue, every belief system, whatever it is. And that is why we have learned – in what we are learning in relating to Israel, in learning through Shlomo, through the AMI Center; my gosh, how much did John Stevens teach us about the things of Israel and open up the Word of the Old Testament

Scriptures to us – to see that the issue is God’s great love. Whatever it is that is shielding us, whatever it is that is lessening our awareness of that great love, a love that is beyond words, a love that is inexpressible on so many levels and yet it has to be expressed; I think the only way it can be expressed is if we are overwhelmed by it.

I just want something. I felt with these guys coming back from this trip that we just made and with all that we do with Israel, with all the organizations that we support – and I wish we could support one or two other places in Israel – but what is the purpose of the support? It is beyond the money. I know they need the money, but it is somehow trying to say, “This is the love of Christ that is expressing the love of the Father, and we want that to be what you are getting, what you are receiving.”

I want to read a couple of Scriptures if I can; and I know that just like everyone else today trying to express what they experienced on this Solidarity Tour in going to Israel, it is inexpressible. I would start with 1 John 4:19, “We love, because He first loved us.” It is that love of God for you individually. I mean, Christianity is not a religion. It should not be. What is life-changing should be the reality of the revelation of the love of God for us on a level that overwhelms us. It is not some mechanics, it is not some theology. When that love hits us and blows away every other problem we have, every other need we have, it overwhelms everything about life and what this world and this age is going through. There is nothing more powerful than the love of God. And Christ came, the Father sent Christ to express that to mankind, to the world, and He started with the Jewish people. He started with the Jewish people because if we could see it in them and for them, then we can see it for the whole world. So it is that love that we first received. And God does love Israel, and we are trying to express that love.

So I want to read about it. Deuteronomy 4:37 says, “Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power.” God is saying to Israel, “I loved you. I loved your fathers, and because I loved your fathers, then I have chosen you to love you also.” And it is that love that we are still trying to minister. As Christ ministered it to us, as Christ ministered it to the world, so we minister it, starting with Israel and into the age.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 says,

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

You can go on reading it, but we see this picture over and over, that God chose Israel as an illustration of the world. So what did He do? He chose, like it says about us, He chose the base things of the world, He chose the weak things of the world. He did not choose them because they had the biggest population. No, He chose them because Him loving them could give the idea to the ages of His love for mankind. And He is still working on that, and we are going back imparting that.

In Ephesians 3:14-19, Paul says,

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, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man [why?], so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love....

Everything is about one thing, it is about the love. And I just felt so deeply this morning that whatever is blocking you from seeing that explosive, beyond words, beyond expression, beyond description, His love for you, for you personally, you have to be rooted and grounded in love.

We have to minister to Israel; we have to make donations, whatever; but it has to be rooted and grounded in love. Whatever comes through, it has to not express dollars, it has to express the love of God for Israel, for the land, for the people. And how do we know that? Because we first experience it ourselves before we go. Before we are a part of doing it, we have been blown over. God has to be like a freight train hitting us at ninety miles an hour. I do not want to talk about salvation, I want to talk about the inexpressible love that God has for me, the inexpressible love that He has for you. Not just a theory and then I say, "Oh yeah, God loves me, so I think I am going to study theology." No, I want us to be on our faces beyond words, beyond doctrine, beyond religion, beyond denominational walls and beyond names, and beyond every other expression that we have tried to invent. It is almost like you look at all of these things and you package them up, and they all are like walls that take away from the depth and from knowing the depth, knowing the emotion. I do not want knowledge, I want emotion of feeling loved beyond words, beyond my ability to comprehend it.

But it says, "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend [God give us the comprehension of that love] with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth..." And of course, when we read that, we know it is a quantum statement, right? Because it is going beyond the natural boundaries of a three-dimensional world. So we have to be able to feel that love in a universal context, not just in this 3D world that we live in. "...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 [there is no way to explain this, there is no way to teach it in human terms; it surpasses knowledge], ...that you may know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." And that is how we can minister to the Jewish people. If we minister the love of Christ to them which is beyond knowledge, beyond comprehension, what they are going to get out of that is the love of God for them.

So, no, we are not trying to convert them. We do not need to try to convert them, because what we are all trying to come to grips with and be impacted by is this great love of God. And if we can know the love of Christ and come into it, it has to be by revelation, it has to be by emotion, it has to be by feeling, because it is beyond knowledge and it is beyond understanding. There is nothing that we can point to on a human level that would give us an idea or a concept of the love of God; it is beyond explanation. And that is why God has us ministering to Israel. It is His hope that we will see to a greater measure the love of Christ for us, that we will come into a revelation of the knowledge and grasp what it is that God has really given to us in and through Christ to see this great love of God. What we are trying to do is love somebody else, and when we do that, we just go, "I need more love. I need a greater revelation of His love for me, because I cannot tell them about it, I have to impart it from my heart. I have to impart it from my spirit, the depth of the revelation of His love for me, for them."

That is what we want to get across. And no, it does not take missionizing. It does not take converting. It takes an impartation of that which surpasses the ability to know and understand. And so, that is what we come to and we realize. Then when we look at 2 Corinthians 5:14-18, it says, "For the love of Christ controls us." That is really what we are looking for. In all that we are doing with Israel, in all that we are doing in ministering to the rest of the world beyond the Jewish people and beyond the land of Israel,

we are looking for the love of Christ to be what is controlling us; and that it is the love of Christ coming through us which is shouting for people to know the love of God.

And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all of these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation....

What is that ministry? Is it conversion? Is it missionizing? No. Verses 19-20 say,

...namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

That is what the Solidarity Tour is about. That is what the ministry of Hargrave Ministries to Israel is about. That is what our lives are about. It is God crying through us, "Be reconciled to God." Be reconciled – to what? To the love that He has for us. It says He is not counting our sins against us. God does not care about anything except how much He loves us, and He wants that love to be without walls, without shielding, without some way in which something is lessening the impact. And I don't know, probably just living in this age, living in the flesh, all of that is like a buildup of little walls here and there, one after another; and the end result is that we do not wake up in the morning just being blown away by the fact that we have a Father who loves us beyond words. There is no explanation. We have to know that if we felt the full impact of that, we would want to walk out of this life today and live in His Presence only.

And so, Lord, we ask that somehow You free us individually from everything that takes away the awareness, the knowledge, the understanding of the love that You have for us. We do not need a near-death experience; we need Your Holy Spirit to absolutely enter our hearts and explode in us the love of the Father, which is beyond comprehension or explanation. And so we ask for this, Lord. We want to know Your love so that Your love can control us and we can be Your voice in this world, first to Israel and the Jewish people; but that is just the proving ground where we come into this. After that, there is the whole world, because you brought Christ here because You so loved the world that You wanted the entirety of humanity to know Your love.

Lord, help us to be that. That is what this living Word is all about, is bringing us to a place where we can speak to this age and express that which is inexpressible, the love that You have for each one of us and for each member of humanity. We bless it, Lord. Thank You for this trip to Israel, this Solidarity Tour that helps us once again become more and more aware of Your love for us by seeing Your love ministered to others. We bless it. We thank You for it, Lord. Amen.

Bless you guys. I just want every wall to come down and for us to be His true ambassadors, rooted and grounded in love.