

Title: In The Book of Life

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 3/5/23

Good morning. We will start here.

1 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV

When you start on your journey with the Lord, you should be tasting how gracious He is to you. When you know the graciousness of God, you desire to please Him. That is not a bad thing. It is not a bad thing to desire to please God. It is not about works. We understand this, but there is a work involved with the Kingdom of Heaven. That involves making sure that you are laying aside malice for others. It is laying aside deceit, white lies, and lying that comes out of your mouth. It is laying aside hypocrisy. Where you used to say one thing and do the other. But, now you will always say what you mean and mean what you say. "Laying aside all envy and all evil speaking." That is profanity with your mouth, cursing others or cursing yourself. You are laying aside those things to "grow thereby in the graciousness of God." That is how it all starts. You do this by the word of God.

Hebrews 5:9

So, when we have found the graciousness of Jesus Christ, He is the author of our eternal salvation. Last week we talked about the "highest life." His eternal life, and life abundantly today. He is the author of it. When you have tasted His graciousness, you want to obey Him.

Hebrews 5:10

"It is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing." This man is the Son of God. He is a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. We can become dull of hearing about Him. Yet, we have much to say about Him. We have much to reveal about Him. When we go from glory to glory and go from faith to faith, we are revealing more of Jesus. We all get it. We all get another face of Jesus, another revelation of His graciousness, another taste of partaking of His divine nature, and another taste of partaking of His Holy Spirit. "It is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing."

Hebrews 5:12-14

"Those who by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." You have how many senses? If you are a woman, you have "an intuition," and that is another sense. But, you have to exercise these senses. We are talking about your spiritual senses. You have spiritual eyes, spiritual ears, a spiritual mouth, and you have a spiritual nose. You have a spirit that discerns. Male and female, you have to know Him, not by the physical, but by the spiritual senses. You have to be practicing those senses. You can "taste and see that the Lord is good." *Jesus said* "If I talk to you about physical things you do not understand, how can you know spiritual things?" This is a simple analogy. The writer of Hebrews is *saying* you should be exercising these things. This is a simple thing to be doing.

1 John 2:3-6

This is what it means to obey God, because those who love God obey His commandments. How do you know that you love God? You are obeying Him. You hear His voice, and do what He says. You smell His presence. You say, "I want more of that." You "taste and see that the Lord is good." You say "I want to be fed with the Bread of Life." You drink of His goodness, and say, "I want more of His goodness." You drink, taste, see, hear, and smell the Kingdom of God is at hand. You advance it, and give it to someone else. You give it to someone else. That is what we are doing and you should be skilled in this. Many of us are. Many of us are being the

Sunday, March 5, 2023

walking, living, breathing Bride of Christ. The walking, living, breathing Bride of Christ has senses that are available, are willing, and are open to hear, see, taste, and smell the Kingdom of Heaven around them. That is us. Say, "That is me." "Those, who by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 6:1

That is what we talked about last week. "Let us go on to perfection," the "highest life," of Christ Jesus in you. He is inside you. "I am in charge of increasing my faith. I am in charge of increasing my faith. What am I doing? I am believing more and more that Christ is in me. I am believing more and more, that I have everything that I need in here. Because, now I am the ark of God. I am the testimony of the faith. Wherever I go, the ark of God goes, and the presence of God goes with me."

That is the revelation that you are unveiling, because you only know a portion of that which is within you. That is the elementary principles. As you get deeper in the faith, you should actually know more and more about who is within you and coming out of you more. The presence of God, is the Son of God's presence. The presence of God is Jesus's presence, and His nature, His thoughts, His countenance, His laughter, His joy, His rebukes, and His disciplines coming out of you. Because you become a vessel that has gotten out of the way, for Him to go through you. He is patient with this work. He has long suffering in this work.

Hebrews 6:2

"Leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ's behind. Let us go on to this perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works." That is the milk. What else is milk? "Have faith towards God." That is milk, and that is the beginnings of Christianity. That is the beginnings of your walk with Jesus. What else is milk? "The doctrine of baptisms." That is an elementary principle in God to know that there are two baptisms. That is an elementary principle in the faith to know that there are two baptisms. There is water baptism, and there is Holy Spirit baptism. It is an elementary principle to know about the laying on of hands. That is actually how you get one of the baptisms. The resurrection of the dead, is an elementary principle. That means what is to come, and the eternal judgment that is to come. These are elementary principles. We are laying these behind us, because we are growing.

We are not getting rid of them, as if we do not know what they are, or we do not have anything to do with them. Actually, the greater measure of glory is in the depths of these principles. It is knowing and understanding these deeper, and how we go from faith to faith. There is more that we want to talk about and know about. There is more that we need to become in Christ Jesus. If we keep laying these foundations, where are we going? If we keep cracking this foundation, where are we building? If we keep doubting this Rock that we stand upon, how are we ever going to build? He said, "we keep building here on this simplicity of the gospel. These are the things that you should already know." Yet, we often run into Christians who are saying, "I did not even know there was a Holy Spirit."

Hebrews 6:3-6

If you have been a partaker of the divine nature, have become partakers of the power of the age to come in Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, but reject it and fall away, you "become the apostasy." If they fall away and reject it, saying, "I do not believe anymore," that is the falling away.

We have walked that out. There are not many things that are impossible in the Bible. How many things are impossible in the Bible? None. Yet, the word says here, it is impossible, if we have tasted all of these things, and we turn our back to Jesus and say, I do not believe

Sunday, March 5, 2023

anything of the Holy Spirit.” That is actually that sin that cannot be forgiven, because then you blaspheme the Holy Ghost, saying, “That is not of the Spirit of God, but a spirit of the devil or man.” That is where if you have tasted of Him and have known Him, and you have walked in this, but then you turn around and blaspheme God's Spirit. That is the sin that cannot be forgiven. That is what He is talking about. If it brings a fear of holiness on you, good. We cannot blaspheme Holy Ghost. You have to taste of Him and know Him. You have to. That is what we are doing. “If they fall away, to renew them again to repentance is impossible, because then they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and they put Him to open shame.”

We had a Garden family conference yesterday. It was really good. There was lots of testimony. The heart of the Lord was on families that have been blended, as in there are mothers and fathers who have children and then get married. How do you walk in the Spirit together and walk in agreement in that? It was awesome in showing the reconciliation and redemption that Jesus brings for that and the life that it produces *for the young to old*.

My wife spoke about how we seek Jesus in His word. We do not seek solutions, but we seek Jesus. It is easy as a parent to seek solutions from everybody, but not the word. It is just the way it is nowadays. You will seek a solution for an earache everywhere, but in the word, saying, “Grant, there is nothing in the Bible about an earache.” I do not know. I have not looked. Are you sure? Are you absolutely sure there is nothing in the Bible about someone who had an earache that was healed? You are absolutely certain about this. Why? Why do we do such a thing? We seek Jesus in His Word. We do not seek solutions. We can hear and get solutions for lots of things, but the Word of the Lord is your best bet.

I want to build something here. Let's read some verses.

Philippians 4:3

That *seems like* a random verse, but I am focusing on “whose names are in the Book of Life.”

Revelation 3:5-6

Revelation 17:8

So, “those who dwell on the earth will marvel” when they see this beast.” Those people are the ones whose “names that are not written in the Book of Life, from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

Revelation 1:4

This actually is one of those themes in Revelation. You have the beast who is, who was and is not, and yet is. Then you have the Word in the flesh, Jesus, who is, who was, and who is to come. Comparing those from the seven spirits who are before His throne.

Revelation 20:12

This is at the end of everything, the end. Lots of books were opened. You have to be in the Book of Life.

Revelation 20:15

Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. That is the second death where you exist no more. You just get deleted. You do not exist. That is a real thing. That is a real lake of fire. You have to be in the Book of Life. What is the Book of Life. It is actually a person. You have to be in the Book of Life, who was, and who is, and who is to come. Jesus is the Book of Life. You have to be in Him. How do I know it is Him? He said, “I am the Bread of Life. All who come to me will never hunger or thirst again.” He is the Water of Life. He said, “My words are life and life indeed.”

John 1:1

He was in the beginning with God. If you were predestined to know Him, you were written before the foundation of the world in Him, in the Book of Life. He chose you. He knew you before you were in your mother's womb and said, "You are mine. You are in Me and you are in the Book of Life." Do you have a choice in this? Yes, but there is a predestination to this. How does that work? That teaching is for another day.

But, you are chosen by God. You have to say, "I am in the Book of Life," because there is that scripture that says you can be blotted out. How do you get blotted out? When you have partaken of the Holy Spirit, and you have said yes to all of His ways, and then you say, "No, that was not even of God."

"Well did Peter do that?" No, he did not. That does not mean that you sin against Jesus, and you get blotted out of the Book of Life. It is if you account all that His Spirit can do as being of the spirit of the devil. That is what Satan is going to try to do in this last age. That is what he wants you to do. He wants you to fall away from Holy Spirit. This is the age of the lordship of Holy Ghost and no one else. This is the age of the lordship of Holy Ghost. That is going to *become* really real in whether you have the Holy Spirit or you do not. It is going to cost you if you say you are of Holy Spirit. The devil is going to tempt to you to say, "It is not worth that." But, *then* you will lose everything. That is where we are going. That is where we are headed. This is what your children need to know.

John 1:1-5

They did not comprehend it with their senses. They did not comprehend it in their mind, their eyes, their ears, or their noses. They did not understand the Kingdom of Heaven. When you are not understanding the Kingdom of Heaven, you are a baby that still needs milk. But, you have been called to maturity. You have been called to perfection. You have been called to be partakers of Holy Spirit, that can teach and do the works of God. Those who love Him obey Him. Those who obey Him love Him. It is the same.

John 1:6-14

This Word that was from the beginning became flesh. That means He became like you and me. He became dirt like us. He became flesh. He became mortal, and He dwelt among us. "We beheld His glory, the glory of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." That is Him. This is the Book of Life that you are called to be in. This is why Brandy constantly says, "Abide in Him." Because, if you are abiding in Him, you are in the Book of Life, and those who are in the Book of Life will never be rejected. You have to be found written in the Book of Life. You have to be found written in the Book of Life. You have to be found written in the Book of Life to escape the second death in the lake of fire.

This is living and breathing. It is alive. What book was left at the end? All the books were opened, and what book was left? The Book of Life was left. This is the only one that will be left at the end. Are you in it? Are you in the Book of Life? Are you in it? This is what happens. We go in the Book of Life. We see ourselves in it. We do not like what the Lord sees in us. He will show you. He will tell you this is what I see. I see that you lusted after a woman, so you are an adulterer. I see that you hate your brother, so you are a murderer. I see that you are a sluggard. I see that you are a glutton. I see that you are participating with Jezebel, I see that you are participating with Ahab. I see that you have pride and arrogance. I see that you have selfish ambition. That is not for my glory. He sees those things, and He reveals them in you as you read this word. He does. He shows you who you are.

It is not what you want to hear. It is not what you want to see. But, that is often where you stop. That is often where you stop when we go into the Book of Life. We read and it is saying you are

Sunday, March 5, 2023

on the pages. You can shut your eyes, you can shut your ears, and you can shut your heart to really receiving what the word is saying, because you do not want to hear it. But, those that have softened and *trained* their ears to hear this. Saying, "I am going to listen to this. I am going to taste this. I am going to see, because this Bible will tell me. It is alive. Who am I. It will show me what I am." It will show you who you are.

Revelation 3:14

Who is this? The Word of God who was at the beginning, who was with God. All things were written through Him and in Him. He is life. This Word became flesh. He was at the beginning of creation with God. He is a faithful and a true witness, first against your own soul. He will first look at your own soul, and be a true and faithful witness. He will tell you what it is. He will, and He always has if you will listen to Him.

Revelation 3:15-17

You see, He tells you what He sees when you are actually in the Book of Life. "The faithful and true witness" will tell you what He sees in your life. He will tell you what He sees in your heart. He will tell you what He sees in your soul. He will tell you what He sees, and *then* you do not get past this point. You shut it. "I won't do that. I know these things." You are looking in a mirror. Why are you saying things I already know God?"

Revelation 3:18-19

Because you were written in Him from the beginning. He chose you. You were predestined to be in the Book of Life from the beginning. So, I rebuke and I chasten."

Revelation 3:20-22

This is the truth. We will read this Bible. We will read the Book of Life. We will see what God sees *in* us. But, we are not willing to hear what He has to say about us. He will shine the light. He is the Life that is the light of men. But, if you were to listen and hear what He has to say, and let Him come in and dine with you. *Let Him* come in and sit at the table with you. Let Him eat with you. He will tell you that you are loved. He will say, "this is not the end. This is what I actually think about you." That is when you "eat of Him." That is when you "drink of Him." That is when He says, "I forgive you."

You can see who you are in this Bible. But, not many have the patience to hear who they are from the Word of Life. They do not have the patience, or they get angry and offended that God sees these things about them. God calls it out, or God confronts it, but you have to sit and eat with Him. Let Him tell you what He thinks about it, and how He can clean it and wash it. How He can bless you. How He can forgive you. How He can heal you. How He can fill you and make it right. That is what it means to be in the Book of Life. That is what it means to be in the Book of Life.

These are some quotes from D.L. Moody:

"The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation."

"Why is it that many Christians are cold? Because, they are all the time receiving the Word of God and never giving it out."

"Faith makes all things possible, but love makes them easy."

You have to start with faith, and you have to have the faith. It is impossible to please God without faith. We understand that from Hebrews. But, if you do not sit down and eat with Him, you do not understand the love of God. It is a hard burden. It is simple. When you have the

Sunday, March 5, 2023

love, it is simple to believe. When you sit down, and you hear the voice of the Word of Life, it is simple to look in His eyes and say, "You know, I am not going to lose, because love is stronger than death." Love, not my love, but the love that I saw in that man, Jesus Christ, in the flesh. He is the Word of God. He was in the beginning. He is the faithful and true witness. He sees the adultery in me. He sees the "whatever" kind of yuck. He sees it. But, He said, "This is not the end." I love you, because I love you. I forgive you. I am rebuking you. I am chastening you. But, I am knocking, because I want to come in. I want to love you. I want to fix this. I want to eat with you.

Now let's go and build and make some fruit, because "those who abide in Me will bear fruit." This isn't just for the young men and the young women. This is for the old men and the old women. This is for everybody. The latter days can be greater than the former. I believe this. I believe the latter days of the house of God will be greater than the former. I believe that there is a latter rain. I believe that there is a coming glory that the Church will step into saying, "It is nothing, and that is how I want to live my life." I want to be so filled with the glory later in life, that whenever you saw me preach up here at 35, you will say, "Wow, God sure left the best for last. That should always be how it is. You should always be saying, "Wow, the best for last for me every day. Every day is better. Every day is better.

Revelation 3:21-22

Another quote from D.L. Moody,

"Everybody wants to enjoy heaven after they die, but they do not want to be heavenly minded while they live."

Are you in the Book of Life or do you want me to feed it to you as milk? I will keep feeding this to you, because that is what God has asked me to do. But, are you in the Book of Life? In here you will find yourself. You should be written in it. You will find out who you are. You will find everything that you have need of is in this Book of Life. Why? Because, this is Jesus. This is Jesus in the flesh. He is the Word made flesh. He is these words made flesh. It is living and breathing. You are supposed to be the walking, living, breathing Bride of Christ. How can you live and breathe if you are not in it? This is where it is living, breathing, and sharper than any two edged sword. You are supposed to be living and breathing first.

This is from Rick Joyner's, Vision of the Harvest.

"A great revelation of true faith is coming. It will be an essential revelation for us to serve in these days. A great revelation of true faith is coming to the Church and it will be an essential revelation for us to serve in these days. Some will be called to walk where angels fear to tread. Know that He who is in us is much greater than He who is in the world."

How do you know this? How do you know this? This is the "highest life," that Brandy was talking about. How do you know this from the faithful and true witness? You are in Him, who will lead you into all truth, because He is the Lord of the Spirit. He is the Spirit. He is the Holy Spirit. God, our God is one.

"The vessels He is now preparing will walk in a boldness and a confidence that will astonish a world gripped in fear. Our faith will grow as the presence of the Lord increases within you. True faith is the recognition of the One in whom we believe. True faith is the recognition of the One in whom we believe. When one truly and properly fears the Lord, He will not fear anything else. In the coming days many will exist in the miraculous on a continual basis. This will become as

Sunday, March 5, 2023

natural to them as the gathering of manna was for Israel. Some of the Lord's exploits on behalf of His people in this time will be unprecedented. Exceeding even the greatest biblical miracles. These that will do it will seem almost normal as they take place, because of the presence of the Lord. This presence will cause more wonderment than His works. He will be very close to His people in these days."

What is he saying? He is saying that you are called to walk in a miraculous life, because you are partaking of the fullness of Holy Spirit. You have finally set aside these elementary principals and these wrestlings over, "do I actually hear God?" Is there a baptism of the Holy Spirit? What do we do with the laying on of hands? Did I even know there was a Holy Spirit? When you finally get over and realize the weirdest thing about this church is not the flags. The weirdest thing about this church is that it is not full. That is the weirdest thing about our church. If the glory of God is being encountered here, why is it not full? God will do whatever He wants. You can worship God in Spirit and in Truth. I have never seen us be out of order. We have not even touched First Corinthians 12 through 14. We have not even touched it.

Exodus 16:35

"But in the last days, I believe the latter rain is so glorious. It will be as common as it was for Israel to get the manna from the ground." How many years did they go and fetch manna? "The children of Israel ate manna for 40 years, until they came to an inhabited land. They ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan."

Every day, and they did not pay for it. There wasn't a milkman, or Amazon, or Walmart they were subscribed to. They were subscribed to the Word. They were in Him. He was in their midst. They were in that cloud and that fire went with them. Because of that, and that alone, every day there was miraculous bread on the ground. At the end of times, at the end of the age when the lordship of Holy Spirit is fully realized in the church, this will be commonplace. They will be saying, "oh, that was that was an elementary principle to gather up manna." We just constantly walk in the glorious, miraculous ways of God.

But, it is not about the wonders or the works that we are calling out for. It is "can you believe how much of God is in this place?" You are amazed at seeing God. You are amazed at seeing His face because we are in Him. You are in Him. You are in the Book of Life. You are in it. I have been written of and it shall come forth. I am this. I am the Book of Life. I have been written in it. I am in it and reveal the glory of God. The face of Jesus is the fullness of truth and grace. The face of Him was the glory of the Father. The face of Him who is the Truth. We have *beheld* Him. We have seen Him. We testify of His goodness and His mercy. He told us a lot of things about us, and He saw a lot of junk in us. I want to tell you that He did not give up on us. Who said this? The 11, the 12, the 70, and the 100 who were in the room. They are trying to show us that the latter rain will be greater. If you can get past these elementary principles of what it means to be in the Kingdom of God, and what it means to be a servant of Holy Spirit. If you can get past it, then you can partake of the divine nature, as Jesus called us to way back at the beginning.

"In the coming days, many will exist in the miraculous on a continual basis, and this will become as natural to them as the gathering of manna was to Israel. Some of the Lord's exploits on behalf of His people will be unprecedented, exceeding the greatest biblical miracles. These will seem almost normal as they take place, because the presence of the Lord will cause more wonderment than these works. He will be very close to His people in these days." Amen.

You have to be in this *word*. I cannot make you get in it. But, if you want to feed the flame, you have to see yourself in here. You have to let Him knock on your door and you have to let Him eat with you. Then you have to let Him tell you what He is talking about. Because, we are all in

Sunday, March 5, 2023

here. We have all seen ourselves as Judas. We have all seen ourselves as Peter. We have all seen ourselves as Ahab. We have all seen ourselves in the depths of where David's kingdom went to. We have all seen ourselves here. But, only those who overcame were the ones who sat down and ate. Let Him talk it out with you and let Him put His hands on you. Let Him bless you. Let Him eat with you and abide with you. Yes, in Jesus's name.

Let's stand. If you need prayer, we will be here. Those who call upon His name will be saved. Let it be done, Lord, according to your word. Let it be done to me, God, according to your word.

Holy Ghost, we thank you for your word. I honor Holy Spirit. You are my Lord and King. You are my Lord and King, and you are calling me to be in the written Word of Life. You are the Book of Life, Jesus, and I honor you as the Word made flesh. You are the face of truth and grace. We honor Holy Spirit's work in us. We choose to see ourselves and not stop there, but to be transformed, to be heavenly minded, and to be made into your image, as we eat and drink of you at the table. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.