

Title: Rise-In Belief

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 1/28/24

Good morning, I am Grant Hill. If you have not met me, I am the associate pastor here at the Garden Gathering church. It is a good day, today. The Lord has been asking us to, "rise to the occasion." Whatever that occasion is, He wants us to "rise to that occasion with belief and with faith." That is where it starts.

At the Garden Vision Conference, the Lord was talking with me about expansion. Remember, to expand again you had to believe again. You had to choose to believe, again. Whether that was something that you have put down, or something that has just grown wearisome, or may be cold, because it is taking so long. But, you have to will and you have to say, "I choose to believe, and I choose to believe, again." *You* choose to believe for more than *you* did yesterday. That is called the will, and it is in your soul. Your free will is the one thing that God will not trespass. It is impossible for God to trespass our free will. He will not ever force us to do something.

He is sovereign, and He can use all of our choices for His plan. He is always tweaking His plan, according to our choices, but He has never forced us to do anything. It's a very, very big thing. We are small. Our minds do not understand how God is allowing us to choose our fates and choose our lives, yet He can make His plan work with our choices that are constantly changing. But, that is how big God is. He is not afraid of eight billion people's choices, to still find His plan, and get His Son to the Earth. He is not afraid, but He will not force us to choose Him. That is the one thing God will not do. We have that choice. Right? He put Adam and Eve in the garden, and said, "You can eat anything except the *fruit of the tree of good and evil.*" But, He did not put a fence around it. He did not put a bunch of angels around it. He did not force them to obey. *We* put valuables in a lockbox. *We* put the dangerous stuff in a place where kids cannot get it. That is how we are, because we have fallen short of the glory of God.

First Corinthians says, "Love never fails. Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." He does that with us. He believes us. He hopes in us. He trusts us. When we have come repentant to Him asking for forgiveness, He forgives all our sins. He says, I believe you. He doesn't have second thoughts. He believes our, "Yes." He is the "yes and amen." Amen. When we are called to "rise to the occasion," He is going to ask us to have belief.

Exodus 3:9 ESV

This is right after Jesus manifests Himself to Moses in the burning bush. We are kind of jumping into the story, but this is where we need to start. You have to know that God hears where you have been afflicted and oppressed. God hears your tears. No, that doesn't make sense, but it is true. He hears your tears. The cries are vocal cries, but He hears the cry. In the book of Romans, it says, "the Spirit of God groans and intercedes with words inexpressible." He hears the tears. He hears the cries. This is good news. He says to Moses, "I have heard them. Behold, the cry of my people, Israel, has come to me, and I have seen with my eyes the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them."

Exodus 3:10-12 ESV

What's the sign? "That I have sent you, and I am with you." Moses gets many other signs, but that was initially God's heart. The only sign you need is, "I am with you." Wow, right?

Exodus 3:13 ESV

What should be the answer? How has God proclaimed Himself up to this point? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. That is the only name that He has presented Himself with so far. But, that is not who He says He is to Moses.

Exodus 3:14

“I am who I am, Yahweh.” But, if you really understand what is going on here, Moses should have said, “Who?” That is not a name that God has ever introduced Himself with. That is totally brand new. That would have been the reaction of the people to Moses if he said, “Yahweh, came to me.” They would have said, “Who?” Yet now, because of the revelation of this book, Yahweh, is a name they won't even say. The power, the fierceness and the holiness that came with Yahweh, causes them to not even say it. They blank it out, because of how much fear of God is involved with the name Moses was introduced to. “Rise to the occasion.”

Exodus 3:14

God says, I am not just some random person, “I am,” has sent me to you, but this is my new name. I am still the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the names that you know. The name of God is not like our names. Right? I am Grant. I embody that name. God's name embodies a portion or a fraction of His whole character. You cannot put one name on the entire embodiment and divine nature of God. Anytime He presents His name, it is just a portion of what He wants you to know about Him. When you say He is the God of Abraham, it is revealing the God of a man of faith. I am the God of Isaac, reveals the God of a man of promise. The God of Jacob, reveals Him as the God of a man of redemption from a life of cheating. Those are all three things that I must know.

Now, He says, “I am, that I am.” He is going to reveal what this is. Later on in Exodus, He says, “I am Jealous.” Later He says, “I am Jehovah Nissi.” Then He says, “I am Jehovah Rapha.” Later on He says, I am “Baal-Perazim,” the God of the breakthrough. He says, “My name is Yeshua.” Later, He says, “I am the Faithful One, I am the Witness, I am the Lion of Judah.” These are all revealing a characteristic of God. It's just one portion and each one shows a little bit more of who He is. It's an unveiling of God. It's an unveiling of the Christ. It's an unveiling, but He embodies that name totally, yet it is a fraction of who He is.

It's different than our names. Right? When we say, “this is a podium,” it is a podium. It is not a table. We name things so that we are not confused. But, God is not one of confusion, and He is not multiple gods. He is one God, but you cannot name Him. He is the only God, but you cannot put Him in a box. There is only one true God. He is not multiple gods. He is a God that we cannot name. He has revealed Himself, and we know Him in a part of His name. Then He says in the end of the book of Revelation, “I will give you My new name.” There are more names of God to come. “I will put on your forehead My new name,” said Jesus. More and more of Him will be unveiled and be revealed to His people, and to His children. His name is ever increasing, and we will know more of Him. He is basically building on His name, “I am.”

Exodus 3:15 ESV

The new name, “Yahweh,” I do not say with enough reverence.

Exodus 3:16-17 ESV

Exodus 4:1ESV

What is Moses worried about? Whenever God does something new, He asks us to “rise to the occasion.” The thing that quenches it is unbelief. Moses is afraid that they won't believe. This is a new occasion. This is a day of deliverance that is being proclaimed and prophesied to the Hebrews in Egypt who are in slavery. The fear on the man of God is that when I tell them this,

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“What if they do not believe? What if they do not “rise to the occasion, and believe?” That is the fear on all of the ministers of God, in all the fivefold ministries, apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, pastors. “What if I give the gospel and they do not believe?” “Rise to the occasion,” with faith that they will. That is the call and heartbeat to those who serve the Lord.

Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1 ESV

Who we talking about here? Jesus, we recognize this right? “He shall be high and lifted up. He shall be exalted.” He was raised on a cross, on a mountain called Golgotha, at Calvary. When they saw Him, “they were astonished at His appearance being so marred beyond human resemblance that He did not even look like a man.” This verse talks about that.

Isaiah 52:15 ESV

We read that in the gospels, in Matthew, when the Romans looked at Him and *marveled*. Since that day, many men have come into the understanding of who Jesus is, even though they might not have looked for Him as the Messiah. That is what this verse is talking about.

Isaiah 53:1 ESV

There it is the same thing. The gospel has been preached. The gospel is here, and the question comes, “Will you rise to the occasion and believe?” Yet, “Who has believed what He has heard from us? Who has the arm of the Lord been revealed to?” It is often not the person that you are praying for.

We went to Denmark, and I remember there was a translator when Brandy was preaching the gospel. She's preaching it for the Danish people. This guy says, “I am just the translator. I do not care or believe anything about God.” But, he had more questions every time we had a session. He said, “I have not been here to seek this out. But, you have piqued my interest in the Gospel of Jesus.” Who was the message for? It was for the Danes, yet this man is the one hearing it. Sometimes it works like that. You are praying for somebody and you get the *attention of the* one next to them. But, you keep praying for the one. It works like that sometimes. “Who has believed what he has heard from us?” You are preaching and preaching. You are preaching to the one, and then this other one hears it. Why is that? Because of “faith and believing, in the time and hour of their salvation.” Yes. Do you see it “rising to the occasion?”

The first part is “I believe.” The Lord wants to show us unbelievable things. The Lord wants to show us unbelievable things. But, the unbelievable things will not happen unless you believe they can happen. Think about that. God wants to show you unbelievable things that He wants to do. But, He cannot do them unless you believe that they can be done. What? Yes, that means you have to step out and say, “this impossible thing can be done.” This impossible thing can be done on this occasion. This unbelievable thing, “I am going to believe it can happen.” He calls us to be believers. He calls us to be believers. The followers of Jesus believe.

He doesn't call us to be healers. He doesn't. He says, “I am the Healer.” But, He does call me to be a believer and to believe that He can heal, will heal, and is faithful to heal them all. Yes! “I cannot believe this,” should not be coming out of a Christian's mouth. “No, I cannot believe this,” should not be coming out of our mouths. We have to watch for that. “This is unbelievable. I cannot wait. I cannot believe this.” But, “I can believe this. I do believe this. I am believing this,” then you see how faith rises. “I can believe this. I do believe this. I'm a believer.” This is “rising to the occasion.” When the occasion comes forth, you are prepared for it.

In the conference we talked about Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. What was He doing? He was being transformed into glory. They were stunned. The

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three of them were thinking, "What is going on, this is unbelievable." Yet one of them, Peter, always came back and said, "I believe you are the Son of God. I believe that you have the words of life." He was one of the three that got to see that happen. They come down off the mountain. Jesus says, "Do not say any of this to anybody until I've gone up to heaven."

What does He come down to? He comes down to a mess, because the other nine of the disciples have been praying for a father's son who has epileptic seizures. They have been praying to cast the demon out, but the demon will not come out. The boy's father is saying to them, "*If you cannot help what am I to do?*" Jesus comes down and asks what is going on? This is the walk of the of the leaders in the House. You can be "in the glory," and the next second, you have to deal with the people. This is the life. You understand that as a parent, it can be like having the best dream you have ever had, then somebody is waking up crying. That is why God gives us children, so we will know what it means to be a "laborer in His house." You can have the best day with Jesus, and then somebody *comes* crying.

Jesus walks down and He says, "How long will I have to deal with you who have little faith?" Then He delivers the father's son and they are exuberant. Yes, you know the story. Then the nine come and ask, "Why couldn't we do this? We have cast out demons, and we have healed the sick before this. Why did it not happen?" Jesus said, "This can only be done with prayer and fasting." But, Jesus was not on the mountain praying and fasting. When did He pray and fast? He had been praying and fasting for months before that day. He had been getting prepared for the occasion. He had been getting prepared for the moment.

What you are doing today will prepare you for those moments to step into them with faith. Do you see that? What you are doing today is preparing you for those moments. Because, in those moments when you have to "dig into the well," God's says, "Where have you been in the last three months?" Why are we digging the well? Why are we fasting? Why are we praying? It's because God is saying you are going to have moments coming. I need you ready for that moment with your faith. The faith that you had three months ago, and that you have shown me every day for the last three months. Here's your time now. Let Jesus take that moment. Seize it with faith. That is what it looks like. The Lord wants to show us unbelievable things. But, for them to be done, you must believe.

John 12:27 ESV

This is Jesus speaking, "Now my soul is troubled." There is this burden that comes with, "Will they believe me? Will they believe what I am saying to them? Will they believe the gospel?"

John 12:28-29 ESV

That is unbelievable. If you are not a Christian, and you are reading this, you would think, "Wow, the Christians added that in there just to show that God is Almighty, and just speaks whenever He wants to around Jesus." That is definitely, if you are not a Christian, how you would read this verse. "Like what? God spoke from Heaven in the middle of Jesus's sentence! You Christians just added that to show how awesome God is." That is unbelievable. It was unbelievable to them. It was unbelievable to the crowd.

John 12:30 ESV

This is the occasion. "The voice from Heaven has come for your sake." Do you believe it was the Lord's voice? Or, can you justify it as "Oh, that was just thunder, or I do not know what that was. It must have been His disciples doing something in the background. The wind was blowing really strong that day. Might have been those Romans down the road." You can justify it or you can believe. "Jesus answered, this voice has come for your sake, not mine."

John 12:31-43 ESV

Jesus goes and hides Himself from them because of their unbelief. The occasion is here for faith. The occasion is here for a harvest. The occasion is here for a great outpouring of the Spirit. But, in that occasion, they could not believe. John recognizes this and says, "This is the fulfillment of what Isaiah was talking about in Isaiah 53:1. He also remembers another prophecy that says, "God lets their eyes be blinded. God lets their hearts be hardened, so that they will not receive Him as Messiah. Then the gospel can go to the Gentiles."

Look at what John says about Isaiah. It's so interesting. John, the apostle says, "Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him. He saw who was to come and Isaiah believed." Isaiah saw Jesus was going to come, and how He was going to come. He believed, and that was glorious. "A man without semblance, marred, and lifted up. Yet, He will sprinkle and save many nations. He is the Servant who has been beaten for our sins, and who has been bruised for our iniquities. He saw it and did not think, "God, that cannot be the Savior of the Israelites. That cannot be the Savior of my people."

Isaiah said, "No, I believe that is the glory that is coming. It's going to save us," said Isaiah many, many, many generations before. John recognizes and honors the prophet's belief. You see it? He said it publicly. Then John contrasts it with those who say, "Oh, I believe in Jesus. But, I am not going to pay the public price." He contrasts it with Isaiah who spoke unbelievable things about a coming Messiah and believed that it would be so, with those in the days of the Messiah, who believed who He was, but were not publicly saying, because the glory of man was better than the glory of God.

"Rising to the occasion," sometimes looks like publicly saying, what you believe, not just keeping it in the heart, or in the mind, and not publicly saying this is what I believe. "This is what I believe." There is the "chicken line," when you have to say it outside of these walls. Yes. What are the things that God wants to show us?

I Corinthians 2:9 ESV

This is what I want you to understand. The people were looking for the signs and wonders. We are praying for the signs and wonders. But, usually the most unbelievable thing that you hear is how God reveals Himself. They were offended by who Jesus said He was. "Who is this Son of Man? Isn't this Jesus of Nazareth? How dare you tell us to eat your flesh and drink your blood!" These are the things that offended them. Even the disciples themselves had to face that question. You are not just my friend anymore. You are my God. You are not just my rabbi anymore. You are the spiritual Father. You have to come to that place of, "Wait a minute." The occasion has changed. You are now no longer just the rabbi and the prophet that we have been following for the last many months. You are now saying that you are the Son of God, and have no earthly father. I have to eat your flesh and drink your blood. Your relationship has now changed as a "follower of Christ" to a "disciple of the Messiah, the Son of God."

They had to deal with that, and they had to "rise to the occasion." Believing that what Jesus is saying is true about Himself. That is what usually gets us. It is not about when we see this, but "no eye has seen or ears heard or heart of man imagine what God has prepared for those who love Him." God is saying, "I want to be known by My family. I want to unveil My heart. I want to unveil My name. I want you to know Me. I do not want you to just know what I do. I do not want you to know how I do it. I do not want you to always just know My signs and My wonders and My power. I want you to know Me."

Where the Church gets offended, is when He reveals a new realm of who He is with those names that we were talking about. "Jesus is a Lamb to be slaughtered. No, Jesus?" Jesus is a Servant that washes the feet of all. Jesus you are not!" Who said that, Peter. "No, Lord you do

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not do this. This is not what God does.” Jesus’s mother and His brothers knock on the door, and say, “Come out.” He says, “Who is My mother and My brothers and My sisters? I have none except for those who do the words of the Lord. What are you saying, Jesus?”

“Rise to the occasion in faith,” that whatever the Lord says who He is, you believe. That is what Moses had to deal with. “When I go to them, who should I introduce you as?” “Yahweh,” they did not even know how to rise in faith to that, because they did not know who He was.

Yet, in Zechariah it says that when the Antichrist is ravaging them, they will turn from the fear of the Antichrist to the most fearsome name that they know, the name of “Yahweh.” In the fear of the Antichrist, they will say there is one aspect of God that we have encountered that is more fierce than you. It is the name, “Yahweh.” It says in Zechariah, that they will turn and cry out “Yahweh, save us!” When that happens, God's says, “Ah, now I have you. Now you have My heart, because you have finally taken it as “this is mine. Yahweh is my God. Yahweh is who He is.” The Jews finally say “He is mine.” They won't reject that name “Yahweh,” anymore, but it will be, “You, *are* My God. We are your people, Yahweh.” What He always wanted on the mountain, happens on the mountain in Jerusalem.

This is a new revelation and this is prophetic, but that name has not ever been fully revealed to the Jews. When the Jews get the revelation, then the world will receive their Messiah. Yes, it is amazing. It's amazing. You can read it in Zechariah. It just says, “the name of the Lord.” So, you have to read it in the Hebrew *language scriptures*. But, that is the “name of the Lord.”

The main revelation is not the signs and wonders. God wants to reveal Himself. He wants to reveal another revelation of Him, another revelation of His heart, another revelation of His character, and another revelation of His Name. He is like a husband who wants to be known to the depths of his heart and the depths of his character by his wife. In the same way, so does God want to be understood by His children. When we “rise to the occasion,” it is believing, “God, this is who you are. I believe this is who you are.” A revelation of Him is the depths of it. Not a revelation of what He does.

The revelation of Him is the depths of it. You are the Lamb, and you are the Lion. You are the Healer. You are the Lover of my soul. You are the Friend closer than a brother. You are the Husband of your people. You are the King seated in righteousness. You are the Servant of all who came and suffered for me in those places in our hearts where we have said, “No, Lord, it is hard for me to grasp that about you. No, Lord, I do not know if I can really know you as my Husband, because you know, I am a guy.” He goes, “No, no, do not shake your head, no. “Rise to the occasion and believe.” Rise to the occasion in belief. You have to do what the disciples did. Where you might not understand fully what is happening. You might not have the full revelation. But, “I believe that you are speaking the truth. I am going to follow in belief of that.” God wants to be understood by His children. He wants us to believe.

John 14:1 ESV

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Do not be confused. Do not be anxious. Do not be trying to figure this out.” If you read John 13, it can be overwhelming. He is saying, “Do not be confused. Do not be troubled. Do not be nervous. Do not be anxious. Believe in God. Do not always try to figure it out. Believe in God. Believe also in me. Believe in God. Believe also, in me.”

John 14:5-6 ESV

When we are looking for which way should I walk? The first revelation that God wants us to have is, “Jesus is the way.” You have to wrestle with that. You have to believe this. You have to “rise to the occasion,” and say, “I believe you are the Way. You are the Way out of this. You are

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the Way through this. You are the Way. What else does He say? “I am the Truth.” “I am the Life.” He is revealing another aspect of His name, of His character, of His heart, of believing.

John 14:7-8 ESV

Here is one of those, crux moments with the disciples. Where they say, “Do you realize what you are saying Jesus? You want us to believe you? There is a crux moment here?”

John 14:9-10 ESV

Wow, you see the occasion? What is Jesus saying? This is why you cannot say that God is separate from Jesus, and Jesus is separate from God. There is another verse that He says, “Where the Father is, I am there right now.” “I am there also.” So, Jesus is 100% God, yet He empties Himself, it says in Philippians to serve as 100% Man. It does not make sense. They are in the same being. They are in the same person. They are in the same flesh 100%. I do not understand. “Believe, do not be troubled.”

“Believe,” but here is the crux moment. He has been walking with them this whole time. They say, “Oh, you are the Son of God.” “I get it.” He says, “No, I am not just the Son of God. I am God.” That is what Phillip is saying. “Jesus, show us God.” He says, “Philip, I have been with you the whole time. You do not know me? If you have seen me, you have seen God.” Do you realize what they had to rise up to in that moment to believe about Jesus, who they have been walking with for three years? Yet, Thomas is there. He had to believe, too.

When you rise to the occasion, the first step is, “I believe in this occasion. You are God. You are my way. You are my life. You are my life abundantly. You are my shepherd. You are my discipliner. You are the truth.” These things are the revelation of the occasion that He is going to put you through. So, when that moment comes that it needs to be public, you are there. You are there. Yes.

John 14:10-11 ESV

“Believe me, believe me.” Can you hear Him? “Believe me, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” Then, He says, or logically, “believe on the account of the signs themselves. Believe in the works themselves.”

Let’s end there and stand and pray.

“Father, we are going to “rise to your occasion,” in faith to believe what you want to reveal about Yourself. What scares us and where we become afraid is when you reveal Yourself. God, you shake flesh. You burn flesh. You are the Rock that it says about it, that “If we do not fall on You, then the Rock will fall on us.” Holy Ghost, remove the ungodly fear. Give us the fear of the Lord, to believe. To be like a child who says, “That is who you are. This is who you are. You are in me and I am in you.” I ask God for faith to arise. The simple faith of believing You. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray, amen.