

Title: Behold, I Come

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 3/1/26

John 1:14 NKJV

Good morning. This is a good day. I'd like to start in the first chapter of John in verse fourteen. We love this verse, and we'll build off of that today. It says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Colossians 1:19

"For it pleased the Father that in Him," (Jesus), all the fullness should dwell."

Here, and in John chapter one, we see the same reference, that the disciples are a witness and testifying that Jesus came in the flesh. He is the Word of God, made into flesh and manifested. He dwelt among us. He lived, He ate, He breathed, He tasted, He cried, He wept, He bled, and He had blisters. He dwelt among us, and He is revealing who God is. When we saw God, He was full of grace. He was full of truth. Saying in Colossians, "For it pleased the Father that in His Son all of His fullness should come."

Now, why is this revelatory in John? Because God has revealed Himself this way in Exodus 34 when He came before Moses. Moses asked to see God. "I want to know you." The Lord God introduces Himself as the Lord God, full of graciousness, full of mercy and truth to the thousand generations. He had already introduced Himself this way. How is it that there is now a testimony, that when God came and dwelt among us and sat among us, and we saw Him, that it was true? Where did the doubt come in? Because there's somebody always lying. There's somebody always telling us who God isn't. There's always somebody telling you who God is not. Yes, "The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy," it says in John 10:10. But, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, "comes that you may have life and have it more abundantly."

That devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. What does He come to steal, kill and destroy? The truth about God. He really only comes to steal the truth about who God is, because you were created to be connected to that God. In that God, all of your being, all of your essence, all of you, is in Him. If he can steal the truths away, what do you become? "The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy." The devil comes to steal the produce of your hands, and then blames God for the famine. The devil comes to steal your health, and tells you God wants to teach you a lesson. The devil comes to steal your joy, and tells you God wants you to be broken, oppressed and wearied in this life, because He blesses a contrite heart. That's not the way the Scripture should be read. This is how he is. This is what he does. He comes to kill your hope, destroy your dreams, crush your daily bread, make it as stale as a crouton, and try to convince you, "This is God's desire for you to eat stale bread, and to only know your God through suffering." It's the devil's way.

We read in Daniel that he came to, "weary and wear out the saints." Not the lost, and not the hurting. He comes to weary and wear out the saints, and he wearies us with doubt and unbelief. He wearies us with the same question that he asked Adam and Eve at the beginning, "Did God really say that? Does God really want you? Does God really have grace? Is God really merciful? Is He full of truth? Does He know the way? Is His way the best? Are you sure that is His way?" He doesn't have to convince you, if you can convince yourself. But, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, and the glory of the only begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth." Wow. Do you understand? Jesus said that the devil is a liar

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and he has been lying from the beginning. I didn't say that. She didn't say that. Jesus said, "The devil is a liar and he has been lying from the beginning."

God told Moses, "This is who I am, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering and abounding in goodness and truth." The devil lies in order to steal, kill and destroy our future, because his future is already destroyed. When did it get destroyed? On the cross of Jesus. In the wisdom of the devil, he killed the Son of God, and said, "I got Him. I finally got the begotten Son of God. Then he realized he made a grave mistake, because the Son of God went down and came up. Jesus said, "Hand Me those keys." Now the devil's goal is to steal, kill and destroy the futures of the children of God as much as he can. Take them *from being* close to the Kingdom of Heaven. Keep them lost, keep them deceived, and keep them blinded. Don't let them know, "God says this." Don't let them know, "God really means this." Don't let them know, "God really actually backs up His word." Don't let them take hold of that. Because if he can torment God's sons on Earth, then that's a victory for him, before they know His glory.

But, there is a Bride that says, "No, I'm not waiting until I die." There's a Bride that says, "No, He died and He finished it and I can have it." There is a faith that says, "I will not wait to die to obtain the resurrection of the Christ, but I seek it today." I didn't make that up. It's in Philippians. It was tried to be done two thousand years ago by *Paul*, a man that says, "I will not stop until I attain the glory of the Son of God today, because He's full of grace, He's full of truth, and this is the Mystery of the Ages." Wow, yeah. The cross of Jesus has brought an eternal victory for the glory and the Kingdom of God.

The devil won't say things just blatantly wrong. He will tell you things half wrong or a quarter wrong, because then you can convince yourself of the rest. That's how doubt works. "Did God really say?" Who convinced Eve? Was it really the devil that convinced her, or was it the doubt in her soul? You hear it? The devil is a liar, and he's been lying from the beginning. He comes to steal, kill and destroy our future, because his future is already destroyed. Yet, you have One in you, the hope of glory, Who is beckoning you and calling you, saying, "Today is the day of salvation." Today is the day of sozo. Today is the day of peace. Today is the day of victory. Today is The day of healing. Today is the day of deliverance. Today is the day. Today is the day.

Behold, today I come. Today I come into this revelation. There is a will, and there is a choosing. There is the call to salvation, and there is a choosing of the cross. Jesus said, "Come, follow Me." *We* say, "Wait, let me go bury my father." *He* says, "Let the dead bury the dead." *You* say, "What are you talking about?" There is a will to choose the cross. There is a will to bear the cross of Jesus. There is a call unto salvation, and those who call on His name are saved. We have eternal salvation. But, there is a choice, that I'm going to follow now in the way of Christ. What does that mean? He says, "Take up a cross, son, and follow." My will is now being let go. I surrender my will, and it is Your will being done in my life. This is a hard word. Yes, it is a very hard word.

"Oh, I will give you something better, instead of the cross of Jesus. Why don't we break it up into manageable steps?" This is religion. Religion says, "Is the cost of following Jesus is too high?" Let me break it up into manageable pieces and pay off the debt as you go. You find yourself enslaved to the debt of a form of godliness that denies the power, and does not let you have freedom. That is religion. Religion is, "Holy Spirit is too unpredictable. Holy Spirit might make you give it all up. Holy Spirit might ask you to do something you're not ready to do. So, just do this because it's a little bit easier and you can handle that." Then you find you're enslaved to this until the cross was truly born on your shoulders, and you were set free. Because who the Son sets free, is free indeed. That cross is not a burden. It's actually liberty, because, "My burden is easy, My yoke is light." Wow. We've not seen it like that, but that really is what religion is. It is the compromise of laying down all of my life to Christ that is very costly

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right now, but I want a form of godliness. So, let me pay what I can till that time comes when I can give it all. But then, religion binds you to the form of godliness. It's just that millstone that you're going around and around and around. You never find yourself actually conquering, actually victorious, actually walking up the steps of Gethsemane, or actually walking up the steps of Calvary. You're just on a millstone going around and around and around. Paying those penitent prices. But, the debt has never been fully paid, the heart for the heart, the all for the all, or the life for the life. This is what it looks like. The devil will tell us, "There's an easier way." The devil will say, "Did God really say to give it all? Did God really want you to give it all now? Did God really want this?"

That's why, in the walk of Christ, it can seem like a very lonely road. Yet you're not to fear the paradox, because He does find the lonely and put them in families. We read that in the Psalms. We're not called to be alone. We read in the New Testament that every joint is put together, as in the knuckles of your hands and the joints of the body. They are connected to one another. They are not separate organisms. They're not separate plants. They are actually put together, and they have different parts. Some are given honor, some are given exposure, and some are not. They are not separate from each other, but there's a necessary need in the body of Christ to be connected and to be together. To come together and to stay connected in that way.

But, *in* the actual walk with Christ, I cannot lean on my brother, or my sister, or my wife, or my mother, or my father. I must stand before Him. He must know me, and I must know Him. I cannot go the Lord, saying, "You know my wife. You know, like I know you through her. She tells me all about you." Jesus will look at you and say, "I never knew you." There is this individual walk that you must take that does sometimes feel like it's just you and the Lord. But, He lets you look ahead. You see, "Oh, there's Grant." Then He lets you look behind, and you say, "Oh, there's Brandy." We're not that far apart. But, there are times when it feels like He's the only one there. Don't fear the paradox and don't isolate in that truth, if you will. You have to see the whole thing, but you cannot get into Heaven riding on my coattails. Saying, "Well, I linked myself to Grant, so I'm going to get in there before the door shuts." I'm going to kick you off. Why? Because that's my job. You know Christ. You know Him. You cling to Him. Do not bow to me. Do not cling to me. Cling to God. Cling to Him. Let Him be your daily bread.

"Did God really say it?" Yes, this is why there is such a battle to keep newborn Christians deaf to the voice of God. If one knows they hear the voice of God, the devil's persuasion doesn't work. I told this to a brother here recently, that a dangerous Christian is one who knows they hear the voice of God. A dangerous Christian, says the devil, is one who knows they hear the voice of God. Think about that. If you know that Jesus is talking to you, and you know the voice of the Lord, then the devil's persuasion is not going to work. It's not going to work. When he goes, "Well, did God really say that?" You say, "Well, yes." Is that not what Jesus did? The only tactic that the devil had left was to say what God said. Well, "God says that you shall fall off of this and that angels will catch you and you won't dash your foot against a stone." All he had was to use the word of God to cause doubt or to cause the testing. Yet, Jesus is saying, "No, don't put the Lord your God to the test. I still know His voice. I still hear what He said. I still hear what He's saying now." A dangerous Christian to Satan's kingdom is one who knows they hear the voice of God and they know it very well. Who said they would know it very well? Jesus, because He said, "My sheep hear My voice." "My sheep hear My voice." "My sheep hear My voice." So, that's all that the *devil* has to bring doubt to. "Do I hear God? Is that His voice?" Right? You know what I'm saying?

There is a call. There is a truth. He said, "I will give you the Spirit of truth, and He will lead you into all truth." Wait a minute. "He was full of grace and truth. We have seen the glory of God, the glory of the only One of the Father, and He is full of grace and truth. This Spirit of truth will lead you into all truth." Wow. This is why there's such a battle to keep newborn Christians deaf

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to the voice of God. If *the enemy* can tell the new babes they don't hear God, if he can make sure that they think they don't, then he can make sure they doubt they do. That is why there's such a battle at first when you are a Christian, over hearing the voice of God and finding someone who can teach you how to discern between good and evil voices, between the flesh and the soul, and between the soul and the spirit as it says in Hebrews. How do we do that? With the Word of God, and exercising the sword of the Spirit, that splits between the two and severs between the two. It's an exercise. It says it's an exercise. Yes, it's an exercise. How many love to exercise? Okay, don't raise your hand that high. Okay. This is a spiritual exercise.

It takes practice when you're a newborn babe to understand your voice, the devil's voice, and the Holy Spirit's voice. That you would know "My sheep hear My voice." That's why there's such a battle to keep growing Christians waffling between doubt and unbelief in the voice of God. You may be baffled to and fro, and buffeted back and forth. There's such a battle for mature Christians to not be wounded and crippled when they heard God's voice and were persecuted for it. It's all about the voice of the Lord. It's all about what the devil wants to steal, kill and destroy. This is the battle. The battlefield is where? The mind is the battlefield. It's in the mind, because a dangerous Christian is the one that knows they hear God. Why is that dangerous? Because if you know you hear God, you know what He's asked you to do. It says, "If you love Me, you will obey Me." So, you love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind, and He asked you to do something. You know that He told you to do it, then it's between you and Him.

If you want to stand before Him and say, "Yes, I heard what you said, but I chose not to do it." That's hard to do when you really love the Lord. Like, "Yeah, Lord, I heard you. I know exactly what you said, but I *didn't want* to do it." There's a responsibility that comes there. Like, "I heard you." But if you have a doubt that you heard God, it relieves that responsibility. "Well, I don't know if I heard you say that. I'm not sure if I really heard you say do that. I don't want to mess up the Kingdom of God. I definitely don't want to do something against your will." So, I don't do anything, right? It relieves that responsibility, and it gives you that out. It's the religious way. So you can go before Jesus and say, "Well, I wasn't sure it was you, God." Yet, you didn't grow. It's religion, it's legalism and it's a legal way out. It's not the justice system. It's a legal way out. Do you understand the difference?

You understand what I'm saying? "My sheep know My voice. The Holy Spirit, is the Spirit of Truth, leading you into all truth. To love God is to obey God." But how can you obey Him if you're not sure if you hear Him? That's all the devil is trying to do. He's just trying to make you doubt whether you hear Jesus or not. He's just trying to make you doubt whether you hear the Lord or not. "Did God really say?" Hearing God's voice comes with responsibility to do what you hear. Religion will give you a compromise and an easement to the burden. Because, this is the other side of it, fear of what is He going to ask me to do, right? "Well, I know I hear God's voice. I know what His voice sounds like. I know what He is going to say. He is going to ask me to give up something, and what if I'm not ready to give that up?" He is gracious. He is merciful. He is long suffering. Did you forget? Because, they did forget. They forgot from the time that Moses was introduced to God, to the time that Jesus came back, that He is gracious, He is merciful, and He is long suffering.

Then when He came and dwelt among us in the flesh, they were like. He's good. He's good, full of grace and truth. We have beheld His Majesty, says Peter. You see it? Now, 2000 years from there, I am still trying to convince you that the Lord is gracious, He is merciful, and He is long suffering. When He asks something of you, He's not going to make it hurt as hard as you *think*, because it's not what you really need. It's something that is poisoning you. It's something that is causing death in your soul that you didn't know. It's like a toothache. He needs to pull a tooth out, but you're like, "Oh, it's my only back tooth. I need it." That's clinging

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to the soul and clinging to the flesh. He is gracious, He is merciful and He is long suffering. He does not give you more than you can handle, and He will not ask more of you than He knows that you will give. Yet, He does push, and He does pull, and He does ask. He does not force, He does not whip, He does not drive *you* to the cross, but He will nudge. He will nudge and will blow on your heart with the wind of the Spirit. He will lift your head up.

This is the way of the Lord. When He asks of you, He wants you to know that He is speaking. When He is speaking, He believes that you will love Him so much. He believes that He can ravish your heart so much. He believes that if you could see His eyes, that nothing else would matter. He has so much confidence in His love. He has so much confidence in how He can ravish your soul. He has so much confidence in His zeal for you. That if you could look into the Son of God's eyes and see how much He loves you. That this ask is minuscule compared to the love of God, that I am gaining. Yeah, this is it.

When the Holy Spirit asks for it all, religion will offer you to pay the cost in manageable payments. But then they will shackle you to the debt. No transformation is necessary in religion. But, if you really take the cross of Christ, it changes you. No transformation is necessary in religion. But, if you really say yes to the cross of Christ, it changes you. "Take up your cross and follow Me," are actually words that lead us to freedom and liberty. It actually sets you free. "Take up your cross and follow Me, actually leads you to freedom and liberty. "Whom the Son sets free is free indeed." Where is the Son? He took up a cross and took it to the top of Golgotha. Wow, and He's free. Nothing has a hold on Him. He's told us that nothing has a hold on Him. There's no name, there is no power, there is no ruler higher than Him. There is nothing. Nothing has a hold on Me. I came into the world, and I overcame the world. It has nothing in Me. He said, "If you choose to come with Me, then it is a crossway of freedom and liberty, where nothing has a hold on you, but Me. The way of the cross is actually a way of freedom and liberty." Wow. I'm encouraged.

Psalm 40

It's a very popular Psalm. This is King David talking here, and we'll see where this leads us. David says in verse seven, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me." When you read this book and you see your life in it, there has to be a response of, "I hear you, Lord. I hear your voice. I see myself in this, and I choose to come." David says, I read about myself in this book. I read about my destinies in this book. "I say, I choose, I will, to come." I don't just do it silently. I don't just do it in my own time. I say, "Behold." The King James version says, "Lo," that's a kingly term that means, behold. "Lo, I come. Here I am. I am choosing to step into what has been written of me to do, but I'm also choosing to step into the prophecy of this book. That what it says a child of God is, I am. What it says a child of God has, I have. What it says a child of God will do, I will do." Then you wonder why he was chosen as one who had the heart of the Lord. Yes, you are predestined to works in the Kingdom of God. When you read these things, "Behold, I come, I hear you, Lord. I hear your voice. I don't need to hear another's voice. It's written here for me. What is written in the book pertains to me. What is written in the book pertains to me. What is written in this book pertains to me." Yes.

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
That we should walk in them. "Behold, I come."

Romans 9:21-24

Wow. Yeah, we're getting into some predestination. We're not afraid. I've been under Calvin *theology* as a man, and I did nothing, but sit there. I know that story. I did nothing, and we did not evangelize. That's not what I'm saying. But, I want you to recognize that God is outside of

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time. He knows the end from the beginning. He says so. He knows those that have chosen wrath and those that He has chosen for glory. I understand that, but it's not my job to tell you guys what generation is for wrath and what generation is for glory. How do you know that this whole generation isn't for glory? Are you God? Are you the Potter? That's what Calvinism will get you. You start figuring out, "Oh, that guy's for wrath. He's definitely for glory. Oh, I like you. I think you're for glory. I'll evangelize to you." How do you know the world's not supposed to be saved today? How do you know? That's when it gets you. The laziness of religion comes in. You understand what I'm saying? That's all I'm going to say about that.

Verse 23-24, "That He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy." Say, "That's me. I'm a vessel of mercy." How do I know? Because God said, "He is gracious and merciful and long suffering." He said that thousands of years ago about me. Because I'm a vessel of mercy. "He had prepared beforehand me for glory, even us, whom He called not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles." Amen.

Haggai 2:6-9

Remember, what are you? Are you a vessel? Yes, say, "I'm a vessel. I'm a vessel of mercy." Are you a vessel of common things? (Silence) Or, are you a vessel of rare uncommon things, rare and uncommon things, rare and precious things, it says? But, these vessels are going to fill the house of God. Remember, the Potter is forming and fashioning the clay. He has fashioned us to be vessels of mercy, to reveal to us the glory of God, which we already have read. That we have beheld His glory. It is the fullness of the Father who dwells in Jesus, and that fullness of glory is goodness and grace and truth. These things form and fashion you and makes you understand, wow. The goodness of God is for the land of the living. He's the God of the living. Not the God of the dead. It changes the way you think. "Wait a minute. He's the God of the living. He's not just the God of the dead. Why am I waiting to die? He's the God of the living." Why only read Psalm 23 at funerals, right? Do you see what I'm saying? But, "He's the God of the living. He's the God of the living. He's the God of the living." 'Goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,' not all the days of my death.

First Corinthians 3:9-10

How do we build? By hearing God's voice. How do you build? "By hearing God's voice and doing what He says. If I hear God, I will obey God. If I obey God, then I am loving God, we read in First John. If I am loving God, then I want to hear His voice." It continues and continues and continues. So, this is how you build, and it all starts on, "Do you hear God?" The answer is, "Yes, you do," because He is in you if you be in Christ. There is a devil that is lying to you saying you don't. There is a devil that is trying to make sure you will not ever believe this in your life. There is a devil that is going to try to tell you that you are failing. When you do hear God, you do stand up, and you do say what He says, there is a devil who's going to backstab you, bash you, persecute you, and call you a liar publicly, so that you will not speak again. Because a dangerous Christian is one that knows they hear God. Yes, this is how you build on your faith.

First Corinthians 3:11-17

There it is. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Now remember, Haggai said, "The latter temple will be greater than the former." We are in the latter temple. We are actually the latter temple, because you are the temple of the living God. So, spiritually, we are fulfilling Haggai in the spirit. Holy Spirit had said in Haggai that part of this prophecy is that the latter house will be greater than the former, spiritually. He's going to fill it with gold and silver. How do you fill the temple of God within you with gold and silver? You have to be refined now. You have to be refined now, not wait till later. It doesn't say that those that are in religion go to hell. It doesn't say that. It says that they will see what they were paying penance to, going around the mill, around and around and around for hay and

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wood. Hay and wood gets burned up. Were they lied to? Perhaps. Is it all their fault? Maybe not. But, in this House, I've now told you. So now, you're responsible for the word that has been given to you. I want you to build with silver. I want you to stand in that day and say, "Lord, I have been on my knees following you up this road, and it has changed me. I have been transformed by your eyes, because your eyes are fire, and your eyes have refined me. Whatever is in me, your eyes have made. You know what you have made in me. Let it bring you glory. That is our heart. Behold, I come." Amen.

Let's stand and let's receive this. We will be here tonight. This is a day set apart to the Lord.

"Lord, here we are. We come before you, and I bind the liar. I bind the deceiver that says we don't hear you. That you would settle this God. That you would heal the wounds. That you would heal the hearts. That you would open the ears. That you would open the eyes. That we would not be waffling back to and fro. That we would have the fear of the Lord where we need the fear of the Lord. That we would also have the love of Christ that hears your still, small voice. You are tender, you are merciful, you are gracious, you are long suffering, and you are here. We receive it. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray, amen." If you have need or prayer for anything, we will be right here.