

Title: Mercy Triumphs

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 9/14/25

Let's talk about our nation today. Many of you haven't been in our house very long, but in 2019 a word of the Lord came that there would be and is already a new American civil war, and that it would be a hot war. That was prophesied six years ago. Currently, it's not just a battle. It's not just a skirmish. It has always been a spiritual war. You might think, "Well, is it a war?" "What kind of war is it?" It's a war on ideas. It's a war of ideology. The war of ideas, you might think, is not very powerful, but it is when you realize that our country was created on an idea. The only reason why there is a United States of America, is because there was an "idea." The idea is, "What if people could govern themselves?" That's the idea that you, "live in," to this day. "What if a people can govern themselves, and not have a king, or a ruler, or an empire that enslaves, bullies or oppresses them?" "What if the people themselves could govern themselves?" This was a radical idea, especially in the 1700s.

The idea that came up out of the people that lived here was, "If we could create a government that the people run, what would be the thing that goes against it? What would tear that down?" Unfortunately, the answer is the morality of the people themselves. Because, if you have a government that is run by the people, and that's for the people, the only way that government crumbles is if the morality of that people crumbles. Fortunately for us, the morality of the people that started this nation, realized that only human nature can tear this down. So they needed to create a government that will fight against human nature. What did they do? They separated the power of the people into three parts, so that not one part could tear the whole thing down. We almost did 100 years later, in the 1860s. We did almost tear ourselves apart. That was the Civil War, and it became a real hot war over ideas of who men are and how equal they are. The Civil War sprouted up because of the turmoil within Americans on the truth and the validity of those ideas.

America is not a race, but the American race is an idea. No other nation was founded before 1776 on an idea. They were founded on blood, on culture, or who you were identified with through your bloodline. But, America said, "We are going to be a people that subscribe to an idea that all men are created equal, and that there is liberty and justice for all. The battle is over that idea. America has been the standard. We were birthed to an identity that had nothing to do with bloodline.

Today, nations have taken on that as an identity. You could say, Europe takes that on, but that's not how Europe was birthed. Europe has taken on those identities, "as a garment." America was birthed into it. There are a lot of Christian nations, and many of them in Europe. All of the flags of Scandinavian countries have a cross on them. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, all have a cross on their flag. Poland, in 2016, declared that Jesus Christ is the real King of their country, and they have actually succeeded since that declaration. After seeing that America was not failing in the idea and the experiment that a people can govern themselves based on their morality and it was actually working, Europe took on the ideas and revolted in the 1700s. But, they all fell back into *being* ruled by an emperor, whose name was Napoleon, by the 1800s. They couldn't hold that revolution. They thought it was about the revolution. They thought it was about overthrowing your king, and then you can rule yourself. That's what the Americans did.

But, "No, they actually founded their country on an idea rooted in something else, "truth." The only way they found the truth was they anchored that truth to the Word of God. America was

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actually birthed into an idea that was anchored on centuries of finding truth. That's the key. The war today is, "What is truth?" The war right now in America is, is it capitalism, fascism, socialism, or liberalism? Is liberalism the government or is it constitutionalism? Are these ideas still the best ideas? Do we need new ideas? Do we need progressive ideas? Do we need to transform these ideas? Ideas are what the war is over. Ideas are what the battle is over. It manifested itself this week. One man *died for* presenting his ideas feeling the manifestation of the war that's been raging in the spirit for about eight to twenty years.

On September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden's strategy was to weaken America to the point of exhaustion and bankruptcy from the outside. But, in America, the people are going to be the ones that destroy themselves. No country can destroy truth. Only the people who say, "the truth is not the truth anymore." No country can destroy the truth unless the country itself says, "What we thought was truth is not the truth anymore." Does this make sense? This is the war that we are in. This is the spiritual warfare that America feels. This is why it's so relevant to our time, and it will always be. Right?

In Ronald Reagan's generation, they saw that freedom was, "Only one generation away from being gone." Why does the devil want to go after America? Because, if you can knock down the birthing of the idea that a nation is not about blood, then who's to say that every other nation will *not* throw off that garment. All the democracies of the world could fail. If the founder of this idea dies, why should we hold on to that garment of democracy? What causes Europe to hold on to this identity if the one who gave it to them falls? What is to stand in the way? That's the argument, that's the war, and that's the battle. Is it serious? Yes. Is it real? Absolutely. Is it a fearful thing? It's a, "fear of God." It's not a terror thing. It's a, "fear of God."

I love, that we have no understanding of national identity unless you are one of those that was born in another country and have been grafted into the American race. You have been adopted and founded in this country, when you set your heart to say, "I'm going to be a citizen of this nation and set my heart to the ideals of this country." But, if you're born an American, you don't have an understanding of national identity, because anyone can be this race. Anyone can be an American. It doesn't make sense to be Danish. It doesn't make sense to be Norwegian. It doesn't make sense to be Chinese. Because anybody can be an American. We might take it on. We celebrate not just our Americanness, but we often celebrate our bloodline roots. I am an Italian American. I am a Czech American. I am a Polish American. I have Irish blood in me. I have Swedish blood in me. I have Mexican blood in me. I have whatever. That doesn't bother Americans, because that doesn't make you an American. The, "idea," is what makes you an American. "Liberty and justice for all." Do you understand? This is a wild thing.

This was a brand new thing in 1776. I don't know if you realize it, but we have entered into the 250th year of our existence. We have gone 249 years. We are living right now in the 250th year of the United States of America. Next July 4th, we will celebrate 250 years. That's one quarter of a millennia. This week we had an American shot by another American, for using his first amendment rights. That's what's heartbreaking. We all, "hold these truths to be self evident." That's what it means to be an American, that we all hold this truth to be self evident, that one person can speak their mind without retaliation. You can wave the flag of your ancestors' country without retaliation. In this case, you can speak freely without fear of retaliation. Many Americans now have a fear of speaking what they think, because if that man died doing it, what would happen to me? That's the scheme, and that's the war. Are you hearing that?

In the United States of America, we can see our story in the Bible. Every nation in the world can see their story in the Bible, because Israel is the example of what a nation can go through with the Lord, and how to come back. They are the representation of what all nations of the Earth go through and walk through, and can find purpose in.

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Israel, is the servant of the Lord, the first born of the Lord. We're doing a K3 class every Wednesday night about Israel. America can see her story in these pages as almost identical, in that like Israel, America was birthed when it should not have been birthed. America overcame tyranny, and for a time was split between north and south like Israel. Although Israel completely separated, mercifully, America stayed together. Continuously, God has cried out with awakenings, movements of spiritual reformation and spiritual revivals to call us back *to Him*. Saying, "I am coming quickly, so repent for your evil ways." In America, this has happened over and over again, which is no different than when every Old Testament prophet was on the corners crying out in Jerusalem, "Awake Judah, awake Israel. You come with lip service to the house of God. You come to the temple of the Lord and give your offering, but your heart is far from me." These examples are so America and every other country would see that you can have a church on every corner, but your heart can be far from God. I don't want to just be seen in the church. I want to know the Lord in my closet.

This is the heartbeat of how the country started. This is how the Constitution was birthed. We have talked about in this house of how there is no verbatim line that says, "There shall be a separation of church and state." That verbatim line is not found in the Constitution. There is a line that says that, "The government shall not institute a religion." So, it's a twist. Did you see the twist? The twist is that it is a lie, because it emphasizes the church. The lie is that the church shall be separated from the state. But, the Constitution states the government shall separate itself from controlling and telling us what to believe. The Bible states the king should not have had influence over the priest, but the priest should definitely have had influence over the king. David sought the priestly counsel. Solomon sought the priestly counsel. The good kings, the heads of the government, sought the spiritual counsel of the head of the church.

Throughout our first, maybe fifteen presidents, they consistently asked for the church's opinion on civil matters. They even asked for fasting and prayer to be done in all houses of worship for big things that were coming up. It is documented that over and over the presidents asked for fasting and prayer in all houses of worship be made to the one true God Almighty, the Savior of the world, Who can acknowledge and move on behalf of mankind. Decrees by the president were signed. You can look it up. The government of America has not separated itself from the influence of the church all our history, but they have made sure that the, governors or the presidents, do not impose a religion upon the people. Do you understand? This is biblical. Even the way that we set up our government is biblical. The tribes of Israel were to go to their elders, and the elders were to go and help Moses judge the land, but also give their yes.

It took David eleven years to be the official king over the nation of Israel because one of the tribes would not give their consent for David to be king. He said, "Am I not the king over all of Israel, or just over Judah and Benjamin?" Then they got together and said, "We, as a representative of the tribe of Issachar, of the tribe of Zebulun, of the tribe of Naphtali, say that David is the king." Hence we have an electoral college. The elders and the representatives and the senators of our land are supposed to be the wise elders that have walked in wisdom and can discern what is the direction that is needed to go through the morality of this word.

That's held us for this long. That's why you say that hasn't happened exactly, because there has been a war on the morality of the soul of America. It has been imploding for the last twenty years in front of us. This is the war that you're in. So, I am convinced more than ever, after this week, that you and I are in such a dire place that the church, as Karen was talking about, has to roar and use its voice. You need to be roaring for mercy. We don't need just another awakening. We need a move of mercy. We need a move of mercy on our fellow countrymen. It's not just corrupt politicians. It's not just corrupt elite. We have bloodshed. We have sex trafficking going on in every level of our community. We have murder, we have rage, we have

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corruption, and we have embezzlement. Whether you are in the school systems or in Wall Street, this is happening. It's happened in the church. It has happened in the families. It has happened in the industries of music. It has happened in the government. It has happened in the marketplace. It is happening in every level of society, with the true, rotten decay of the Bible's morals. Our sins are many, our sins are red, and our sins are scarlet. Mercy is the only reason judgment hasn't come. Mercy is the only way that judgment will come.

Jesus let His own country, His own land and His own people, crumble and fall and go into slavery. America has no such covenant of a promise of returning if it were to fall. Israel, in 1,840 years, came back after Jesus let them crumble in AD 70. We have no such promise for this nation to rise again if God let us be judged and fall. That's why the church must pray for a mercy movement of just the outright mercy of God. That His hand would truly come to show us the sin, and that eyes would truly be opened. *"Mercy triumphs over judgment,"* scripture says in James 2:13.

You know, if you ever wanted to speak truth in the political realm, you might think twice, now. But, pastors and teachers of the word never get that option to not speak truth. It's always going to be the responsibility of the pulpit to speak the truth. So, if that is going to be the case in America, that is where the war will go. That is the seriousness of what we are witnessing today. The Church of God has no option, but to speak the truth. We can choose not to, but that's not the option that we should take. Are you with me?

James 2:12 ESV

"So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty."

We have ascribed that all men are created equal, that freedom is freedom for whoever comes into this land, and that we are a people who govern ourselves in liberty. That is the true level of freedom, that no one else governs us but ourselves. That is true liberty, that no one governs Americans, but Americans themselves. So, if you're going to subscribe to this country, *"So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty." 'For freedom Christ set us free.'*

James 2:13 ESV

"For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

James 2:12-13 NET

"Speak and act as those who will be judged by a law that gives freedom. For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment."

America will be judged by our own laws, by the Ancient of Days, the Judge of all. He will look at our laws, He will look at our Constitution, and He will say, "Did you speak and did you act as those who have a law of freedom?" *'For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy.'* But God, *"Mercy triumphs over judgment."* We have to have an action of mercy. We have to have a movement of mercy. This is the dire need of your country right now. We have to have a move of the merciful God.

Galatians 6:7 ESV

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

One of the things that God has done that has been His faithfulness since September 11, 2001, is that He has allowed us to see the wickedness in our own heart. Repeatedly, consistently that

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came up a lot in 2020. It came up a lot over these last 24 years with the hate, vitriol, bitterness, the unforgiveness, and the rage. Even from 60 years ago, these wounds are still there. Deep wounds in our hearts and the hearts of our countrymen, that have been passed down from generation to generation are manifesting in these last 25 years. *"God is not mocked."* God sees it all. He sees the abominations. He says, "I've seen them in the dark, and now I will bring them to the light." He says, "I see what they're doing in their homes. I see what you are doing in the churches. I see what you are doing on the streets. I see what you are doing in Wall Street. I see what you are doing in Washington, DC. I see what you are doing. I see what you are doing in Chicago. I see what you are doing in LA. I see what you are doing."

He says, "I'm not mocked. If you put on all of your money, 'In God We Trust,' but haven't been trusting, "I'm not mocked. You either trust Me or you don't. But, I have mercy to triumph over a judgment. But, if you will not receive mercy, I am not mocked, and you will reap what you have sown for generation upon generation." We're the lucky generation that gets to see it manifest, because we are born for such a time as this. To see the souls of our fellow countrymen delivered, truly delivered, truly emancipated, truly free. *"For freedom, I have truly set you free."* It's not just lip service, but true freedom by the Holy Ghost. That's the only way it will come.

Then there will be a new idea, "Can a people of 330 million really walk in freedom? Can they?" We've seen it in little countries that are easier to take care of, manage and oversee. But over our large country with two coasts, two oceans, three mountain ranges, wide plains and many rivers, you govern with the liberty of the Spirit, and only through the wisdom of the scepter of righteousness." You with me? We can see that God is not mocked. What God has seen in America, He is allowing to be manifest. He's allowing it to come to maturity, just like wheat, like weeds, or corn. It's growing. "America, here it is, do you like what you see? Do you like what you have grown into? Because this is what it looks like, and you just had one shot by one of your own in cold blood. Not by a foreigner, not by the Soviet Union, not by a communist spy, but by one of your own blood. That is shocking.

We can see that in the story of Israel, there is hope in America. How did God treat his own family? He didn't care about the nation. He cares about the family. He doesn't necessarily care about our country. He cares about our hearts. He doesn't care what it will take to get the hearts of America back to Him. He doesn't care about the title of this country. He doesn't care what flag is being raised, but cares that the flag shows a heart for God, that's what He cares about. You have to understand that He doesn't care about the emblems. He doesn't care about the symbols, if they do not represent Him. He does not care. But, He will take on a symbol that has Him in all of it. He will take on a country who has Him at the heart of it.

Please take note as we read this, that it is a love song. Did you hear me? It's all about love.

Isaiah 5:1-25 ESV

"Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning His vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2) He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines. He built a watch tower in the midst of it. He hewed out a wine vat in it, and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3) And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4) What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?"

This is the Lord. Do you understand? This is what He has done for Israel. In our own journey, and in our own story, this is what He has done for all nations that call upon Him. Nonetheless, in these United States, He has dug us up and planted us. Many early Americans saw themselves in the book of Revelation. Where the church was persecuted, and it says the Earth

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opened up and they were able to flood to that. They saw that in the new world. They saw that as a prophecy of themselves. It doesn't necessarily apply to them. It's talking about Israel and the church. But, those Christians that were being persecuted in Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East, saw it as, "There is a new world. We have no place to go. We are going to be destroyed. We are going to be persecuted. We are going to be run off the face of the Earth. But, lo and behold, the book of Revelation is right. The Earth opened up, and now we have a place to go. It's better to die there in love with God, than to die here on a cross."

What? That's how they saw themselves. God literally planted the house of God in this dirt, and it became an idea that you now were born into." God goes, "What more could I have done? How much more could I have isolated you? How much more could I have protected you? How much more could I have defended you? How much more could I have watered you? I have sent you revival, and awakening after awakening, and evangelist after evangelist. Now, Billy Graham is dead. Do you want to hear His voice again? You are at that point of, "you judge between Me and you. You judge if you're going to speak and act according to a law of freedom. But, *"Mercy triumphs over judgment."* You hear it?

Why then did Israel reap wild grapes? Why then is America showing itself as uncultivated and violent and reckless, if we were founded in this? He's like, "It's your heart. You can be planted in the best place. But, it's about your heart. Your sin is conceiving. Your heart is conceiving sin after sin, after sin. Your members are wrestling against this. You cannot help but fall short of the glory of God. You cannot help but be depraved in your mind. You cannot help but be wicked in your soul. You can not help but be evil in thoughts and actions. Even though you might be planted in the most righteous place, if your heart is not cleansed, then the fruit of your spirit is black. He goes, "That is the issue. Your sins are like scarlet, Israel, in this chapter." But, it's also every nation who comes to the Lord for help, Poland, Tanzania, Thailand. Any country can go through this *example* from scripture.

Isaiah 5:3-8 ESV

"And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4) What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? 5) And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge and it shall be devoured. I will break down its wall and it shall be trampled down. 6) I will make it a waste. It shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7) For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting, and He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed. For righteousness, but behold, an outcry! 8) Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land."

Think of this. This is Israel, yes. But, think of this with your own country. Your own *homeland*.

9) The Lord of hosts has sworn in my hearing: "Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant. 10) For ten acres of the vineyard shall yield but one bath,"

That means that it's very *small*, but more than that, it's the famine, it's the lack, it's the drought that is causing this ten acres of vineyard to not yield much.

"And a homer of seed shall yield but an ephah. 11) Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may run after strong drink." Ding, ding, ding, America. *"who tarry late into the evening*

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as wine inflames them. 12) They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the Lord or see the work of his hands.

23) Therefore, my people go into exile for lack of knowledge.”

“My people perish for lack of knowledge.” Another way to say that is my people go into exile without their knowing. They become enslaved to the sin without even knowing. They are deceived and blinded to the shackles overcoming them.

“Their honored men go hungry and their multitude is parched with thirst.”

If this is Israel, this can be America. This is why we need mercy.

14) Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers, and he who exults in her.

15) Man is humbled, and each one is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are brought low.

16) But the Lord of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness. 17) Then shall the lambs graze as in their pasture, and nomads shall eat among the ruins of the rich. 18) Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes, 19) who say: “Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it. Let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!”

20) Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!” Does that ring a bell?

21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and shrewd in their own sight! We don't need anyone to teach us. We know it all.

22) Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

23) who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

24) Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust, for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

25) Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.”

Yeah, it's somber. Yeah, it's heavy, but it's the reason why we can see our own country in this scripture. We can see that this is the war. That if there is a kingdom of light, then there is a kingdom of darkness. If there is a spirit of truth, then there is a spirit of lying. There is a spirit of lying. There is a true war of ideas going on. Truth will prevail if those who want to see it seek it. That's why some foundational truths just keep going on. The darkness has to keep twisting and deceiving and blinding the lies into different ways, different baits, different traps, and different snares. But, truth is truth. As people of the truth, you have to be calling out for mercy. So, I am inviting you to pray for mercy on your country, mercy upon this land, mercy upon from the top to the bottom. It is not just one level of our society. We are all very red with sin.

Isaiah 1:18 ESV

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.”

James 2:12-13 ESV

“Speak and act as those who will be judged by a law that gives freedom. For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Mercy does triumph over judgment. This is what happens when you submit yourself to the Ancient of Days as the judge of your heart, and you submit your country to the Ancient of Days. This is what the church has an opportunity to do as intercessors. We want to bring our countrymen to Jesus. We want to bring them before the throne of the One true judge. This is what He does.

Malachi 3:1-5 ESV

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.” That's us. Say, “That's me.” We are the messengers preparing the way before the Lord.

And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple.” Yes, has this been fulfilled once? Yes. Can He do it again? Yes. *“The messenger of the covenant,”* that's Jesus, *“in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts,”*

2) *But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.”* A fuller is a laundry man.

3) *He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings and righteousness to the Lord.*

4) *Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old, as in former years.”*

5) *“Then I will draw near to you for judgment, and I will be a swift witness.”* This is what we need. We need Him to be a swift witness, *“against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.”* Amen.

James 2:13 NET

“For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But, mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Alright, let's stand and pray. If you need prayer, we'll be up here. If you need to forgive and don't know how to forgive, we can walk that out with you to forgive those who have hurt, wounded or trespassed against you.

“Holy Spirit, we thank you that you are the Spirit of truth. You are the one true God, Holy Ghost. You are the one that brings everything to light. You bring it to light, and you are not mocked, God. You are not mocked, Holy Spirit. You have seen. What man has reaped in this country is now being revealed. We are reaping what we have sown. Father, we ask for mercy. We ask that you would stir our hearts to really intercede and step into that role as your church in San Angelo, yes. But, also your church in the state of Texas. To intercede on behalf for mercy, for eyes to be open, for ears to hear, that we would not be a country dull of hearing the Word of God. That we would not be a country blocked from hearing the voice of truth. That we would not be a country hardened to the heartbeat of Jesus. I thank you, Father, for this. I ask that even my brothers and sisters here would not be weary of doing good. That they wouldn't be weary of mercy and praying for mercy. That they would not be afraid to see the ugliness, but see the glory of God, who can be a refining fire and a fullers' soap. I thank you for that. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen.