

Week 46

11/7/11

James: You all are awesome! And you all look really good! You be sure and watch the open of the show and see how nice all of you look out here.

[Laughter]

And you, I don't know whether you would be glad if we had the camera on you right now. We could see you. Most of you say, "James, I'm so glad you can't see me! It's early in the morning. Watching you on either ABC Family..." -- you have to get up early to watch us on ABC Family, pretty early on Discovery, and then on all the inspirational networks you can get us. You say, "Get who?" I'm James Robison, this is Betty, and special guest -- that's who!

[Laughter]

One of the wonderful things that I enjoy about what we do, I actually enjoy it as a Christian. I love to meet the different people in the family of God, and the people from all the different parts of God's family who are not willing to settle into some tribal mentality or some sectarian divide or put up the walls around them and cut themselves off from the other parts of Jesus represented by some other part that may not function or do it exactly the same way. What we get to do is we get to meet all the different people who represent the Lord, oftentimes coming from different backgrounds, and we see Jesus and it is absolutely beautiful.

Our guest is seeing the same thing because she just has such a heart for everyone to come to God and to the Word of God, to the God of the word in relationship and to love his Word and hide it in their hearts -- and she is really gifted. Her name is Kay Arthur. Would you welcome Kay Arthur to *LIFE Today*?

We're glad you're here, Kay! Glad to have you back. And you've got -- you're grabbing this book, but you also have written this book.

I want you to get this. *When the Hurt Runs Deep*; and there is not a whole lot of easy little hurt, little pain, but there is really that pain and that hurt that sometimes seems so

overwhelming -- I don't know how I'm going to get through it. "Healing and hope for life's desperate moments."

Let me tell you about another book because I know she will refer to it *As Silver Refined*. Now the word is like gold and silver, tried in the fire, but we can be like that too. I think to where refined silver reflects beautifully the image, hopefully, when we're refined we reflect him. I have an idea she'll be touching on both of these. But Kay, you wanted to talk and we're going to actually do a couple of programs with you this week.

Kay: Yes! I'm excited.

James: When Hurt Runs Deep. Tell us what you're referring to because it must have run deep.

Kay: So often what happens is we think this isn't the way it is supposed to be. I get a phone call from my son and I said, "Are you all right?" And I was to go over there and help take care of his wife.

And he said, "Not really."

I said, "What's wrong?"

He says, "I think Leslie is dead."

So 50 years of age, it isn't the way it is supposed to be.

I got -- just the recent tornadoes that we've had. I got word that Sarah Holland, and Sarah's one of our Precept students, studying Precept for years. I never really talked to Sarah but the word came. And she was in a tornado. Her husband was killed, her married son was killed, her daughter was killed, her house was destroyed. All that was left of Sarah's family was her daughter-in-law and a couple of granddaughters. And Sarah and the granddaughters ended up in the hospital.

So I called Sarah to talk to her. As I was talking to her, I said, "You know Sarah. I don't think I've ever talked to anybody -- I haven't talked to anybody that's more like Job than you are." How Job in one day, in one instance lost his family and lost so much of his possessions and was left with a wife that wasn't a very good comfort. And you look at it and you think, this isn't the way life is supposed to be.

And yet, if you'll forgive me for just reading this but this is what she said. We sent her something and she says, "God has continued to give me strength and our family is gradually healing physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Lives have been changed in my extended family because all realize now that God is in control of our very breath and he alone can ease our hurt. I have clung to Romans 8:28-31 that you spoke of several times in your book *When the Hurt Runs Deep*."

And then she says, "Thank you for your insight to bring God's Word to me when the tears continue to flow."

So it doesn't mean that our tears won't flow. It doesn't mean that we won't feel pain but what do you do when the hurt runs deep? How do you handle it?

We think, okay, a tornado is going to hit the ungodly but the tornado is not going to hit someone like this. And her son had just gotten back from Afghanistan and had come home safe and now a tornado wipes him out. The thing I think we have to know is when the hurt runs deep God remains God. And the thing that she says is the thing that has helped her the most and it is that one singular truth that God is sovereign. He rules, Isaiah says that he is the Lord, there is no other. He creates light, he creates darkness, he creates good, he creates adversity. I'm the Lord that does these things. Deuteronomy, I wound, I heal, I kill, I make alive -- I'm the Lord who does these things.

So if I can know God, if I can understand who God is, if I can see, as Psalm 103 says that his sovereignty rules over all, and yet that God that is sitting on the throne that's in charge of the weather -- it is not mother nature, it is Father God -- but if I can understand that and I know who he is and I know that the God that sits on that throne is love, I'm going to take off my orange jacket. He's never going to take off his love. He's never going to act apart from that. So whatever comes into my life -- my ring is like me. My hand is like the hand of God. Everything that comes into my life is filtered through fingers of love and it has a divine eternal purpose. So *When the Hurt Runs Deep*, if I can understand those truths and other truths in here of how to handle it -- and this book is -- you put it here and it is Bible stuck in a book.

James: When you talk about the hand and I feel like you and I -- whenever we talk -- it's like we've been talking to the same person and reading the same book. It isn't just necessarily a book I wrote or you wrote but the book he wrote. Out of that we can write some books. But it is like we're talking to the same father who says he is the potter and we are the clay. And we really need to be yielded clay, not hardened, rebellious clay but yielded.

But one of the things he showed me and you just said it, and we were talking even before we came out here, we've been talking to the same person. You talked about everything coming through the hand of God. I've said this before, I'm going to add too, and I know you've heard this too, you say, "Well, that's probably in the book too." You probably turn me to another chapter and say, "Well, read this." But everything -- if we're in his hand, whatever comes, the pain or whatever is filtered through -- even if it's an enemy arrow, it is still filtered through. And if you have pressure, the pressure is either coming from the hand of God to shape or it is coming through the fingers of God with potential purpose. If we're yielded to him even pain can be a best friend.

Kay: Exactly! That's why he talks about how do I handle my pain? He talks in Romans chapter five about tribulation works patience and patience -- I mean works perseverance and perseverance patience and patience proven character and it gives us a hope that does not disappoint. Sarah knows her God even better than she knew before because God has taken her through this. And as we point out in *As Silver Refined*, he is in the process of making us like Jesus. The thing, if I realize that --

James: If you could see that as exciting. It is like this awful process! It is this wonderful purpose. We're going to -- it is like a mother having a baby, which thank God I've never been through that, but I'd like to died while she was in travail. I needed a bed next to her because oh, God, I hurt as bad as she -- but you could never bear that if you didn't know the beauty of the life that is about to come from it.

Betty: And that's the key to it is knowing that God is right there in the midst with us. No, we want to avoid the pain, we're going to have the suffering but God's right there to walk through it with us and he will never leave us.

James: And if you catch a glimpse of the purpose that's what is going to happen...

Kay: That's exactly what he says. I will never leave you nor forsake you. Five negatives in the Greek. I will never, never, never leave you nor never forsake you. So that you can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper."

And when do we get to know God? When all the props are removed and there is no arm of flesh to go to, Jeremiah talks about that, but there is no arm of flesh to go to and I run to the Lord and his arms are open wide and I get to know him in a way that I never would have known him.

And I love Second Corinthians where he talks about we're cast down but we're not destroyed, and he goes through that whole list. Then what he says is that death works in

me so that life can work in you. So if I can look at -- I mean that was just one trial -- if I could look at everything, and I have, that has come into my life as -- and it is not my scenario, it is not in my dream plan, it is not what I planned for me.

I have a son that won't talk to me. I never wanted that. And you think, how did I fail as a mother? Because I didn't come to know Christ until I was 29. Excuse me! But when you look at all of that, then I see other parents that are going through that and they think because you're a Christian or because you write books or whatever, that you don't do or you don't feel or everything is perfect for you.

Or you look at all of your friends and everything is perfect. I mean I have friends that have families like I would like to have and I don't have it. So what do you do?

You know that he's going to take that pain and he is going to use that pain so that when you and I talk I can say, "I understand. I understand." And I want you to know that his grace is sufficient, his power is perfected in our weaknesses and we can glory in our infirmities that the power of Christ might rest on us. For when I'm weak I'm the strongest. Because when I'm so weak or I'm in a puddle or it is all falling apart, God is there, like you say. And this is the exceeding greatness that Paul prays about in Ephesians three, the exceeding greatness of his power that is in us.

James: You know what I think is really important for people to hear, because when you hear how strong people get in the refiner's fire, in the pain, in the shaping, sometimes you can think, that will have to happen the same way for me.

Kay, the Lord showed me this when I heard some tragic things like Adrian Rodgers losing a child. I heard of different things happening. I thought, well, God, maybe I need to lose a lot of stuff or have a lot of pain. Here's what the Lord showed me and I think this is critically important for everybody to understand. Paul said, "I want to know the fellowship of his sufferings."

See when you were talking about, when you just referred to your son, I felt the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings for you and for your son. I suffer as he suffers for that relationship. I also found that his Word is a hammer. We don't have to have a crash to be crushed. We don't have to have a head-on collision. The word is a hammer. The word is a fire. And also, we can know the power of the cross -- the cross of Christ should be enough to break any of us and bring us to a point of yielding to God our lives. So you don't have to go getting set up for this crisis and that crisis. Just know that in the crisis, the tornado, the unexpected, you have the word, you have a solid foundation, you have a friend that sticks

closer than a brother. You have a shelter, a shadow, a shepherd that will never leave you period -- he is there.

But also know that all that circumstances and pain can bring the power of the cross, the power of the word, and the fellowship of his sufferings can bring it. Does that make sense?

Kay: That makes such sense. And see this is my passion; my passion is that people would know God.

Daniel 11:32b says -- and it is talking about a time of crisis when Jews were losing their lives. Antiochus Epiphanes was reigning and the persecution was so great. It said, "But the people who know their God will be able to stand firm." But not just stand there and take it, but to do exploits -- to do exploits! So it doesn't immobilize you; it energizes you, it empowers you to go forward.

So my passion is to teach people how to study God's Word for themselves so that when it comes I know who God is. I know his character. I know his attributes. I know his way. I have studied from Genesis -- I've written Precept courses -- those are Rolls Royce. And that's five hours of -- it's an expensive car but it's worth it. I guess! Anyway, study inductively is worth it. You spend five hours --

I'm so tired of women that say, "I don't have time. Just tell me what to believe." I think, "Grow up! You are in the army." Yeah!

And I mean Jesus said, "Man lives by every word that comes out of the mouth of God." God didn't speak in sound bytes, God spoke in books and every book has a purpose, and every book just kind of weaves together who God is and his plan.

You know what we're headed for? Well, God's doing it. Hebrews says God is going to shake the things that can be shaken. That's what he is doing in America right now. He is shaking us to the core. And whatever it takes to get me in this book, whatever it takes to pull away all the props so that I'm propped by God and then I will be able to stand firm because I know him. Whatever it takes, it is worth it because this life is temporal, eternity awaits.

And the way we live now, we know from studying the Word of God, the way I live now and what I do with the opportunities I have will affect my standing in eternity, not whether I'm lost or saved but rewards and loss of rewards.

James: I'm going to get on now. I'm going to be standing because I'm standing on the rock, the unshakable rock. You know what I'm trying to do? I heard an aggressive Christianity. Don't just sit in here and hide under the bushel. Get out there! Be a light! Get up! Stand up! Don't just take it! Dish it out! Deliver a blow to the enemy. Knock him out! Listen, you know what I'm trying to do? I'm trying to inspire people to get on our face before God and then stand on our feet for God. Does that make sense!

Kay: And open our mouths for God and be courageous for God because the Bible says that cowards are outside the New Jerusalem.

James: Y'all like what you're hearing?

Kay: We need to be strong, courageous; don't turn to the right, don't turn to the left.

James: Let me ask you to do something. By the way, there's Kay's web site. You want to know where she's going to be, where she is speaking, how you get in Precepts?

Kay: Yeah, that's what I want you to do!

[Laughter]

James: *When the Hurt Runs Deep*, we will send it to you. It is in the bookstores. But here's what –

Kay, I know you love what we do because this isn't just talking about something, this is acting on the love that we say is in our heart.

I want you to look please, but look through the eyes of God and then say, "God, could I put your hands out? Could I make the difference?" Watch closely.

In the studio:

James: I know that there are some people, they see those images and they run -- I do too! I run to get a checkbook. I run to get a bankcard. I've run with my wife to the ends of the earth. Not to look at them... to love them. ...To save their lives! And not just tell them about God's love but show it to them.

And, Betty, we couldn't have done it without viewers who say, "You know what? I'm going to help the missionaries; I'm going to help those kids."

I don't turn away when I see the little bloated stomachs, emaciated bodies, the little skeletal frame with skin stretched over it, the hopeless look because I see hope. I know what love can do. I want everybody watching to help us take care of some of those kids.

Betty: I do too, James. I sit here and never can separate myself from being a mother and a grandmother. And I hear the cries of those little babies; a mother knows the difference in the cries. I know when our children were small and I'd hear a cry and I would think, oh, that's a mad cry. They're wanting something they're not getting. But then I would hear the cry that you just heard and I knew they were hurting. Immediately, as a mother I wanted to get up and fix whatever the problem was being caused for those tears, for that heartache.

I feel like those mothers every time they hear their baby whimper, that soft cry because they're so weak they can't cry real loud. That mother's heart is breaking because she can't fix their hurt. You know something? We can. We're able to and we must fix the hurtful cries of these babies. They're hungry. Their little bodies need nourishment.

So I hope you will see what God wants you to do about joining with us and let's fix the problem. The problem is they're hungry.

James: And it is so easy to fix. Love corrects it -- food corrects it.

Betty was talking about them crying, and a lot of times they get so weak they can't cry. They just whimper.

And the little lullaby, a little song that the Somalians sing is "Go to sleep so you won't hurt anymore." There's a sleep they never wake up from.

Listen to me. You may say, "Oh, it's just some little kid over in Africa -- a little baby." No! No, it's a precious child -- it is precious children.

We've been so blessed. Would you please help us feed those kids for the next several months? \$30, \$50, \$100 we can feed three, five, ten children for the next three months. Would you make that gift? Could you help us take care of ten? Could you help us take care of 100 by making a \$1,000 gift? I don't know what you can do.

Jesus said, "What's in your hand? Would you give those children food? Save their lives?"

We've got some wonderful gifts to send you. Beth Moore's book teaching, the 90-day Bible, the beautiful "Heart of the Father" bronze because you're going to reveal the heart of the Father. Give the greatest gift, the gift of life. And they'll know it is given because of the love of God and the gift he made in his son, the missionaries communicate that.

Please go to the phone. Go to LifeToday.org online. Use your bankcard like it's a check. Make the best gift you can. Please do it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing her last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help, many like her throughout Africa face death as well.

Today you can make a difference. You can save a life! *LIFE's* mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of hundreds of thousands of suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone and parts of Africa facing its worst famine and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately! Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift we'll send you Beth Moore's book, *The Life that Overcomes*. This Life Outreach exclusive featuring a collection of messages from Beth's heart will inspire you to live an overcoming life each day!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children you may also request our new 90-day Bible designed to help you read through the scriptures in just 90 days.

Finally, as a special challenge please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children. And you may also request the beautiful "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today at LifeToday.org.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I just say thank you for your help. We'll gladly send you Kay Arthur's book, *When the Hurt Runs Deep*, if you'll just help make whatever gift God puts

on your heart. Beth's wonderful book, *The Life that Overcomes*; many of the lessons that she's taught here, the 90-day Bible, "The Heart of the Father" bronze for those of you who will help us take care of 100 kids.

Thank you so much for your help. Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Kay Arthur. She will be back tomorrow. Kay, we love you! We'll talk some more about being refined -- tried in the fire. We'll be standing. God bless you!

Begin video clip:

James: Everyone is rightly concerned about who will lead our nation? Who will fill the various offices?

I've written a commentary that I believe God put on my heart. It is critically important. It is titled, "What, not who." We must understand the "what" to find the right "who" and insist to right what is done.

Go to the web site. Get a copy and pass it on.

>> But we've got to pull the plug on pain and say -- and embrace what God has given us.

Announcer: Hope *When the Hurt Runs Deep* -- tomorrow!