

Week 8
2/15/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*, and also, "Wednesdays with Beth." I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And it is always a joy to present Beth. She is completing a series on spiritual discernment. God knows we need it. It is amazing how it seems that people do not have the ability to discern the times. They don't seem to be able to discern the spirit. If there is an obvious element missing too often throughout the world and here in our own country, it seems to be wisdom, understanding. Beth is going to help.

As a matter of fact, you're going to hear how easily you can be swept off your feet or manipulated or deceived by deceiving spirits if you don't discern, and how you really do need to live with your eyes wide open, not wide shut. Here's Beth Moore. Welcome her.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Now this is what happens the two to four, we talked about one could be run. If he doesn't tell us to run it's going to fall between the two, three, four category. This is when we're still called to hang around but we're already discerning something is wrong. Can anybody besides my say you've been in that situation? Where it's God's will for you to stay. God's will for you to stay perhaps in that friendship. God's will for you to stay in that mentoring relationship. God's will for you to stay in that particular group of people but you know that it can't be as you were. It's got to be a new way because now you spiritually discern that something is up.

What's it going to be? First one is run. Okay, if he hasn't told us to run it's got to be one of the following: Two, three, or four. The second one is this: blank.

If he doesn't say run but you are discerning something is not what it seems and you're getting a warning in your spirit, something down in here, it is not about feelings, it is beyond emotion, you can't shake it. I need to know if anybody has ever been there besides me where you just think, I'm telling you, I want to. Have you ever just like prayed your head off before you got with somebody because when you got with them, you go away thinking, okay, something seems wrong and I don't want to think that. Something is not what it seems. You just keep begging God. Make it be what it seems! But it is discernment. Something is up. All right, take a step back.

Now perhaps it may be physically. In other words, maybe we just back off from the relationship a little bit. If it is not physically, it definitely needs to be emotionally. Definitely! If you've already discerned something is up, things are not what they seem, listen, God's word tells us that above all: blank.

But we've got to guard our hearts. If you realize that something is dangerous, something is off, something is not what it seems, you've asked yourself those four questions and you keep getting no's to them and yes, you are onto something here. God has not released you, he has not said "run."

Okay, then I may still be in this situation but I'm going to put a little bit of emotional distance, I'm going to know something can't be trusted here. Maybe not someone but the enemy is somehow at work here in a way that I need to scoot back from it. That will also help us see clearer because we've got some of the emotion out of it -- pull back some.

I have a family member in my family of origin that I began to realize is just a dangerous person emotionally. I mean like she could have you questioning every bit of value you have by the time she was finished with you if she was in a mood to, very, very punishing. And I knew I couldn't just dismiss the relationship, it was too key. But I knew I was going to have to be different in the relationship and I knew I was going to have to make a decision that although I did not happen to put -- it was not God's desire for me to run.

It was also not God's desire. It was not the situation where I could put physical distance between us. So what I did was I would be just as close as could be. I might be touching distance. I might be holding hands distance but my heart was pulled back. Not removed, just pulled back where I could have some sanity and think some clear thoughts in the spirit.

Number three -- this one is so important! Now this one goes under the category of, he's not told us to run so okay, here we are. Now we need to figure out what to do here. So I'm taking a step back, if not physically, emotionally. Number three is this:

If you happen to be in an accountability group that you're thinking, okay, something is off here. A Bible study group here, just a group of friends that you're thinking, I don't know what's up here but I feel something and I cannot shake it and I've prayed it through and prayed it through and I've asked to have love that is knowledgeable and has insight and has some discernment. I still can't shake it. Ask some key questions. Like talk to the person.

Here's what I want to say and this one is extremely important under the same number three: Do it face-to-face. Do it face-to-face. If you need to talk to somebody because there are some things that are not adding up to you and there is some things that just don't -- somehow you just feel a warning deep in your spirit, don't just talk on the phone. Go with them face-to-face because let me tell you something, it is a whole lot harder to lie to somebody's face than it is to lie in an e-mail, in a text, on the telephone. You want to be face-to-face because when you're talking to someone dead on, you're looking straight in their eyes and they're looking straight in yours and you ask them questions. Like, "I want to go back over this.

Listen, I'm not -- I really want to hear your story and I really want to understand, but I'm just wondering about this." And if they cannot look at you, something is wrong. You can tell; there are so many things we can tell from nonverbal communication but get face-to-face. Sometimes we know -- somebody looked us straight dead on in the eye and told us what we were so hoping we would hear. That means we were either wrong about it or they're a psychopath. That can happen too. But it needs to be face-to-face.

Put your scripture down. Ephesians 4:15. This is what the scripture would tell us.

If your relationship cannot survive you speaking the truth in love, you probably don't need to be in it... and I probably don't need to be in it. If I keep feeling like something is wrong here, something is up. Everything in me is flagging in this situation -- if I cannot go and speak the truth in love, you're thinking, listen, this is not just someone I can do that with, something is wrong.

It may be a relationship that needs to be redefined. Resituated in such a way that we're not so emotional involved if the answers don't add up ask God if you're are to lovingly confront; that is what we've got to do. Number four is this. Let's say he's not told us to run, he's told us to stay right where we are. We've spoken the truth in love. We still are fairly certain things are not what they seem but God has called us right there. Number four, if that's what he's done. Number four is this: blank.

I am saying in spiritual terms, do not even blink. Is that speaking to anybody? There are times when you and I are called to love extremely unhealthy people just like they have loved us in our same estate. We need some people to stick it out with us; don't we? We need some people to speak the truth in love to us. We've had people that have worked with us long enough to see us come to some substantial wholeness and those

relationships are precious to us! We want to give those chances to people. But let me tell you something, we don't even need to blink -- we don't need to blink. We need to be able

to set boundaries in relationships that are appropriate. If I'm going to have a relationship, a mentoring relationship with a very troubled young woman, then I'm going to have to make sure she understands that no, it's really not okay to knock on the door at 1 a.m., 3 a.m. And no, really, my husband is not going to lay hands on you and pray. I promise you, I'm going to lay my hands on myself.

[Laughter]

Right around your neck. That kind of lay your hands on them, like this. We've got to love with our eyes wide open. We've got to set us some boundaries there where we know, where we can think straight, where our hearts are activated with knowledge and insight so that we can discern what is best. If nothing changes, then just stay open to God's signal to release. If you don't get it, you just hang in there, but listen, don't lie with them.

After a while, by the time I've asked some questions, after a while, when I know they are flat out not going to stop, this is going to still continue to be deceptive and you're knowing better than this. You're knowing this is not straight up, then somewhere down the line I have got to be able to say, this is not... something is not right here. And I need you to just help me with what? And if they can't do that, then I'm going to look for God's release. Run! Take a step back. Ask questions. If you're told to stay right there next to them, you love with your eyes wide open.

Now let me say this to you because I think this is so important. We might get down the road in a relationship and nothing ever came of it. In other words, we're like something is wrong here in this situation. I'm not judging that person's heart but something is -- I'm getting a warning in my spirit. Something does not sit well. Maybe you get down the road and you never did know what it was. Maybe you were in just a momentary encounter and you walked away thinking, okay, I think something is up there but nothing ever came of it. You never knew what it was.

Let me tell you something, when you and I act as best we can based on spiritual discernment on the leadership of the spirit -- this is going to be tricky part of it -- we may not always be right but we did not sin. Can somebody stay with me there? Because here's what happens. The reason why so many of us think, I don't have any right to do this anymore because I already blew it. I've already blown it several times. I thought that about that person and it didn't turn out to be that way at all. So I don't know what I'm thinking here. Well, you might not be wrong this time. You might not!

But when you and I, as best we know how, try to walk in the spirit and maybe we end up being wrong about something, we may have been wrong but we weren't in blatant sin.

We were trying to do the will of God. We were trying to walk under the leadership of the spirit. I don't know if that is important to you, but that is very important to me. If we missed it, we may have made a mistake but we did not commit a sin! So did it humble us? Well, that's okay too.

I want you to write down an address. It would take us all day long to find the scripture so I just want you to write it down, Obadiah 1:3. Now you know why I'm going to tell it to you: Obadiah 1:3 says something very important.

³ The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rocks^[a]
and make your home on the heights,
you who say to yourself,
'Who can bring me down to the ground?'

Listen, we want to be humble people because if we're proud in a situation, if we're full of ourselves in a situation, remember, we're just operating like mere men or women then. And the pride of our hearts will deceive us. If there is pride and arrogance involved, we cannot trust what we think we're sensing because we've got too much of our self mixed-up in the mess and we're too entangled in it to see the truth.

Obadiah 1:3, the pride of your heart has deceived you. Sometimes we're too proud to take the chance of being proved wrong. So in spite of it we continue on and end up woefully sorry... woefully sorry... woefully sorry.

I want to say one other verse to you as well before we draw this thing to a close. If we get punked and we've already said from the beginning when we took just a little show of hands just in this audience, how many of us knew we'd been punked somewhere along the way? If we get punked we have to try our hardest not to get cynical because it is really easy after that point to think, I'm never believing anybody again! I'm never trusting anybody again because I would have thought if I could have trusted anybody, it would have been that particular person.

I want to remind you of something the Psalmist said in Psalm 116: 11.

¹¹ in my alarm I said,
"Everyone is a liar."

Some of you are going, "That's my new life verse right there!"

[Laughter]

The fact is, all men are not liars... nor are all women liars but we can decide, we can have been lied to on such a big occasion in such a deep relationship that we decide, you know what? Everybody lies! Nobody can be trusted. Don't get cynical!

So you've been punked, okay, well let's just be humbled by it but let's go back after it. Lord, teach me better than this. I know better than this. Make me smarter than I am. Help me to know what I can't know -- understand what in human terms I could not possibly understand.

Because one thing is for sure, whether or not somebody is a poser they need prayer. We've all been posers at one time or another. That's why he brings trials to prove our faith genuine. I want to tell you a little silly something as we close here. I hope this will be a story that you can appreciate. If not it will get cut out and edited anyway and you'll never know it happened.

[Laughter]

Sometimes we're not lying, especially if we're just grandparents or parents; sometimes we're just telling a little fairy tale. I'm very, very close to my grandson Jackson and he is at our house often. Sometimes spends the night, has a slumber party with us and I just love it. I may not get any sleep because when I say that he wants to sleep with me what I mean is really like on my person. Many of you may know how that is. We sleep like right in the middle of the bed together.

He invariably, the moment -- the moment there is any light in the room, he is wide-eyed and open and staring. I can feel his little breath on my face just like that. He says, "Bibby, is it time for Mr. Sun?" Because we just always love to get up in the morning and twist open the mini blinds and we both say together all at the same time, "Good morning, Mr. Sun!" So I love doing that with Jackson.

And at night, every time I carry him out to the car after we've kept him in the evening -- he did this just this week -- take him out to the car and he looks up and goes, "There's Mr. Moon! Mr. Sun has gone to sleep. Mr. Moon is up!" We just -- I know there not really a Mr. Sun and a Mr. Moon, but it's a wonderful thing you do with grandchildren!

So he asked his daddy, he said to my wonderful son-in-law Curtis, he said, "Daddy, is Mr. Sun a man or a girl?"

[Laughter]

And so Curtis looked at him because you know he's got this mother-in-law and I'm sappy about everything. I put the cheese in Velveeta. He says to him, "Son, Mr. Sun is not a man or a girl. It's just gas -- it's just gas!"

[Laughter]

So I said, "Well, that proves it, it's a man!"

[Laughter]

We'll see if that stays.

[Laughter]

Some things are just fairy tales, others are just big fat lies! You and me are on this planet during the age of the poser. Let it not be us. These are days for spiritual discernment.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Beth, you kind of went from just a little...

[Chuckling]

a little smile on our faces to a very serious, serious point to close a very, very important message. I really want you to understand the importance of what Beth has emphasized so effectively and that is spiritual discernment.

Father, I pray for every viewer that they would realize that they have an anointing, the Holy Spirit, who can teach them, and the Holy Spirit that Jesus said he was sending, another of the same kind to guide us to truth, to give us the ability to discern the times and the spirits. So I pray, dear God, that you will grant to every person who opens and yields their life to your will the spirit of discernment. In Jesus' name.

One of the things that has blessed me and Betty as much perhaps any message that is communicated to us is the appreciation level that you express for what God has called us to do when it comes to reaching out and touching the suffering, and doing it in a way that is effective and doing it because of love. You've let us know that there is a tremendous joy and a sense of fulfillment when you participate.

Well, we're doing something right now that is exciting. As a matter of fact, people have told us that it's one of the great joys of their life. We've had some people tell us, "We've experienced this year some tough challenges and it's been difficult for us to do some of the things you've asked." We've even had a few people say, "We've been able to drill a water well and this year we can't. And you'll never know how much that hurts us." They say, "We're praying God will raise up somebody else that will or several people that will."

When you see the need and you recognize the opportunity that we've been given to legitimately and effectively meet a need, I think you're going to want to participate. I want you to watch with your eyes but I want you to discern in the spirit, is that a need that needs to be met and I can meet it? Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Translator: I have 12 children here from age 6 to 14. Sometimes the children say, "Teacher, we are thirsty." So I go to the river to bring the water for the children. Children are often sick with diarrhea and fever. I think the river is contaminated and becomes worse because of the waste from the cows. Our only option is to go to the river because we cannot afford to buy water. My dream is that we can have clean water and no one will get sick.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Betty, when you see those beautiful little children -- that little girl a moment ago, beautiful eyes and turn that little cup up -- precious! All the little children are precious in the eyes of God. And then you hear a teacher, of course Jesus was a great teacher, you hear a teacher pleading the cause and the need of those children, what do you sense in your heart because I know many viewers would certainly identify.

Betty: Well, the fact is the teacher realizes and knows that every time she offers a cup of water to any one of those children, she is opening their little bodies up to possible diseases from that water, the contamination of it. That must break her heart because she is there because she cares about the children, teaching them and loving on them. So that really touches me, James, that there, as an individual, her heart goes out to those children.

And I feel that when I watch. I think, why did you give that water to them? That's all they have. We have to have water for our bodies so regardless of what she knows that that can do to her precious little students there, she has to give it to them.

James: Can you imagine heartache when you hear a child say, "I'm thirsty" and then you know you need to give them water but you also know I'm giving them something that likely will make them sick and I've seen it actually take their lives.

The thing is that that teacher is hoping and expressing her heart's desire, but you and I together, you the viewers, joining with us and the missionaries that see the need, we can be an answer to that appeal for those children. We can put a freshwater well right there. Betty, we've had so many people over the years tell us this is the greatest joy, the experience. This year because we feel the economic pinch, it's felt around the world. I don't care if you're in Australia, the United Kingdom, or Canada or here in the U.S., we've felt it.

We've had a number of people say, "You know we're not going to be able to do what we normally do." And boy, it breaks my heart but I think about that prayer request, that need, that heart cry of that teacher and so many missionaries and so many children. And you may have heard me recently say, "I pray God will raise up a hundred people in a single day, 'I can give a well.'" That would really be a miracle! But that miracle can only happen one at a time. We say, "I can do it." "We can do it as a couple." Prayer can be answered if every person watching, yes you, would just do something to provide the water.

Let me give you an example. \$48 -- the wells are \$4800 -- that's what it cost. That's the average cost; some a little more, some a little less but that's the average; \$48, 10 people water the rest of their life. That's how it breaks out; \$144, 30 people. Could you give that \$144? Could you give the \$48 and pray others will join until we have another well? That's how we get most wells.

But I'm praying that God will touch your heart and you'll say, "Okay, I will do my part sharing the heart of God, being an answer to that teacher's plea." We want to send you a book, *Believe This Not That*. It will bless you. We want to send you the Water for Life coffee mugs. It will remind you to pray for people who need water. And we would love to send you the "Lion and the Lamb" bronze, it's a collectible. You can tell your friends, "I helped give water to the desperately thirsty." And it oftentimes inspires others to say, "How can I help?" And many times they do.

Would you go to the phone right now? Take your bankcard and use it like a check. Would you do that please? Or write a check and make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. You can if you like go online to *LifeToday.org* and make your gift. Thank you for doing that! Please do it now and may God direct you in what you give.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water for Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today we will begin drilling 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request, *Believe This Not That* a brand-new topical Bible promise book that will encourage you in every area of life.

With your gift of \$100 or more you may request our newly released *Water for Life* mug set, a daily reminder of the clean water you make possible to those who thirst.

Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lamb and the Lion."

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Beth talked about discernment. This book is a book that will help you increase in discernment, *Believe This* -- a promise from heaven for every need -- really every question and challenge on earth: *Believe This Not That* -- not what the enemy says. You talk about getting your discernment antennas up, your sensitivity level increased, this will help.

Thank you for helping us share water. Thank you for praying that others would join. Thank you for being a part.

Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*.

Announcer: Tomorrow, author Frank Turek along with James and Betty's son, Randy discuss how believers experience more happiness than those who don't believe in God.