

Week 25

6/17/13

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*; I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And it is a joy to come into your home. I'm smiling because we've got a teaching series that we're offering and it is called *Heaven & Health -- Heaven & Health*. You have to go to Heaven to be healthy? I promise you won't have any challenges there, it will be all right.

But the neat thing is that we can have the blessings of Heaven right now in so many ways that we're not experiencing and it really is the will of God that we experience the fullness of his power, his blessing, and his presence. *Heaven & Health*: Discover the blessings of Heaven while living on earth, and that includes learning how to take care of the temple of God.

Betty and I are 50 years married. We have been blessed with joy unspeakable and full of the glory of God. And we're continually seeking to learn, how do we take care of ourselves?

But how do we also help others? Because when you look around, we have got a health crisis in America. We have got a health issue in America. We have a health discussion issue. We have got to deal with the health crisis in America and all over the world. And the tragedy is we're always trying to find somebody to provide the care for our bodies that we don't even give to our bodies. We don't take care of ourselves and then we wonder why we can't seem to afford to keep up or find anyone who can help us deal with the issues that we have contributed to and sometimes caused.

That's why we asked Dr. Don Colbert, Sheila Walsh, Robert Morris, and Beth Moore to help us understand from a biblical, from a spiritual perspective, from a medical perspective, from emotional and mental aspects, how do we deal with our health in a

positive way? Sheila Walsh has been one the most popular, most respected and loved Christian witnesses and musicians, singers, television hosts in the whole world. When she travels with Billy Graham and what an incredible gift from God as she sings and communicates as only she can.

Traveling with the "Women of Faith," hosting the 700 Club for many years, and being such an inspiration and a blessing to us; and yet, this great Christian despaired of life. She experienced grief, guilt, shame, and she wants to help others deal with it because she found a way. Welcome Sheila Walsh who teaches in *Heaven & Health* -- Sheila.

Sheila: Thank you!

James: I want to thank you for who you are. I want to thank you for walking out of the pit of despair and defeat, and what you felt was total depravity. And I know that sometimes you must have thought it's hopeless, and you came out of that. And you've been back with us now for many years, you've been with the "Women of Faith," the five millionth woman will attend this year. You've come here and blessed us over and over whether you're singing or sharing or whether you're with the women of faith or we're just talking and your journey has inspired us all.

Now then you're so excited about what you have taught about *Heaven & Health*. Why are you so excited about it and why was this a concern to you in the first place?

Sheila: Honestly, when I got the phone call talking about what this teaching that we were going to do and who was going to be involved and the subject matter, I sat down and cried because I thought, Lord, finally! Finally we're going to have an opportunity to talk really honestly and openly about the things that are decimating the church. So one of the first teachings that I have done on this is on depression.

I think when I was finally admitted to the hospital, I thought I was the only one. That the hardest thing for me was that even though I had struggled for years, I just thought, well, there must be something wrong with my spiritual life. I mean I was the co-host of the 700 Club but I felt this weight of sadness, just this overwhelming hopelessness. So I thought, well, Lord, what am I doing wrong? At one point I fasted and prayed for 21

days and just said, "Lord, if you'll show me anything that is wrong, then I'll put it right." But I just got worse and worse and worse. Finally, literally fell apart one day live on national television.

I was -- a friend of mine, Dr. Henry Cloud talked to some doctors in Washington and said, "We need to have her in hospital by tonight." But something I've never told anyone is that driving from Virginia Beach to Washington to that hospital, I actually stopped at the ocean first of all because my dad killed himself by drowning when he was 34 and I was 34. I remember getting out of the car and the last thing that someone from the 700 Club had said to me, he said, "Sheila, don't go to this hospital. If people know you've been in a psych hospital, no one will ever trust you again."

I said, "Look, I'm not trying to save my ministry, I'm trying to save my life here." But I remember walking right up to the edge of the ocean and thinking, Lord, I just want to keep walking. Nobody around me knows what's wrong but I'm not waving, I'm drowning. And I literally just wanted to keep walking and let the waves wash over me. And really, the only thing that stopped me was the thought of my mother getting another call from a doctor saying once more, "Someone you loved has disappeared under the water."

I'll never forget that very first night in that psych hospital, I literally felt as if I'd gone to hell. I remember praying -- have you ever prayed prayers that you're so grateful today that God didn't answer? I prayed, "Lord, if there is one ounce of mercy -- one ounce of mercy left in your heart for me, please take me home. I can't do this." Because I felt so ashamed; I mean, to be a Christian leader in a psych hospital was just -- it was such a stigma attached to any kind of mental illness. I thought, I don't think I'll ever recover from this.

When you're admitted as a patient they take all of your stuff away, your belt, your hose, your hair drier and make-up, anything you could hurt yourself with. And I didn't even get in the bed; I sat in the corner of the room all night and I felt so lost.

But I have to tell you today, all these years later, I thank God with every fiber of my being that he took me to that place because it's like there's so many people now, people

watching in right now who have family members who are struggling, who are struggling themselves, who think there is no hope, there is no help. "I'm a Christian; I can't talk to anybody about this!" And I want people to know there is help, there is hope, there is healing, there is joy -- there is new life! But we just need to -- that's why I'm so grateful to you both for letting us talk about the things that are crippling the church.

James: I really do hope that when you hear us talk about *Heaven & Health*, the blessings of Heaven right here now on earth, that you understand that we're not peddling a product. We're trying to place in your hands something that will go straight into your heart as a healing balm. Jesus is referred to in the Old Testament as "the balm of Gilead." He is the great healer, the great physician. We want you well.

People who love God -- that's the thing that's so important when you hear Sheila talk, and realize that somebody that's been used of God and blessed of God can still, even though they're in a highly visible place, operating in supernatural enabling, they can still experience what some of us who feel like no one even notices us or would ever see or even care -- to know that God cares enough that we're sitting here trying to express to you how much he cares. But he doesn't just care like a Band-Aid, he wants to make it well and it can get well.

As you were talking, Sheila, people watched me for so many years in the coliseums and stadiums, and when you've kind of become the favorite preachers of favorite preachers, and when you're the guy they like to hear preach, and yet they didn't know that I was so exhausted. Because if you really have the gifting of God and the power of God the church will use you up, burn you up, they will expend you because they have such great needs for what you have in their community. It is interesting that Jesus left great moves of God, went back up to be with God but we don't do that very often because we just get used up. I despaired of life.

Betty, you heard me many times, as we would go to sleep, pray I'd die in my sleep. You say, "Why would you be that way, James?" Because I found that in strength --

Sheila, when you're strong as a man, and you really care -- you really care, it is not a show, you really care, women like that, and I was already distracted by women and by beauty, attracted inappropriately and suddenly found myself attractive and some didn't mind letting it be known, I began to realize I was tormented.

And this wasn't right what's going on, and Sheila, I would rather die than hurt everybody I loved, and I prayed to die. But here's what happened, I did cry out of that pit. In that pit, and I found that people loved me and they wanted to help me. They didn't want to stone me. They wanted me to find freedom that some of them hadn't even found but they believed it must be there and I found it, and I found a freedom and a liberty that was indescribable.

And you've seen the river of that life and that love go all over the world. And you've seen Christians and preachers and ministers that were taught to despise one another begin to love one another and love the Jesus in one another that they never could see. So you saw a miracle. This is the miracle that we're talking about that God wants for people but we've got to be willing to open up. We've got to be willing to say, "I have a hurt." And the church must cease putting shame and blame on the one that's hurting, and that's what you're trying to help these people to do.

Betty: Well, we become... As Christians, we become great actors, we become great pretenders because we have ever how and good intentions what, we've been told that you don't expose everything that's going on in your life. You're supposed to be over that. Well, yes, we know God, we have Jesus in our hearts but God still has things that he needs to bring out of us. We become our own prisoners instead of letting the freedom come that God wants to fill us all with.

Sheila: And we wear masks. That's one of the things -- when you hurt, particularly as a child, so many women who have been really sexually abused as children, who suffer from shame or depression, you don't know what to do with that kind of pain so you wear a mask. Sometimes we eat too much or we don't eat enough, or we spend money to try and change how we look outside. I found the perfect hiding place and that was Christian ministry because who is going to say to you, "Put that Bible down or we're going to have an intervention."

[Laughter]

But God was the only one who knew whether I was serving out of pain or passion.
And that's --

Betty: How many times -- I did this -- someone would call me on the phone or at church, "Well, how are you doing?" "Oh, I'm just great!" And inside I'm dying because I was full of fear, low self-esteem, didn't believe in who God created me to be. I thought I'll just never matter. I felt insignificant. But if they come up to me and say, "How are you doing?" "Oh, I'm good!"

James: A lot of the anger that I had and I did have an anger problem. I was angry about a lot of things that we need to be righteously indignant about and righteously disturbed and angry about. There are plenty of things that God releases his wrath toward and we can express that but I was actually shouting a lot at my own tormenters. I was angry at my own tormenters and it was like I was trying to drive them back by the force of my fury and it was not helping. It was actually feeding the situation.

By the way, Betty had a spirit of jealousy. She had fear but she had jealousy. And really, jealousy feeds the fire and the rage of lust, and so we've got all this going on but we could have been destroyed. And we found freedom; and it wasn't just me finding freedom, Betty found freedom and it was totally, totally 100% miraculous!

As a matter of fact, when I began to open up, I had preachers shout at me, call me on the phone and say, "Shut up! Don't talk about those things! Don't say those things publicly."

You know, Betty, you said something about, "Maybe you're a little bit too open."

I said, "Well, I probably am but you know how I really want to try to get things right."

But you have to use wisdom. But the point is, we're so afraid of what the church might say about us or say to us or what we might open up. It is like we don't realize that confessing and admitting our need and acknowledging leads to healing. It doesn't just lead to "feel better" but we confess and admit, "I've got an issue" so that we can what? -- Be made whole -- so that we can have Heaven's health -- Heaven's blessing.

Sheila: And the enemy loves it when you stay -- if you had stayed silent -- if you had stayed silent, the enemy loves that because that's when he can just pull us away from God and our secrets destroy us. But when we can speak the truth and bring them all into the light... that's why I'm so glad you've got Dr. Colbert, you've got Pastor Morris on here teaching from every single angle. I want to do -- I want to sit down with my whole family and watch the whole thing together.

James: Which would be -- help healing to the whole family. Relationships, so many of the diseases and the illnesses we have come from some kind of hurt or broken relationship, and the real pain that comes there. And when we learn -- think about this, this is over 30 years ago -- well over 30 years ago that I was going through this time. For you, it's been quite a few years ago, about how many now?

Sheila: Twenty five.

James: Isn't that amazing? Praise God! Think about this. See, you say, "Well, okay, it only worked for a day."

No, listen. By the way, Sheila and I and Betty, we'll all testify that the enemy didn't retire. He didn't lose his voice. He didn't stop firing fiery darts. He didn't stop speaking lies. He didn't stop offering distractions or inappropriate attractions. He didn't stop the tormenting aspect of his personality. He continues and we're in the battle continually and we keep going.

Here's the thing though, we've been able to open up and grow together. See, we're able to talk to one another. We're able to talk to the whole world. We're able to say to the church, "We believe enough of the church is healthy, you can handle our hurt, you can handle our pain." Let me tell you something, when Betty and I went through the grief

of losing our daughter, and just as Rick Warren has with his son and others, let me tell you something, I've watched a very healthy church -- you have no idea, no idea how you blessed us with what you said and the encouragement and how you cared so deeply. You didn't preach us a bunch of sermons. You put the loving arms of God around us. I think in many ways...

And frankly, Sheila, I think this is another really, an outreach and attempt of God to give us the health and the healing and the Heaven's blessing we need. Much of the church is ready and anxious not only to receive the truth but to release it and that's why I think this is so exciting.

Sheila: We're not pushing DVD's, we're providing Godly resources that will transform lives. When Jesus, at the end of the story with Christ's encounter with Zacchaeus, you know the little I.R.S. dude nobody liked in town, it says this in Luke chapter 19, verse 10: For the son of man came to seek and to save the lost. And that little word there, *lost*, that little Greek word *apollymi* means: Devastated, ruined, broken beyond repair. That is why Christ came. Christ didn't come to just make us all look a little bit better. He came for those who are devastated and ruined and broken beyond repair.

James: That was us because we felt that way. Of all people to be highly visible Christian minister leaders, and then to feel this broken and devastated, and yet, he came to bind up the broken hearts.

Do you remember when I told you what I kept hearing after we'd lost our daughter -- a girl that never should have lost -- she did everything so right. She trusted so perfectly. We don't understand why. We say, "God, what do you want to do with it?" Do you remember me telling you what I kept hearing in my spirit over and over? Not the part of the passage that I'd preached for so many years, "I came to set the captives free. Set at liberty those that are bruised or in prison."

But he said... first, I kept hearing it -- I just kept hearing it, "I came to bind up the brokenhearted." And boy, that's what he's done, and it is miraculous. But you are part of that, and we can be that for one another.

You know something? When people get well, when people have their heart healed, they go through the process and the time frame of healing, they want to impart that healing. And one of the reasons that we have such a limited release of the healing power of God is we have so many people in the family of God who are in desperate need of healing and that's what we're trying to help with.

Sheila: Absolutely! I think this is -- having heard some of the teaching, I know this is going to make such a massive difference because it's like... I joined a gym recently and the trainer that... I was given two free sessions with a trainer and he said to me, "Okay, what do you want? Is it swimsuit season?" Yeah right dude! "Or is it like little black dress?" I said, "No. Here's the absolute bottom line. I want a healthy body to serve God for as long as I possibly can." I'm all in until I'm all done. And we can only do that when we take care of every aspect of our lives.

James: Let me ask you to do this: LifeToday.org -- go online, dial the number. Now some of you have already -- you've kind of had a -- like it's an open wound or like, "Okay, you've opened me up. I need some surgery. Right now I'd like somebody to pray with me." That's always a prayer line first and foremost; paid for by the love of God expressed through people who make that 800 number available to you. No matter how broken you are, no matter how deprived or depraved you are, you want someone to pray with you, you call. They will agree with you, they will love you and pray with you.

But I'd also like for you to call and say, "I want that teaching. I want it on CD. I want the book by Dr. Colbert that goes with it, The Seven Pillars of Health. A medical doctor who understands the truth medically, who understands how you bring healing mentally and emotionally, physically but also spiritually; who understands God's role biblical truth, how you live it out, how it changes your life. I want the teaching. I want the CD's, the I want the DVD's." If you want the CD's and the book, Robert Morris's teaching, Sheila Walsh, Dr. Colbert, \$69 CD. All right? -- And the book. If you want

the DVD and CD's, we're asking for \$129. That goes to help the outreaches of *LIFE* to provide the material. And I pray with all my heart that you'll go online or you'll call now, use your bankcard like a check and say, "I want to receive help but I also want to help others, I want to get the truth out."

Make that call. It could change your life; it will enhance your life. You say, "James, why do you offer these materials, these teachings?" One reason -- we really care about you. And you want to know why? Because we know the God that cares more about you than you may be able to comprehend but we've experienced it and we want to express it and share it with you. We are the recipients of that grace and that blessing, we want to pass it on to you. We're not a bunch of pros; we're servants of the most high God. And you, we want the best for you. We'll rejoice with you when you rejoice, we'll weep with you when you weep. We want to lift your burdens. We want to help you get out of the pit of defeat, set your feet on a solid rock. Fix your eyes on Jesus to see joy overflow like rivers of living water flowing freely.

Give us an opportunity to help you and know that we're going to spend our lives touching the suffering, binding up the broken hearts and we'll do it together. You'll actually, while finding help yourself, you'll be helping us help others. And from the bottom of our heart, we thank you for that.

We're actually trying to provide some homes for people right now in Central America who don't even have a good place to live with their family. We're going to bless somebody this year and we're going to do it together. Make that call right now and let us send you this incredible material that could change your life forever!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Introducing *Heaven and Health*, a powerful new series designed to help you discover and walk in the blessings of heaven while living on earth! Through seven life-changing messages our guest, Dr. Don Colbert, bible teacher Sheila Walsh, and pastor Robert Morris team up to help you discover God's promises for health and wholeness through nutrition, a healthy mind and emotions, and for divine healing.

Plus, when you call today we'll send you Dr. Don Colbert's New York Times' best-selling book, *Seven Pillars of Health* and the inspirational resource, *Healing Promises*.

>> God's very interested in what you eat because your choices of food will determine your health, your length and quality of life.

>> Jesus said, "I've come to give you life! Not survival. Not just getting through one more day. I've come to give you life!"

>> We've already been healed in our spirit. If you're saved, your spirit's been healed, but what about the healing of your soul and what about the healing of your body?

Announcer: Call now to receive the *Heaven and Health* audio series and books with your gift of just \$69. Or with your gift of \$129, request both the audio and video series with books and also receive the bonus DVD by Beth Moore.

As you begin your journey to health and wholeness please consider helping the lives of others by making an additional life-changing gift to provide new homes for impoverished families.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Announcer: Poverty and desperation plague the lives of thousands of families in Central America. These inhumane living conditions are not only a breeding ground for disease but they are destructive to the human spirit. On one of their mission trips to this region, James and Betty were drawn to the mothers who struggle daily to meet the basic needs of their families.

James: It's almost like she's despaired of life, no hope, and you can see it in her face. It is more than poverty and hardship, there's something there that says, "I've given up hope."

Betty: She's like any other mother, she cares about her children. She loves her children and she will do anything to put a roof over their head. She's patched with it everything. She's put everything in here to try to keep her little baby safe.

James: If we could do the will of God, we would want to give these people a chance at life, give them a chance at health. I'm telling you, we're going to do it. As long as I live, I'm going to do everything within my ability to inspire people to reach beyond themselves and touch someone with love. And if you could give people who are watching us on television and say, "Would you like to have your dream?" And for some of them, it takes a lot of positive things happening. For these people, it takes a very simple thing happening and each of us just doing our part.

Announcer: As you discover God's promises for health and wholeness, consider reaching out to others in need by giving an extra gift that will help provide a family a new home.

In the studio

James: I want you to know that we find indescribable joy offering you a hand. As much as we love to give fresh water to people who are desperately thirsty, never had clean water, give food to the starving, to give you something that blesses you wherever you are in your journey -- indescribable!

Beth Moore contributes "Affliction." Wow! Many ways we're afflicted. *Heaven & Health:* The blessings of heaven right here right now. That's what kingdom living is: Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. It is living in His presence in the present not future reward -- present reality.

Say thanks, if you would, to Sheila Walsh for helping us and blessing us today and blessing us with the teaching. I hope -- listen, if you called and got a busy, call until you get through. Get the series! I hope you get it in DVD. God bless you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18th through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas featuring inspiring speakers such as author and neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson, international Bible teacher and author, Beth Moore, Pastor Robert Morris, author and speaker Christine Caine, and many more, including musical guests such as Phillips, Craig and Dean. Register today

for this once-in-a-lifetime event celebrating 50 years of ministry with James and Betty Robison. Go to LifeToday.org.