

6/26/13

Week 26

**James:** It is always a joy to share this time with all of you and with you. Beth Moore is going to be sharing, and she is talking about affliction. I'm James Robison; Betty and I have been married 50 years but we have not ever had any affliction as far as conflict.

**Betty:** Oh, no! Yeah.

**James:** We have really dealt with those things and not let them eat on us, and that's really part of what we're talking about in the incredible product, *Heaven & Health*. I want you to listen to the subtitle: Discover the Blessings of Heaven while Living on Earth. This really has a whole lot to do with how we think, how we live, how we eat, how we care for the temple of God.

Betty and I have been married 50 years. We're having a wonderful time together. We're enjoying our grandchildren. We're enjoying life by sharing life, by loving others and encouraging people, and in every way we can, share how you can be better.

For instance, when Dr. Colbert, who has been so highly accepted, whether it is on Dr. Oz or whether it is on Joyce Meyer's program when he's helped her personally and her viewers or whether he's been here on *LIFE Today*, and to write a book, *The Seven Pillars of Health: The natural way to better health for life*. I've got news for you, he actually is addressing the supernatural way and that's what we're talking about.

And with Beth Moore teaching on affliction, which contributes -- that afflictions come in so many forms, so many ways, and how that can contribute to diminishing our health. That's one of the bonus parts of the package of literally *Heaven & Health*, and we want you to get it.

Beth is going to talk to us about affliction. How about we welcome Beth Moore, her teaching? Here's Beth.

### **Begin video clip**

**Beth:** Did my affliction come out of my past sin? It is a problem when you have my kind of past; you have to think, are all my problems associated with it? And I can

always come up with yes! Yes! It's all because I was stupid. Anybody else besides me?

Some of you are going, "We need a new teacher." Maybe you need to pray for the one you've got, maybe that would be good. But yes, because I have so much stuff in my past, almost always I can come with, "Yes, yes, it does. Yes, it does."

But it may not! Sometimes it doesn't have anything to do with it. I don't live in that pattern of defeat and sin that I used to and haven't for years and yet I still deal with this affliction of having these ongoing visits of a time, again I'm not saying a demon is visiting me, I'm saying it's just like here we go again and I'm going through this again. Then I go through the very same thing to be set free from it and it is always the word. But here's what I know. Whether or not my affliction came out of my past sin because I really don't think this one, in a lot of ways, is certainly not associated with it in the current. Does trouble and affliction -- notice the order -- consider my affliction and my trouble and forgive what?

**Audience:** My sin.

**Beth:** Forgive all my sins. What I have found is my affliction and my trouble makes it a whole lot easier to sin. Anybody? So whether or not my sin had anything to do with causing the affliction or the trouble, man, it makes it easier to sin. Doesn't it? Because my trouble makes me cranky, it makes me irritable, it makes me more carnal. Our affliction can be just like -- when we submit to it, it is sin! It is sin because it has no power to defeat us. It is supposed to bring us into submission to Christ not defeat us.

So here's what I love because instead of sitting back like my tendency would be to sit back and go, "Oh, woe is me! My sin caused all this. My sin caused all this. Oh, I bet all this was my sin!"

When the Psalmist goes, "You know what? Get a grip and no matter what your affliction or your trouble ask God to forgive all your sins, and mean it!" It's just like here's the remedy. When you confess and you repent, you were forgiven. So I never have to go on worrying the next day too. No, no! That matter was settled. So no matter what, consider my affliction and my trouble. And Lord, because that is so, so tempting for an area of sin in my life, forgive me for all my sins.

Look at verse 11 in the same chapter: Psalm 25, verse 11. I want you to see this because this is going to be somebody's word. So do not turn it off right now. Stay with me. Verse 11, I mean all about how good God is to them, how he leads the humble, and

what is right, all the paths of the Lord are steadfast and faithfulness for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. And then he says this: For your namesake, oh, Lord, pardon my guilt for it is great!

Remember when he said earlier in the Psalm and go read it if you were not with us. When he says, "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, oh, Lord." What is he saying?

"Lord, I want you to remember me. But I want you to remember me free of my past sins." Anybody else? Isn't that beautiful? Isn't that just beautiful? I want that. Every time I say it I go, "Lord, I want that to be me."

So the Psalmist then says, "Pardon my guilt for it is grave."

I want to say to you today because this is a huge one for no telling how many people we've got gathered here and are on the other side of that screen, listen carefully, untreated guilt is the most fertile soil on planet earth for growing affliction. I promise you girlfriend and guy friend that that is the truth. I'm going to say it again. Untreated guilt is the most fertile soil on earth if you want to grow an affliction. Yes, ma'am, yes, sir it is! When you've got all of this untreated guilt, when you feel guilty, you have a kind of ongoing... I'm not saying every now and then but I'm saying you've got pretty persistent guilt, then I'm telling you, you're just an affliction waiting to happen because your ongoing guilt is your manure and your affliction field. It's going to grow it up. It's just fertilizing it over and over and over and over again.

The question on the table for you over the next couples of minutes is, what are a few reasons why Satan would want you to keep a messed up conscience? What is in it for the devil if you keep a messed-up conscience? That's the question on our table for the next few minutes and I'm going to prove to you what he's got in it. And Lord, I'm asking you to give us understanding because we're going to have to think up for a minute. We're going to have to think up.

Turn with me -- leave something in Psalm 25, go with me to Romans 9:1. I'm going to still hope it is still in Romans 9:1. Yes, it is! It was at 3:00 this afternoon and indeed, it still is. All right, the question on the table, why would the enemy have anything to gain by you keeping a messed-up conscience? The Apostle Paul says: I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit.

Okay, listen, for believers in Christ, when you and I receive Jesus Christ as our personal savior, his spirit comes to dwell in us instantly. It is not because we felt it, it is not because we go, "Oh, I just felt that happen!" None of that! You can go on for years without feeling because we have not yet yielded to the Holy Spirit. But he moves in us, takes up residence immediately and what he does is, that the way the Holy Spirit will bear witness is to involve our conscience only -- I found this in I think a New American Commentary.

I'm sort of paraphrasing it so it is not word for word but this is the idea. It says: As believers our consciences are informed by Holy Spirit. Only then is it really reliable because it will mislead us otherwise.

So okay, if the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to you, is going to use your conscience at times to tell you something and it is all messed up... The Holy Spirit could desire to so bear witness to you in a situation that God is alive and at work right there in your circumstance but your conscience can be so messed up and guilt can be so all over you, you cannot even hear him -- you can't even hear him.

In fact, go with me to Romans 8:16. Now, Lord, give me clarity as I speak this so there is understanding. This is good, this is good, this is good! The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The Holy Spirit comes up and takes residency in our spirit. The Spirit is involving the conscience in a lot of things to bear witness to us.

Listen, when we -- if I were a betting woman, I would bet you ten to one that if you have a really whacked out conscience and a very guilty conscience, I bet you spend untold amounts of time conflicted over whether or not you are in Christ. Am I telling the truth? Someone with a really -- they'll go back and forth, "I don't know if I'm saved or not. Yeah, I guess I am."

Why? Because their conscience is so messed up that it is not bearing witness with the witness of the Holy Spirit. So we don't even know.

So all this, that would be revealed to us so much, so much is not revealed but so much would be. But if we've got a whacked out conscience we cannot even hear or experience the bearing of the witness of the Holy Spirit because he's working with a conscience that is not cooperating. So my conscience is always telling me something

contrary to it. And I'm just so wrapped up in the guilt I can't get out from under it. Is that making sense to anybody?

So here's what we've got. Listen to Hebrews 10:22. You can jot down the address and hear it with all of your heart. I'm going to read it to you out of the NIV because it doesn't get any better than this:

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.

I'm going to say that again.

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.

Okay, do you have a guilty conscience? Draw near to God.

See here's the trick the enemy plays, "I can't draw near to God, I've got a guilty conscience." Listen to the order. All we have -- we come with sincerity. This is how we come to him, "I sincerely have a guilty conscience." We come with sincerity before God. Here I'm coming with this, I'm coming with this. The enemy knows I can make you feel guilty enough or I can help you, I can tempt you to feel guilty enough where you won't draw near. Then we're not going to have any power at all, no assurance at all. So this is what he does.

But when we just go, I'm going to believe the word over my guilty conscience. All I have to do is have a sincere heart. All I have to do and I'm sincere about it. I'm in pain here, Lord. I'm tormented by guilt. Your word says all I have to do is just draw near to you and with full assurance of faith your word says, what was the Savior for but to pardon my guilt? And I ask your forgiveness and I never -- I never want to drop back in that hole again. Lord, I never want to turn back to that which has caused me so much pain and so much guilt for so many years. Forgive me! By the blood of Jesus, sprinkled on my heart of flesh, forgive me! And he does.

Then you don't get up and go the next day and, "Oh, pardon my guilt!" He did that yesterday. You do when you feel guilty again but you don't just keep doing it because why? Because he already did it.

Then the next day we'll be tempted to do it again but we go, you know what? No, this time I'm going to thank him for it. I thank you, Lord! I thank you, Lord! I thank you! You have cleansed me from my guilty conscience.

Where that brings us, I'm about to read another scripture to you and then we're going to wrap up in a part of Genesis in just a moment but I wonder if you would do what I just talked about? I've done it too. Oh, I've had some things in the course of my life that would leave you with a very guilty conscience. But first, remember when I was talking about scriptures that could be part of my testimony?

I'll tell you another one, First Corinthians 4:4, write it down. I'm going to read it to you. It only says it this way where I understand it well in the NIV so I want you to hear it. The Apostle Paul says something huge. He says this:

My conscience is clear but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

Listen to that again. He says: I have a clear conscience but listen, there has not been anything innocent about me but the Lord is my judge. I've been through a lot. I've out-sinned practically every single one of you. I may have not stayed in that hole as long as you did, but I've been there, I've been deep -- I've been deep. You couldn't have gone further out of the will of God than I have been at points in my life but I'm going to tell you this, today I stand before you, my conscience is clear. I don't have that -- that's not my problem anymore, right here.

My affliction would be -- but that -- my conscience is clear. The only way I can come before you and teach with my past is because I know that the blood of Jesus has covered my sins and I'm forgiven. I'm forgiven. I stand upon his Word not based on any of my righteousness but on his alone. I stand on what his Word says. It's what he said he came for. The savior came to seek and save that which is lost and the doctor, the great physician came for the sick. I was sick. He has brought the blood of Jesus to cover my life and cover my sins and I stand before you as not one who has been innocent but my conscience has been cleared. He has pardoned my guilt, he has pardoned my guilt.

It's got to be us. It's got to be us. If it is not us, we will absolutely bleed out in our affliction. We will bleed out in it.

Now I want you to remember it says, "I refined you in the furnace of affliction."  
Refined you -- that's a great word! That's a great, great word! It means he's done something beautiful. He has cleaned us out.

I want you to end this series with me in Genesis 41 and this is where we'll camp it. I pray -- I hope so much this series on affliction was not just for me. Somebody tell me it wasn't. I hope so much somebody out there got a word from it as well; it has meant so much to me to get it ready. It's been something I've been thinking about for a while and toying around with and blogged a little bit about.

Genesis 41; I want to show you something, 50 through 52 -- Genesis 41:50-52. Our last point we made together was: The love of scripture APPLIED separates affliction from destruction. Then we're going to land on five in just a moment and we're going to find it at Genesis 41:50-52. It says this:

Before the year of famine came --

It is very important that you see it is before the famine came because the famine is what is going to lead to his family being restored.

Before it ever came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the first born Manasseh for he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."

Manessah roughly means God has made me forget. That can be a beautiful thing. Many of us need a Manessah. I could use a Manessah so many times.

Verse 52: The name of the second he called Ephraim, for the Lord has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Listen, he was going to deliver Joseph but he was not going to deliver him yet. He was going to let him be used of God to be fruitful right there in the land of his afflictions. Then he was going to bring him out, and I believe that has been a test that God has put before me. "Beth, I'm not going to deliver you from it until you get consistently victorious in it. Until you just want to go, oh, really? Do you want to toy with me again about this? Because I already know what to do. I'm going to -- because I'm going to be wiser than you. Know it, do it, then when you get where that is your practice and we don't have to keep beating on that one, then we're going to move on. But really,

Beth, what I want before I just move you out of your affliction and then you get to be all victorious."

What about being victorious in the affliction? Because girlfriend, there ain't no high like that. Guy friend, it doesn't get more powerful than that because you know something should be taking you down and all it is doing is taking you down on your knees and it doesn't get better than that -- right there -- right there.

Five and last point we'll make together in our series:

Until we're delivered, may God make the land of our affliction fruitful -- fruitful.

Say it back to me. Number five is:

Until we are delivered, may God make the land of our affliction fruitful.

You've got an affliction? You are on fertile ground. It is up to you what you're going to grow there. You can either grow the fruit of the spirit and the fruit of faithfulness and a love of the word and the true discipline of the spirit, ministry, compassion, humility or you can grow the most frightful harvest of your life. Bend the knee -- get some of that fertile soil right on those knees; submit and bear fruit.

**James:** I'm amazed always by how God gifts people; how God sends us, as his family, individuals who impart wisdom and truth and understanding and direction for our lives and Beth does that. I want you to get the *Heaven & Health: The Blessings of Heaven while Living on Earth*. And the bonus CD, *Heaven & Health* that Beth has; it is a part of it. I want you to get it. Let me tell you about it, Robert Roberts is teaching, Sheila Walsh, Dr. Colbert, \$69 CD.

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.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

**End of clip**

### **On the mission field**

**James:** I think sometimes, Betty, people see a situation like this and they say, "There are situations like this everywhere." And they think, "No way we can help them all."

These people probably think nobody ever notices. You know the amazing thing? God notices. And as a result, God sent somebody like us out here to tell them God notices and we're going to do what we can to help them. And if we do it together, we can give these people hope.

**Betty:** As long as we care there's hope, there's a chance, an opportunity to change the situation and let them see God's love through our actions. I so want people around here to know that it truly is in our heart to help them and to make a difference and to get our friends to help us help them because we can't do it adequately without your help.

**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.

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** I pray -- I don't just hope, I pray because I want the very best for you. We do, that's why we're here. That's why we bring guests in that can impart life, love, and meaning in so many ways and help. *Heaven & Health*, I hope you get it not only in the CD but I hope you get the DVD. I think somehow just looking and watching and listening is so meaningful.

Remember, we will send you the bonus DVD, *Heaven & Health* with Beth Moore. This is tremendous material. I want you to remember, please, we want to give homes to people in Central America that are in desperate need. We're talking about their health, they really need shelter. Betty, we've been there many times, they don't have it and that contributes to the lack of health. Let's give them some homes. So if you want to make a gift towards that, the homes cost \$4400. Everybody does a little bit more, "I want to pay for home because we're asking God to let us help some precious families."

Thanks for watching. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*.