

7/22/14

Week 30: Water for Life
James Robison: Jesus' Prayer #2

James: Well, I asked Betty to share with me while I'm just going to kind of open my heart and talk. As you know, I talked about how important you are earlier. Betty said, "James, I want to stay at home and pray for you because I've heard what's on your heart." And I really would like to just ask everybody to zero in and listen.

I want to thank you for receiving me in the first program where I tried to, in the most personal way I can, communicate with you, not only your value as one who prays for us, who perhaps tells your friends about *LIFE Today*, hopefully, and I would encourage you to do that if you're blessed by it because we're here to bless you and others. But also, I tried to impress on your mind that you're more important than you could ever imagine to God -- he just loves you. You don't have to do anything to earn that. He loves you.

Now he would like to flow his love through you toward and on others so the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts so freely and so fully that it impacts with a transforming effect everyone we see or get to know -- that should be our prayer. We are here as witnesses. He left us here as witnesses. He didn't leave us here to just wait for the future dwelling place. He left us here to reveal what heaven is really like, what he's like, what can happen in our lives when he becomes Lord and Savior, and God becomes our Father. So I tried to impress upon you in an earlier program your value for kingdom purpose but also just to him in relationship.

My friend, Dudley Hall who is one of the greatest teachers I've ever heard said that his son once told him, when he had asked him to mow the yard, he said, "That's the only reason why you had me was so you can get me to do all this work."

[Laughing]

Hey, that's not why God wants to be your father; so he can get you to do all this stuff. No, he wants fellowship and relationship with you. And you can have that.

Now here I am as a fatherless boy who grew up knowing the ultimate Father, God. And it's amazing how much God loves me and what he can do with anyone who is yielded. And it doesn't mean when we yield to God that we never fail or miss the mark; God knows I have miserably and I've been very open to talk about it. And I haven't suddenly arrived at perfection; I'm on a journey in pursuit of the heart, the mind, and the will and the purpose of God toward you and others. And the joy is indescribable; and those of you who become viewers of *LIFE* and participate in the outreaches of *LIFE*, you tell us that.

Now I ask you to begin seeking to be an answer to the prayer of Jesus, that we would be one with the father, purified, sanctified, holy by the Word of God, by the truth that sets us free, transforms us, and instructs us in righteousness. Not divides us -- it divides good from evil, light from dark, right from wrong. It's not supposed to divide the family of faith.

And then pray that those of us, who are one with the Father and being sanctified in truth, will become one with each other, supernatural unity. Well, I'm praying for that, I'm believing for it. I believe we're going to see it. I think that's our hope.

America, the nations of the world, the free world, they're in trouble. We're losing freedom. There is an open mockery of religion and expression. It is tragic what is happening in this great nation that was birthed as a result of a spiritual awakening. And the only thing that is going to stabilize the country and enable us to have good leaders who are wise and who can inspire us together to do right is going to be another awakening that will be led by people who become one with the Father and with each other and stand together like a mighty army.

I want us to continue with the theme of unity. Listen to what Paul said. Here's a man full of Jesus. And in the fourth chapter of Ephesians, now listen to his heart because I'm really believing this is what God wants us to hear today.

As a prisoner of the Lord I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you've received. Be completely humble and gentle, be teachable, not arrogant -- and a lot of people who get into religion become very arrogant and pompous and condescending toward others, and very unnecessarily divisive, rather than the unity of the spirit being encouraged, they contribute to the strife and the tension and the divisions -- animosity, hostility, and even hate. Be humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love, which means there's going to be a reason to have to extend love because everything doesn't always go exactly like it should.

Make every effort -- boy, this is so important! Preachers, pastors, priests, everyone listening -- listen to this! Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit -- "preserve the unity of the spirit" one translation says -- through the bond of peace.

Make every effort to be one, to be family, not to get a divorce, not to be separated but to be one. There is one body and one spirit just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. You say, wait a minute, some people christen, some people immerse, the real baptism is into Christ, into the spirit, into relationship with God.

Now I happen to believe that it's a picture of a death and a burial and a resurrection of Jesus; and that is exactly what John the Baptist did. Jesus was baptized just as an example and it's good. But wait a minute, we don't need to be divisive and fight over it. What if there was no water? And you may say, "Well, we've got a lot of reason to disagree on this." We don't have a reason to come unglued and get divorced and start fighting one another.

We've got churches that are fighting over who baptizes you -- what you say. We are so busy discussing various views of truth that we can't even hear the transforming, liberating truth that sets us free and can give us love and harmony and a forbearing, teachable, meek spirit. We have many discussions about the gifts of the spirit.

By the way, Paul goes on to talk about the gifts to the church, those sent by God: Apostles, pastors, evangelists, prophets, teachers, that he set in the church right here. But we're arguing oftentimes about the gifts of the spirit or the manifestations of the spirit. Many churches rather than walking in the fullness of the spirit and Christians living in the fullness of the spirit, they're dividing in a discussion about tongues. They discuss it, they debate it, they defend it, they declare it and they divide over it.

Why don't we use our tongue for the glory of God? And Paul said, "I wish you all did, but I'd rather you prophesy." What does that mean? Tell the future? No! It means speak words of life. Every time you open your mouth, speak life. Every time you open your mouth speak truth. Every time you open your mouth speak blessings. And yes, blessings can be correction. It can be admonishing people, challenging people -- but bless them.

See, we can find so many reasons to split and divide. If you really ever wondered why so many marriages end in divorce, well, it looks like church membership and relationships end in divorce because when people get into some kind of a little disagreement then we split.

I once made a comment in a very large church. I said, "I've known of churches to split over what color choir robes they're going to have; some want blue, some want gold." I turned around, half the choir had on blue, the other half had on gold and we all started laughing. I said, "I guess, that's one way to settle it."

But we have such foolish, foolish division. We're not talking about abandoning the truths of God's Word or the reliability of the sacred scripture or a standard that we can hold fast to. We're not talking about the basics of the faith, the reality of Christ, and the fact that he was born of a virgin, a miracle of God and lived a perfect life and died a sacrificial death after illustrating the truth, and then was raised by the power of God, literally in the power of the Holy Spirit to live in us.

Please, seek diligently to preserve the unity of the spirit. I want you to watch what happens here because I'm believing we're going to see this today. I want you to start

praying for this. And you need to understand that James Robison takes very seriously what God says and when God speaks through someone to me in harmony with his Word, I'm going to do my best to walk it out, to heed it.

Billy Graham said something to me that I've told you many times changed my life. I think he changed the lives of many people. I was scolding him for his close association with so many people who were quote "outside our Baptist camp."

And he asked me, "Do you know these people?"

I said, "No."

He said, "I do." And I paraphrase what changed my life that came from his lips, "I would like to highly suggest that you begin spending time with people you've been taught to avoid."

I did. It changed me, changed them, those I'd been taught to avoid. We came to recognize we're family.

A joy that I experienced by going to people, we'd been convinced must remain in different camps, I watched so much power that I began to see miracles -- and I'm watching it today. And I'm believing God is going to tear down those walls that we have, maybe with good intentions, have put in place, that have not only kept us apart from one another but have kept us from him because we need to see him in them -- him/her.

So I'm encouraging everyone who watches our program and will see me reaching out to people outside the Protestant comfort zone, reaching out to Catholics and priests and leaders to say let's get to know Christ personally because just being a Protestant, an Evangelical, a Baptist, a Pentecostal, a Catholic does not make us a Christian. We're a member of a church or religious group but not necessarily in his church because of a supernatural spiritual rebirth. My wife was a Sunday School teacher and choir member -- came out of the choir to give her life to Christ. I'd been christened as a boy but nothing happened -- then I came to Christ.

Pope Francis has recently said, "All of you" -- even to the priests -- "find when did you come to know Christ? Go back, find that time; do you even know him? -- Because you can go through the motions and not know Christ. Do you know Christ?" That's the real question for every person, Protestant, Catholic, whoever you are because there's only one way to heaven, eternal life and kingdom life, and the peace and the joy that only God gives them; that's through a relationship with Christ, not a church membership but a relationship. So many people have become part of religious groups but don't know Christ.

Now when you know Christ, here's what he says he wants to happen; God speaking through Paul. He says he gave to the church -- he gave them -- I don't think you select them, I think you recognize them. I think even when you call a pastor, you've got to call a pastor that's called by God and sent by God. And you say, "We receive him here in this church as a shepherd, as the overseer." Apostles, pastors, prophets, evangelists, teachers, this is not something you run for, it is something God calls us to and he set us in the church.

God has sent me as an evangelist. I've been sent by God. Many have been sent by teachers, pastors, I think apostles. You recognize them. If God sent a messenger to the church, to your church to you, then you recognize them and receive what the Spirit is saying to the church, to you as a part of Christ's body. You hear what the Spirit is saying through them. You don't follow the teacher, you don't gather around the teaching, you receive the truth that liberates and transforms and apply it to your life and share it with others -- not just in word, but in deed, in action. He gave us these leaders to prepare God's people for works of service to build us up, to edify us, to prepare us for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith.

This is what God's seeking to do with the family of faith so that we'd come to one Father, many shepherds, many teachers, but one Father, one God, one Lord, one Jesus, one baptism into Christ and into the Spirit and into relationship, and then live out that testimony and we'll be built up in the unity of faith. The world is waiting to see this. I believe we can see it. I think this is the great awakening. And we'll have the

knowledge of the Son of God and we'll become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ; we'll be no longer like infants or saying, "I'm of Paul," "I'm of Apollos," "I'm of Cephas," "I'm of Peter," and not be able to receive like spiritual people but like carnal people. We won't be like that blown about. We'll be pulled together by the Word of God -- by the cunning craftiness of men and deceitfulness scheming is a lot of that. We'll be delivered from that. That's what God wants.

Instead we speak the truth in love; we will, in all things, grow up into him who is the head, that's Christ. Christ is the head of the church -- no man, Christ! And he set in the church leaders and we recognize them and we receive him in them but it's Jesus we're looking to. It is Jesus in truth we must see. From him the whole body will be joined and held together by every supporting ligament as it grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.

Now listen. When I shared with you earlier I talked about no one insignificant. This hand cannot function if this part of the body is not connected to this part of the body. The hand cannot function healthily unless this part connected to this part and this is yielded to the head. That's the way we come together, every one of us saying we want to connect to one another in love and we want to yield.

When I'm teaching on the body, oftentimes I'll stand up and I'll say, "We are Christ's body; just like this body functions, connected. Something you don't notice." And I point at my shoes. I will literally point down at my shoe and at my sock and say, "Look at this! The most hidden part of my body, in the shoe, in the sock, is by no means insignificant. I stand on that foundation. I'm able to move with stability."

Some of you have felt so hidden, so unimportant. Well, get over that because you are not. There's no small insignificant member. Some may be hidden, not as visible as others but I'm going to tell you something, all the wonderful things that God has done all over the world in missions, the millions and millions of people that have given their lives to Christ, their lives that have been saved -- you. You may see me or Betty or other guests but we're standing on your love. We're family! We're his body. Let's yield to him and remain connected to one another.

Father, I pray that we will see your body built up in love into the fullness of your stature, the unity of the faith. Grant us a great awakening because we love you and one another beyond anything we ever imagined, in Jesus' name.

Thank you for letting me share. I think this is God's heart. I think that being an answer to Jesus' prayer that we be one with the Father in relationship and with one another as a family is critically important. Let's be a part of seeing that.

Thank you for telling me that you love to give water -- to give life. Would you right now reach out and touch someone with love and help us drill another 500 water wells? I want you to watch closely and you respond as God directs.

On the mission field

Tammy: "Don't drink the water." It's instruction often heard when traveling abroad. And it's good advice so we carry our bottled water, safe and pure, remembering whose is whose. Yeah, germs! Not exactly deadly ones but we still work to avoid them.

These children have their bottled water too but it looks like this. What do you tell them? Don't drink the water? -- When the alternative is what? Nothing at all? They say you can survive about five days without water and that's assuming you're healthy to begin with. These children are not. "Don't drink the water," is what I want to tell them every time I watch them take a drink of that poison but I can't... not until I have something else to offer them.

What you have to understand is that without you I won't be able to. So please give me that chance to tell them, "Stop! Drink this!" And then watch life abound. Life! It's what Jesus came to bring and you can make it your mission too.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Tammy Trent is such an incredible missionary, not only a gifted singer, (remember, who lost her husband, a great swimmer who drowned) but God has been resurrected in power in her to put his arms around people all over the world.

The only way she can give them an answer, an alternative is if we will join and drill a well, right in that area and 500 others. We're halfway there. We're asking God to give us the other 250 now.

Would you reach out and dial that number or go to LifeToday.org and online, take your bankcard, make the largest gift you can? Could you drill a well?

Father, please touch hearts who can -- in everyone to help; in Jesus' name, for the sake of the children and their families.

If you could drill a well, do it. If you could give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray, "Dear God, raise up three more to join me with \$1200" or "Another one to join me with \$2400," we'd have a well. But most of the wells are drilled by people who give \$48 knowing they're going to give 10 people, basically that's how it breaks out, water the rest of their life.

Where can you give a gift like that that keeps giving? \$144, 30 people Water for Life. We've got some special gifts to send you that I promise you will be a blessing, a special book for children or grandchildren that will inspire them to be a blessing. *Women at the Well*, see we feel like *LIFE Today* is a well. We're seeking to give you water and inspiration and instruction in righteousness, God's righteousness.

We have the beautiful "Blessing" art collectible, the glass sculpture to say thank you if you can give \$1200 or more. Whatever you can do, please go to the phone or go online and make that gift right now.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children of all ages 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 there is a solution. *Mission: Water for Life* is one of the most effective life-saving demonstrations of God's love you could ever be a part of. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages impacting over 20 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 impact 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 the new *Children at the Well* interactive book to help your little ones understand the blessing of clean water, as well as the *Women at the Well* daily devotional with 32 refreshing devotionals for your quiet time. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request this beautiful leather journal to help capture your personal times with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our commemorative sculpture glass statue "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: This journal has had a transforming effect on my own life because our daughter Robin gave it to me right after I'd had a disease and fought for my life. She said, "God told me to give it to you, daddy." Boy, what a blessing! I believe that the journal will bless you. And I pray what we're sharing will bless you and you'll study - study Ephesians four, all the chapters are God's favorite. Look them over.

Thanks for your help! Encourage others to watch *LIFE Today* and help us share *LIFE Today* and always point people to the life. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.