

7/31/14
Week 31 WFL
Wendy Griffith

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

James: We are thrilled to have Wendy Griffith with us. She has written a book, *You are a Prize to be Won*: "Don't settle for less than God's best." Now she's a blessing. Some of you see her on C.B.N. You've seen her in various interview settings and situations; and you've seen her there when she actually hosts the program. She is really, I think, a beautiful person and a very gifted person but she really has a message that I think everyone needs to hear and I'd like to ask you to welcome Wendy to *LIFE Today*. Would do you that? Wendy, we're glad you're here.

Wendy: So great to be here.

James: I want you, because I want to cover the ground that -- you get a whole book to cover this thoroughly as it would be meaningful for people to hear and know. But I want you to just tell us what led you to write this book. And on the back, I think maybe this has a little to do with it, "There should never be a but after the words I love you but..." That's kind of...

Wendy: I like the way you say that. Why did I write the book? Because the Lord told me to write about my test; my test was heartbreak. It was anybody who has been through heartache knows it is the most painful thing that you can ever go through, and it felt very much like a death. And we were talking about loss and pain and we all started crying at dinner because that's what it felt like to me, like a death.

I was in my 40s, mid 40s, never been married. Met a guy and thought he was the one; I thought my prince had finally come. We dated, world wind dating for a year. Every weekend, he lived out of town so we saw each other like every weekend for a year. He

was a Christian and never been married and I thought we were on our way. At the end of a year, when I was expecting perhaps -- hopefully -- prayerfully a ring, instead he said, "The Lord says I have to give you back."

And I was devastated; it was like all of my dreams of happily-ever-after just crumbled. I didn't understand. I thought... Well, in my mind I thought I was going to get exactly what I wanted, which was to be wanted, which was to get a proposal, to hear those words, "Will you marry me?" And in fact, it was just the opposite.

I was -- I didn't really know what to do with that pain but I heard God say, "Write about your test."

It was interesting because the morning that he broke up with me I was in my kitchen where I normally do my devotionals and I heard in my head, really loud, not audibly but I could hear "test, test, test."

I thought, no, no, no! I don't want to be tested. And I kept -- where it just wouldn't go away, that voice. Like I tried to make some breakfast or do something else but I just kept hearing, "Test, test, test."

I finally gave up. I said, "Okay, Lord, what? I don't know what this means but if you want to test my heart I belong to you." And it was that night -- that very night that he broke up with me. So yeah, that's the nutshell.

Betty: You really didn't have any idea that the test would come in that way?

Wendy: No! Not 12 hours later. I didn't know it was going to come that night. But when I set out to write the book, it was definitely not my idea because who wants to relive all these things? But it was therapeutic in a way and I really discovered something in writing it. And in the weeks and days after the break up is that I had definitely loved him and had definitely given my heart to him but I had not loved myself. It is interesting because the anger phase comes a little bit after the shock and then the anger phase sort of jokingly brings clarity.

And I realized -- and it helps you because you realize, I shouldn't have put up with an "I love you but..." And I'll tell you that story. Every girl wants to hear the words "I love you" from the guy she is in love with.

We'd been dating about five months and he'd met me at the airport that night and I'd come back from an assignment with C.B.N. I was in Atlanta and he met me at the airport and we went out to dinner. He said, "I came here to tell you that I love you but I don't know if you're the one."

And it was really loud in this restaurant so I said, "Could you please repeat that?"

And he said, "I love you but I don't know if you're the one."

I remember thinking why do I feel sick to my... why don't I want to eat anymore? Why doesn't this feel good? I was like a deer in headlights. I didn't understand because I didn't know that... I didn't know that I didn't know my value at the time but what I say to women is, "There should never be a 'but' after 'I love you.' That 'but' simply means I'm leaving my options open. I might like you a lot, I might even love you but I'm not ready to walk down the aisle with you, I'm not ready to put a ring on your finger."

Really, it's a devastating thing to hear. So I tell ladies now, "If I could just relive that moment now I would say, 'You know what? You can take your but and your butt and get back in your car and go back to where you came from!'"

Because every woman and man, is worth an "I love you."

You thought I was going to all ladylike, James.

[Laughter]

I told you I was a Hatfield! Every woman deserves an I love you period. If the man is leaving an out clause or a loophole, then it is time to tell him to...

James: But do you think at the same time he was trying to be honest and he was maybe struggling with his own feelings and emotions and he's in his...? You say you believe he's a Christian, you believe he loved the Lord. Is that what you sensed? And because of all that because you wouldn't have given your heart to him if you didn't think God had his heart. I just wonder if he was really saying, "Boy I've got to work through this."

I wonder if he was struggling. He may be watching right now.

And I want to believe that you were trying to be totally honest. I don't think we realize sometimes how our total honesty can devastate someone.

But I think what you learn from it was there that really wasn't anything he would have said that would have caused you to make some reassessment and look at your own opinion and attitude toward yourself and learn things you needed perhaps to learn. Is that correct? Did that happen, actually?

Wendy: I definitely learned something but I didn't learn it until later because at the time I was so desperate to hear those words that I took the 'but.' It doesn't mean -- yes, of course, he was obviously trying to be honest but he wasn't ready. If you're not ready to say "I love you period" then don't say it.

James: You just said you didn't love yourself. Why didn't you?

Wendy: Well, when you know your value it is a game changer. Why didn't I love myself is a good question. And I think we were talking earlier at dinner, it doesn't matter how successful you are, how educated you are, how beautiful you are, I grew up in a home with a parent who was very critical. I think you see yourself through those eyes: I never measure up, I'm not good enough.

James: You kind of got a condemner in the invisible world that's accusing you anyway; isn't he?

Wendy: Yeah, and that goes back to the beginning of time so we have Satan who hates us anyway, and especially hates women. We're struggling anyway, and for past relationships, and I think it is so interesting that it doesn't matter how you think you know, well, here I am an international News Anchor and traveling the globe, and I already had one book out at the time and what I was sensing from this man that I was dating was you're not enough. You're not doing enough. You're not quite enough. It was a familiar spirit if you will.

James: You were hearing that in your own mind. You didn't need him. No, he just actually put what you felt in words what you were already feeling and hearing about yourself; right?

Wendy: Exactly. But the thing is, what I learned through the heartbreak, was that I am a pearl of great price. What happened was -- and it took heartbreak and it took this man breaking up with me for me to understand that.

James: We need to thank this guy.

[Laughter]

Wendy: It is interesting because about nine months after the breakup I was at a C.B.N. event. It was a partner event and one of our partners, it was a nice dinner, it was my birthday weekend and this man I'd never seen before walked up to me. He said, "I have a word for you."

I said, "Okay. I'll receive it."

He said, "Pearl of great price."

I just burst into tears. And he said, "I saw you this time last year with a gentleman" -- and it was this guy -- and he said, "The Lord spoke to me and said, "He wasn't the one because he wasn't willing to pay the price for the pearl of great price."

And more tears. It was exactly what I needed to hear because I was missing this... I was still mourning the loss of the relationship. And it was a great loss for me in my life. That's when God started to minister to me. You are a pearl of great price. Just because one person doesn't see it doesn't make it untrue.

James: So you need to see the truth.

Betty: But don't you believe, especially women, we need to know our value and only God can really give and show us that. I know even after we married, like we talked about earlier, you're looking for that knight on the shining armor and the white horse and all that stuff.

[Laughter]

And even though, God blessed me with the man he gave me, he could not give me what God wanted to give me. Even though he was a great encourager, which I needed and he was a part of God showing me my value, but it had to come from God. That God had to show me who I was in him before I could be the wife I needed to be, and accept him as the husband that God wanted him to be to me because he was not going to be able to make me -- I thought he was going to be all my happiness, and all this, and he's a great part of it but true joy has to come from the Lord. I had to feel complete in God -- and we all do.

James: I couldn't do God's part, no matter how hard I tried or how sincere I was. So God part happened in you. Now you told us something that you learned about the importance of guarding your heart. What do you mean in that? -- Because you talk about it in the book.

Wendy: I dedicate a whole chapter to guarding your heart because I always thought that was a nice scripture: Guard your heart with all diligence for from it flows the springs of life. But I was not doing that. In fact, when we first started going out, he had joked with me that he was going to win my heart. And at the time I was like, "Fat chance, because I'm really not that into you at that point."

But then it is scary how quickly emotions can change because two months later I was head over heels, and when you're in, you're in. But guarding your heart, when you break that scripture down in the Hebrew it is so interesting because it talks about guarding it more than you guard anything else that you own, more than your house, more than your family, your job. It is about because everything is affected by what comes out of your heart.

And ways -- I talk about ways to guard your heart. And one of them is just to be discerning and keep your mouth shut, really. Don't put all your cards on the table because when you do that -- because your words are so powerful and when you put it out there -- I told him that I loved him first.

After we broke up he told me that he didn't like that because he wanted to be the one to tell me. That was just further rejection. My sister told her husband that she loved him first and they got married and have two beautiful children. So when I understood that saying "I love you" to someone could be a turn off, that was -- there were no words to describe that kind of pain. So I just say women, just keep your cards close to your vest. Let him do the talking. Find out where he's at before you put it all out there.

James: I would say to guard your heart is to be certain that our heart is really really toward the Lord, and totally committed to him and his will. I think one of the things that I would encourage you to have even learned on this journey is the person who does it wrong can still be an instrument of God in showing us the right. If we will be the yielded clay and God having our heart we'll learn. So he was reminding you to guard your heart, showing you how it can be easily bruised so guard it.

But at the same time, whether you even realize it or not as you've written, you learned from that painful experience and priceless lessons that were priceless enough with the pain that you wanted to share them and you wanted to share it to protect other people's hearts. And I think the thing that you would want everyone to get is as they read which I think it is almost like a bottom line, be sure that God has your heart, that he's first in your heart, and that you not foolishly give your heart or be out-of-sync.

And there's not a formula for who says "I love you" first. She doesn't need to look back and say, "That was it! I shouldn't have done it. I didn't play my cards right." No, hang on. There's not -- her sister did it the wrong way and she is happily married. So the point is that there is not a formula. Just like there is not a formula for getting healed. Jesus spit once in clay and healed a guy's eyes. Another one he spit twice, and another time he didn't spit. A friend of mine Jack Taylor says, "That's three denominations: One spit, two spit, and no spit!"

[Laughter]

There's not a formula, there is a person and there's a truth and there's a relationship. What I'm hearing and even as we visited, just visiting and talking, you're on a journey, you're gifted and whether anybody made you recognize and appreciate it or not, God wants you to know, "I gave him to you, you're a treasure to me. I love you and this is the relationship. Now we'll build other relationships from that." That's what you're hearing, it's what you're learning and we're all learning it.

Betty and I -- she says don't say it -- okay, I'm 70. The point is that we're still learning. And really, the way we guard our heart is just really give it to him. And you really make that clear because you are a gifted communicator, you are a beautiful person, and you have tried to write something that will help people do exactly what you're saying in the subheading, "Don't settle for less than God's best." Would you say thank you to Wendy for sharing her heart with you? Actually you're sharing the heart to heal broken hearts. You know what it feels like.

Wendy: That's my passion. I received an e-mail from a lady who was divorced and she had just finished my book. She said, if she hadn't read it she would have ended up in a fetal position because her friend had just sent her a picture of her ex-husband with his new girlfriend own Valentine's Day. So divorced women, single women, married women, and some men are writing me too that really like it. It's not just women that get their hearts broken or break hearts.

James: And God is the only one that can heal it. That's what you're driving home. Let me say to you because if Betty and I were sitting in a room, we try to make it like we're

all sitting together. God wants to hold you in his arms. He's the only one that fully understands our heart and our hurt. He's the only one who adequately and sufficiently knows how to heal it and oftentimes that is a process.

Father, I pray for everyone right now who said, "I just wish somebody would hold me." And you're so anxious, God, to hold them. Let them sense that. Let me really lean on you, not their understanding, and you heal their hearts; in Jesus' name.

I really thank you for sharing. The book is in the bookstores. You can go online and get it. We're going to ask you to do something that we find great joy doing. I want to ask you to give life and love and water to desperately thirsty people. I want you to watch very closely and see what God says to you.

On the mission field

>> There are certain stories which must be told and must be told because something must be done; scenes which scream for intervention. The desperation that Angola's drought has created for Domingas is one of them. But desperation is not a word which can adequately describe her circumstances. In fact, you're finding that no words can. We cannot sufficiently describe the need of Domingas' small family. We simply must show you.

You may not fully understand the nature or effects of waterborne diseases but you probably understand that these children will not survive much longer with this as their only water. Something must be done.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And we know what must be done and what can be done.

Betty, when you see that beautiful little girl and even younger little girl kneeling down there at the last, when you see them get that water, what goes on in your heart?

Betty: Well, it breaks my heart. I want to say, "No, no, honey! Don't do that! It's not

good for you." But when that's the only source they have, that's the only place they have to go to get a drink of water, and they get thirsty, they have to have water. It just breaks my heart because I know they don't know what it's doing to their little bodies. But they will drink it until we offer them something else. And that something else is fresh clean water that we get from drilling the wells in their areas to help them.

Let's give them a choice. I'll just want to be sure, and I know you would be sure too, they're going to go for the clean water. They're going to see the purity of it and want that water. So please help us!

James: Well, these children and their families, you know they've never even seen a well. But when they see the water come out of the ground or they see the functioning mechanically operated well in their area it's like a party -- it's like a celebration. They know what it means.

Now we want you to help us do something very special that someone like you, a few of our friends knowing the crisis, as an example that we've been telling you about in Angola, and we're drilling wells in 20 countries, 500 of them and we've reached the halfway point, now we're going to complete it.

But in Angola, because of the seriousness of the drought and people facing death, we have targeted to drill immediately 68 wells. And some friends said, "In order for you to do that, we will match what people will give." \$326,000 they put up.

Father, I pray everyone will literally get up and go online right now or go get their bankcard or their checkbook and say, "I'm going to write the check; I'm going to make the gift that you put on my heart knowing it's going to be matched." In Jesus' name.

This is a very special opportunity. We're targeting 20 countries for the 500 wells. We've got a 68 well crisis and we have the areas targeted. There is water there below the surface; in many areas it is not too deep so we can get it quickly. And we've got some friends who said, "We'll match what you do."

Thank you for being those friends who do that but thank you for being the one who goes to the phone or goes online right now and says, "Here's the gift."

Now we have some gifts for you because we want to bless you and the children you love but you are literally transforming a community by expressing love when you give more than just a cup of water in Jesus' name, you're helping give a well of water and we're going to tell them about the well of life, the water of life. We're going to show them that love and I'm convinced they're going to receive it.

Thank you for going to the phone, thank you for going online. If you write a check call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail or call us and tell us what you want on that bankcard you use like a check. Thank you so much for doing it!

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

On the mission field

Tammy: I've loved traveling all around the world with *LIFE Outreach*, being able to tell the stories of so many people. In many of the places I've gone into, many children that I have heard stories about have died because of the water that they're drinking. And it really breaks your heart when you go into these places and you hear such stories and you think, "What can I do?"

This is my heart's cry to you to say we need you. We need to continue to drill more and more and more wells so it will give Water for Life to thousands more people just like this all over the world. Please won't you help us? Go to the phone, go online and help us bring life through water to these people.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I want to say thanks. You'll receive the children's book, *Women at the Well*; but if you'd like to have Wendy's book, *You're a Prize to be Won* -- you're a pearl of great price. I mean God loves you. If you'd like to have it, don't hesitate to ask. You help us give water, we want to bless you. Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Wendy? Wendy, you're a blessing!

Wendy: Thank you so much. It is an honor.

James: We hope we're a blessing to that man we talked to. How are you doing? God bless you, buddy! I was your friend; wasn't I? Thank all of you for watching. Thank you for being a friend to people who need water.