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Water for Life
James and Betty Robison
Joseph Prince: Right Believing

James: Oh, boy! Hey! You know what? Welcome to *LIFE Today*; I'm James Robison.

We have had in this studio, we've had Robert Duvall, we've had Tim Conway, we've had most of the well-known singers, we've had virtually every well-known preacher and musician in the entire Christian world right here. We've never -- Beth Moore, all the time, and we've never had such a crowd so excited! And you know we've got someone from overseas from Singapore, a young man -- and I know he appreciates hearing that -- a truly anointed man with the love of God, we've got Joseph Prince from Singapore, New Creation Church. Would you welcome Joseph Prince to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Let me say this, this is in the bookstores, *The Power of Right Believing*. We've got an inverted worldview, God on the bottom, man and idols on the top -- if God is acknowledged at all. You don't believe right, the results are awful. The power of believing right -- I'm telling you, it's a blessing. Let me just say this to you because see, I read a lot because everybody that writes a book, they send it to me.

[Laughter]

This book is easy reading and it is electric -- it is anointed. You get in the bookstores, you go online, but let's get our believing right. Joseph, I'm thrilled to have you here. Welcome to the United States.

Joseph: Thanks for having me. I appreciate it.

James: How do you -- and I want you to just to tell us because I know a lot of our viewers and a lot of people around the world have heard you preaching and teaching on grace, you're a truly anointed gifted teacher. I can tell you're real serious about your study. You're very persistent but not defensive. You're not unkind if someone doesn't agree with you; you're never unkind. You seem to be willing to be sharpened with iron sharpening iron. I don't see you ever being resistant to truth or correction. Because some people think, if a person comes out with a strong message and it's really getting momentum and blessing, we seem to feel obliged that we've got to knock it back or knock them down or knock them off. If you're real good church folks, we'll just knock them off -- do God's work! And the thing is, Joseph's spirit has been so much like yielded clay.

And I want to ask you because I've never heard the story, a lot of viewers may wonder. Tell me how it is -- because I know you weren't in ministry, I know you were exposed to Christian witness and influence, how is it that you fell so in love with Jesus, so in love with his Word, and had such a yearning to share it with others with such a freedom and such a flow of love. What happened?

Joseph: Well, I'm actually a good example of the message that I preach, the gospel of grace, which I believe is the gospel and that's how the Apostle Paul defines it. That God has sent him to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

When I was about 17 years old I read a Christian book and it's no reflection of the book but somewhere along the way I just believed that -- something in the teaching there that says that I've committed the unpardonable sin because I had no control over my thought life. And the more I was afraid of the thoughts that were going through my mind, the more those blasphemous thoughts about God, even when I go to church in prayer. And that began a cycle of depression in my life as a 17-year-old for more than a year. I just came to a place where I really thought I had committed the unpardonable sin; God wasn't hearing my prayers. I was confessing my sins; every sin that I knew how to confess and even if it appears like a sin, even as a temptation, I would confess

it. If I look at a young pretty girl and it's not even the second look, I would confess it.

[Laughter]

My friends would look at me kind of like messed up. Someone would say, "I think it is his religion." When I heard that I began to realize I wasn't a good testimony. Where is this robust faith? Where is this joy unspeakable? Where is this peace that passes understanding that the Bible talks about?

A number of years after that I was in the cycle of depression, the Lord brought me to an experience where I was crying out to him. The depression lasted for more than a year but it was only a few years after that that I found my true liberty back in the rediscovery of the gospel that Paul preached. It's a gospel where when Paul preached in Acts 13 he says that through this man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins. And by him all that believe are justified from all things from which you couldn't be justified by the Law of Moses.

So I realized that the more self-occupied I was, the more I was thinking about, am I obedient enough? Are my thoughts right towards God? Am I saying this right? Am I exaggerating? Am I lying? The more I was self-occupied the worse it was. But the more I was Christ-occupied and I realized in First John 4:17, that verse rescued me: As he is -- as he is so are we. Not when we die and go to heaven -- but so are we in this world. As he is so are we in this world.

And then the Lord began to show the truth about the high priest -- as he is. Is he under God's unclouded favor?

The Holy Spirit says, "Yes." So are you in this world.

Is he accepted by God? I said, "Yes." So are you in this world. Will he ever be rejected by God? So are you in this world!

I got radical about that because it delivered me from self. One of the most painful things that you can experience in life is not just physical, is not so much physical pain

as it is being self-occupied to the extent that you're self-occupied -- to that extent you are in pain. But to be Christ-occupied, oh, that's a radiant life. That is a life full of love, joy, and peace.

I began to preach that. But I remember, I got married, and Jessica came along. You learn about a father's love when you see your cute little baby. I remember when she was three years old she fell sick with a viral attack. I prayed, I rebuked, I cussed it out, I prayed it in; I did everything I knew how. And she was sick like about two or three days. It went on for a few days. And she was experiencing high fever and all that. You know how a father's heart feels for her.

I remember that I came to a place where I went to my study. I told my wife, "You attend to her. I need to get this from God."

I went to my study. I knelt down. I said, "God, please" -- I was weeping. I said, "God, please. I've prayed, I've done everything I know how. I don't want to see her suffer."

I saw my Bible there and the Lord said, "Pick up your Bible." And I just took my Bible and opened it at random, which is a practice I don't advocate...

[Laughter]

...with a special anointing, I guess. But I opened it to Genesis 22 where it talks about Abraham offering his son Isaac. Then I just got lost in the story how God said, "Now take your son, your only son, the son that you love," and I felt like God was really pushing it. "Take now your son, your only son, the son that you love and offer him on the mountain that I will show you."

I began to see that here is a picture of Christ, that God would offer his son, his only son, the son that he loves. Because we'll never know how much God loves us until we know how much God loves Jesus because he gave Jesus up for us.

When I read that, I got lost in the love of God. I saw on the cross -- I began to see how Jesus wept and cried and suffered for our forgiveness. And he cried, "My God, my

God, why have you forsaken me?" It's the only time Jesus ever addressed his father as "my God" so that we can address God as "my father." So that we can say, "My father, my father, why have you so blessed me?" So I got lost in that beautiful story.

And I saw how Isaac carried the wood, just like Jesus carried the cross up that mount and how God stopped Abraham, the pangs of killing his son. God never spared himself. When he came to it, God spared not his own son. So I saw that God gave up the son that he loved for me.

And all of the sudden when I felt that love of God, now I began to weep; not because of my daughter, who was still crying at the other side, but the moment I wept and felt God's love, her crying stopped. She's been crying for like two or three days almost nonstop. And I went over and she was sound asleep. And when she woke up she was completely well. It wasn't something I prayed for, asked for, but I began to experience amazing things.

And I began to realize, when people experience the love of God, it cast out their fears, it frees them from guilt. I think that Jesus came to reveal that name Father. I petition the names of God, El Shaddai, Yahweh, Elohiym, all that is fine but there is one name that he came to reveal. And he says, "I have manifested thy name to my disciples and that's the name Father." That's why the Pharisees could not take it because he made God so close -- God so near. He made it family.

James: Well, you're being such a blessing. I love this girl that's here by me.

Joseph: Yeah, she is beautiful! Easy to love!

James: When you talked to me on the phone.

Joseph: You make her look very young!

[Laughter]

James: This is my daughter!

Joseph: I'm sorry!

Betty: He takes good care of me!

James: You said something very sweet about her and if you say something nice about our children or our grandchildren or about my wife, it really touches me. I have an idea that when somebody is able to say something really nice about Jesus' bride, and about the Father's children, it really makes him happy. You commented that you see Jesus in this girl?

Joseph: Yes! Every time I watch your program, when I look at Betty, it is like I see Jesus in her; the sweetness, the love of Jesus just oozes out of her. She makes you look good!

[Laughter]

James: It's really the only reason they listen. And normally, when we get through doing the show my staff says, "We're going to edit you out of that show."

[Laughter]

Betty: You were talking earlier about your daughter and how ill she was and you just kind of went and got alone with God. I felt like God was saying, "You got lost in him and you got wrapped up in him."

That's a choice we have to make. We have to really come to him and say, "Okay, God. I'm at the end of myself," which is where he is waiting for us to get, the end of ourselves -- that we get lost in him. And then God is able to do what he's already ready to do in us and through us and those that we come in contact with.

Joseph: That's what the power of right believing is all about. It is about focusing on Jesus and his obedience.

In the scripture it says in Romans 5:19: By one man's disobedience many were made sinners. So that's Adam's sin. By one man's obedience, many will be made righteous. So sinners sin because they are sinners. We're not sinners because we sin. We are sinners because Adam sinned. So Adam's sin made us sinners, therefore we sin.

Now by the same token, it sounds so unfair; doesn't it? But by the same token, this is the divine unfairness. By one man's obedience, we're made righteous. When we believe that it does not produce licentiousness, it produces -- I always say this: Right believing produces right living.

How come sometimes we have more faith in what Adam has done than what Jesus has done. For example, when we were sinners, we knew we were taught, we were preached to and all that that you cannot save yourself by good works. Only Christ can save you. In other words, what the first Adam did was so powerful that we cannot undo it by our good works. No matter what good you do, you are still a sinner. You need to be born again. But now that we are saved and we are made righteous by that one man's obedience, how come sometimes, when we sin or we fall, they tell us now you are unrighteous, you need to get right. In other words, I can undo what Jesus did, just in one day by one act. Whereas when I was a sinner I can't even undo what Adam did, and we're not even talking about the "much more" of the book of Romans, the "much more" of what Jesus has done. We are putting them both on the same ground and we don't even have enough respect and appreciation for what Jesus has done.

Believing right will always produce right because the essence of the gospel is the just shall live by faith, or I can say it like this, the just shall live by right believing. So that's a lot of preaching on right living -- right living. And we all want right living but how to get there from here? Right believing? We need to get right believing in our hearts and our thoughts, and one of the best ways is to know that as he is so are we in this world. I've got people who are bad tempered and addictions and the book has a lot of testimonies of many from America, especially those who are --

[Laughter]

You guys are quite a mess!

[Laughter]

I'm teasing.

James: No greater truth ever spoken!

[Laughter]

Joseph: And the thing is that many of the testimonies are on freedom from addictions, drugs, eating disorders, depression, and especially, pornography, sexual sins.

I've got a young man from New York who shared that he's trained in the martial arts so he understands discipline. But he has been hooked to pornography ever since he was 13 and now he's in his 20s. He says that "I use my discipline and will power to overcome it, it got worse. But when I began to confess and believe that I am the righteousness of God in Christ. 'Father, I thank you. You've made me righteous in Christ.' And even in the midst of my sin, I would say that. I would confess it." He says that now, he wrote to me, "Pastor Prince, just to let you know that it's been more than a year, or longer than that, I've not watch pornography ever since -- no desire to." And he says he is a testimony of what grace can do.

James: That's huge! In the light of his glory and grace, the things of the world grow strangely dim. I don't think anything ever lifted a load off of me. I was preaching the Bible, carrying it but it wasn't carrying me. And I came to be consumed by the person of the word as a preacher who was defeated -- an incredible change. And it's that grace that he wants to keep working in us. And what I hear coming from you in such a free flow is that ever flowing revelation of that grace, the manifestation of it, and the release of it has transforming power.

Would you agree that that river coming from Joseph is like a river of healing and transformation? Do you thank God for sending a man -- and this is very, very important -- a man sent from God, by God, and those that have ears to hear, hear what the spirit -- not Joseph -- the spirit is saying to the church, and heed, rend your heart not your garments and receive the truth that transforms.

This is a fantastic book! I found myself literally being spiritually energized as I read it. I found my mind being affected and so anxious to meet you. I will let you know and I pray everybody watching in here will devote yourself.

I will pray for you, a shield, a covering of the Lord on you and your family. I pray one of the things that even as we visited briefly, that you'll always remember, no matter what happened, Jesus kept escaping to be only with the Father because that's where you identify with him. I pray you will do that because when you're gifted, the church can tend to take you beyond even the Father's will. He only did what he saw the Father doing and moving in the fullness of time.

So I pray -- would you pray he will guard his time? And we'll help him. I just thank God for you. Joseph, you shared that God had given you a real love for what you saw people doing, missionaries, even in what we were doing.

I want to show all of you something and I've been on television a long time now, about 45 years, and I've been all over the world in missions. I've never been as moved as I was when I saw what you're about to see. I really pray that you'll lean in -- and you talk about an occasion for grace, in its purest expression -- I want you to lean in and I want you to listen.

On the mission field

Announcer: She moved so slowly. No, she hardly moved at all. And no tears fell because that well had run dry. While no picture of health, Roen has been drained of life -- the kind of life found in your role as a mother. Death came. It took from Roen but then it took again and again and again.

Subtitles:

>> I had 12 kids, but seven of them died. I only had a little breastmilk, it wasn't enough. I had no choice but to supplement with water.

Announcer: In this heat, the average person can survive only a few days without water. Though this water might extend a life, it eventually takes it, especially children because their immune system is too weak for that fight.

Subtitles:

>> This is our only water source. It feels like something has been taken from my heart, like I have no more soul. I think I'm going crazy.

Announcer: Trauma has taken its toll but because the water which took her children is still their only source, Roen knows that unless something is done to provide clean water that at any moment she could lose all that remains.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Roen, I wish I could -- I wish I could talk to you. The beautiful brown-eyed girl; our girls had beautiful brown eyes. I can't tell you how much I want to stop the death cycle; and Betty and I are praying for that.

We are believing God to take you in his arms through arms of people all over the world who will say, "I will show you Jesus." We want to give you the water.

Betty, we have been drilling wells a long time. We want to drill another 500 this year. I especially will say you and I would give her a well; right? Whatever it would take. What do you feel when you watch that precious mother that lost so many of her children?

Betty: James, there are some times that we can't do anything when we see a loved one lose their life. There are some times when we would do everything to save a life of our loved one -- all the time. But yet when you see situations like this, there's something we can do. This mother lost seven children and doesn't know how the other five will

make it, James. She knows what is killing them, it's the water. But the only source they have is what she has to give them.

Please join with us. We can make a difference. We can do something about this if you'll just reach in your heart and ask God what he would have you to do. We can make the difference between life and death in so many of these children.

James: I'm totally comfortable pleading the cause of the orphan, the widow, the hurting, the suffering, because he loves them so much -- because I know what that feels like. I know what it feels like to be the one nobody noticed, nobody picked; I know what that feels like. Most of the world feels like no one noticed but God notices. He said even a sparrow, the least significant bird, not a colorful bird, the most ordinary bird, the Father sees it. And he wants to show those people through us that he sees them and he loves them.

I'm asking you to help us drill wells in her area. I'm asking you to help us drill another 500 wells. I wish we could triple that number. I'm asking you to help us drill them in the designated areas that the missionaries have shown us, 500.

Now listen to me. They're \$4800 each. \$48, basically you divide it out, will give ten people water the rest of their life; \$144 will give 30. If you can give \$4800 do it! Do it! If you can give \$1200 and pray three join you or \$2400 and one join you, whatever it takes, let's do our part.

Go to the phone, dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check, or you can go online LifeToday.org.

Father, I pray that every person would take joy in saying to Roen, I'll help save your children. I'm going to lighten your load. I'm going to show you love; in Jesus' name. Don't let anything keep you from giving a cup of water in Jesus' name in love. Don't let a busy, don't let anything stop you. I'm going to be an answer to that woman's heart cry and her prayer. I'm going to be!

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 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. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 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 you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: If you help us with any gift to give a cup of water, we would be happy to send you *The Power of Right Believing* by Joseph Prince. And you encourage your friends to get it, and let's start believing right.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thank you to Joseph Prince?