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Week 7 WFL: Last Week
Steve Scott and Amy Smalley

Randy: Are there some words that can change your life? No matter whether you've been a believer a long time or maybe you don't believe in Christ, there are some words that can. And our guests today are going to tell you about some of them. Sheila, I'm thrilled to have Steve Scott back with us.

Sheila: I'm so glad he's here. If you saw the show on Tuesday then I'm sure you've already told about 53 people to tune in today. If you haven't, you still have time to go call them and say, "Listen to this." Because there are some books that you read that make an impact in your life but there are other books that contain the words of Christ that will eternally change your life. That's what we have today.

Randy: Welcome Steve Scott to *LIFE Today*!

[Cheers & Applause]

And the lovely lady on the end is Amy Smalley. Amy is related to a gentleman you may know named Gary Smalley, her father-in-law. Amy, welcome to *LIFE Today*!

Amy: Thank you!

Randy: This will be fun because what we've got here, of course, the guy who wrote the book and of course he is excited about it. But I think it's an almost a little more persuasive and impressive when someone who read it can say yeah, it's actually all it's cracked up to be.

Sheila: I think that's the proof of the fruit when somebody else gets hold of the book. Amy, let me just ask you. When you had an opportunity to -- when *Jesus Speaks* was put into your hands, how has this impacted your life?

Amy: What I love about when *Jesus Speaks* is it actually is like Jesus is actually speaking to you. I love that. It starts out with scripture and there's some detail, a story, and it's amazing how this allows the scripture to come to life.

Sheila: I thought about you as a wife, as a mom, because I'm thinking, a lot of our audience are thinking, well, how would that help me be a better wife? How would that help me be a better mom?

Amy: Oh, it's an encouraging thing to really be able to hear from Jesus and to be able to say, "Oh, what are you going to have for me today, dear Jesus?" And then the encouragement and just the fulfilling; and to be able to say, okay these are Jesus' words and if I abide by these and I obey them he is faithful in his goodness and his promises to really impact me and not only for me to have a life but to have that abundant life.

Randy: I know that Steve's not going to say this so I'll ask you, Amy. If you want to know what Jesus said you just read the Bible; right? Surely there is something going on with the way God is using Steve to communicate Christ's words that's a little different, that's maybe something that is connecting with us today. Is there something in the style of the way Steve presents Christ's words that made it just a little different?

Amy: I think for me to be able to open it up and be able to make the connections between scripture and then today's life. And the way that it's written is its saying, "This is my child. You are loved by me."

And over and over again, it's speaking, "My child, listen to me. Obey my commands. I love you. I care for you. I want to..."

And when you have that, that backing up of the scriptures of being able to look at the scripture but then also being able to have it come to life and it's personalized for you, that I think, is what has made the biggest impact for me.

Sheila: I think a lot of young moms will relate to you. But I want to ask about Gary. You talk about someone like Gary Smalley years and years of profound ministry, how God has used that man in our nation. I'm wondering Steve, you and he have a very close relationship.

Steve: Gary and I became friends in 1973. By '75 we were best friends. He changed my whole life by getting me into the book of Proverbs. I was flunking out of every job I had. He really kind of forced me to start reading a chapter a day, writing down the wisdom and insights. And by applying those to my work, the Lord changed everything. We built companies that have done billion of dollars in sales. And all of that came through --. Then I had the joy of helping Gary launch his ministry, writing his first two books and publishing his first two books back in the '70s and then we did all those videos.

So we've always been very, very close. I was ready to give up on *Greatest Words Ever Spoken* halfway through it. It had taken a year; it was the hardest thing I'd ever done. He read one topic, started crying, and said, "You've got to keep going." So that's why that got done. *Greatest Words* is a wonderful tool for diving deep in the words of Christ by subject. But you've almost got to be already dedicated to do that.

And so what happened with *Jesus Speaks* is Jesus made 21 promises to those who would abide in his Words. Most Christians I know today, even Christian leaders, I haven't met too many who once they understand what that means to abide in his Words, they'll have to tell you, I don't know what Jesus said. I didn't know he gave 153 commands. I didn't know he gave 108 conditional promises where he says, "If you do this, I'll do that." They didn't know he made -- this was a surprise to your dad, 125 statements about his relationship with the father. That's not --. We don't abide in his Word.

So I wanted to create something that would give people a very easy gateway to begin the process of abiding in Jesus' words. Jesus said -- it's really interesting -- in John chapter eight Jesus is talking to a bunch of skeptical Jewish people and they're not really friendly. But after he says a few things, it says, "And many of the Jews believed in him." Now listen to this. "And he said to those who believed in him..." So they're brand-new baby believers, minutes old, "If you abide in my word you will become my true disciples; and you'll know the truth and the truth will set you free," in essence from the mastery of sin.

So this incredible promise of discipleship is not to his disciples, not to great teachers, to these brand-new baby believers! So that means that that principle applies to anyone. I have grandchildren that are seven and eight years old. I can now tell them, you can become a disciple of Christ as an eight year old. All you need to do is learn how to abide in Jesus' words. And that's what this is about: Abiding in his Words.

Randy: What does that mean to you? Does it mean reading every day?

Steve: It means number one, according to the Greek, no, no. It means putting them in your mind. It doesn't mean you have to memorize them because that's the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus identified 11 ministries of the Holy Spirit; one of which he will bring to your remembrance, "Whatever things I have said unto you." So I have hundreds of scriptures that I speak of verbatim but it is not because I've memorized them. It's because the Holy Spirit is performing this ministry in me that Jesus promised.

If you don't abide in his Words in the first place, you rob the spirit of that ministry in your life. So what's so neat, abiding in his Words means first of all putting them into your mind by words

in you, and then once I read them, then you'll see the Holy Spirit will whisper in your ear. You're about to do something and he'll say, "Hey remember, Jesus said this."

And you'll go, "Oh, yeah!" And you'll move in this direction instead of that direction. See that's abiding in his Words. And he made the promises, like I said, these 21 amazing promises to those who would abide in his Words.

Sheila: It's interesting, I think of the number of people who write to me and say, "I so wish I knew the will of the Lord. How do I know the will of the Lord?" I think it's not hidden. Is it? Christ revealed his will.

Steve: There is not one question you have today that is an important question -- not one -- that Jesus hasn't answered already. There's not one issue you will ever face that he hasn't already told you how to deal with it. You told me a minute ago about your dad. Well, I know Jesus has addressed that. You don't have to be under any burden any longer. Once you know what he said, it releases you and frees you.

365 days: There is 365 teachings of Christ in this; over 700 red-lettered statements and purposely Random House printed them in red. So those red-lettered statements jump out at you. And every entry is based entirely on what Jesus said on that topic.

So from beginning to end... and that's what Charles Stanley said that I love. Through *Jesus Speaks* he said, "I'm certain that the readers will come into a more intimate relationship with the Father as they daily read the words of Jesus."

Sheila: That's so powerful! I mentioned to Steve before we actually went on the air that my dad died when I was five and it was a hard thing to grow up without a father. The fact that through the words of Christ that we would -- I think of the number of people listening in who maybe your dad didn't die but maybe you had a really bad relationship with your father. Maybe your father never spoke anything kind into your life. How will this impact the life of those people?

Steve: It changes everything. In fact, there are days where the headline -- there is a headline for each day. One is about being overwhelmed and stressed. How many of you, audience, how many of you have been stressed sometime in the last 30 days? -- Raise your hand. Do you know Jesus has specifically addressed how he can relieve you of that stress?

How many of you have been really truly worried about something? -- Raise your hand. Okay. He tells us how to deal with that worry. He made dozens of statements about how to deal with our worry but if you don't know it you can't write a check on it. When you know what Jesus

said about something, it goes into your faith bank account. And once it's there you can start living by faith and stepping out on faith. And then he performs his promises to you for stepping out on faith. That's what's amazing. We think of faith as being something religious. It's not! It's receiving a word from Christ in context and then doing it.

Sheila: Amy, let me just ask you another question because I think -- I don't know your back story like I don't know how old you were when you became a believer. But I wonder how this fresh understanding of meditating on the words of Jesus, how has that impacted your daily spiritual life and how you see yourself in Christ?

Amy: I grew up in the church so I'm much like some other people that are in the audience. I can remember my mother reading scripture and being so excited about scripture. And be like, oh, she is reading in like Leviticus or something and she's like being all enthralled with it. I'm going really? Really?

What's happened by diving into this and by really reading it, I'm able to see some of the cross-references. I can remember when I was running into something about how Jesus was talking about, "I have come to set the captives free, to bind the brokenhearted."

I'm like, "Oh, my gosh! I think I remember that. Wait a minute, that was in Isaiah. Where was that? And oh, my gosh! I really do like this stuff and I know it."

And it is making a connection for me that when you really are patient enough and allow the Holy Spirit to really minister to you that it does come alive. I also work with couples. I do marriage intensives. At the Smalley institute we are amazingly overwhelmed by what God is able to do through this. But I always tell people a marriage crisis is a faith crisis. And this part of *Jesus Speaks* and being able to really latch on to and being able to say what part of this is my faith crisis? Is it the part of my spouse may divorce me? ...May do all these things.

But I have so many couples that... The ones that are really able to weather the storms, they are diving deep. They are diving deep into the Holy Spirit, investing that into their lives which makes God say to me, "You trust me? Do you trust me? I will walk through this with you."

And it is amazing how I'm able to kind of walk through it just to be an advocate of God, an advocate of Christ to be able to say, "We'll walk with you as you're walking with Christ."

Randy: Now, didn't you and your husband Michael go through this together?

Amy: Yes! Yes! We love to kind of go through it and do the devotions together. He'll do his, I'll do mine, and then we'll kind of say, "Okay, what did you really get out of this? And what did God speak to you in it?" And it is just an amazing dialogue as a couple for us to be able to go through together.

Steve: One thing that's neat is Jesus said, "Only the Father knows the Son, and only the Son knows the Father and those to whom he chooses to reveal Him." Well, he reveals the Father through his Words.

And when Gary started this, Gary started this on May 30th and he was kind of down. He is dependent now; he's never been dependent. He's always been independent. Now he's dependent on sweet Amy and Michael. He was down, and that day the title was "Cheer up." He reads it and he texts me at 5:30 in the morning and says, "This book is changing my life."

And I started getting voicemails and text messages almost every day from him. Then about three weeks into it he says, "Steve, you know what's happened?"

Now this is about 50 years of ministry -- he said, "I'm getting to know the Father in Jesus. I've always known about them, now I'm getting to know them." He says, "It's changing my life."

Randy: What do you think this will do for someone who maybe does not consider themselves a Christian? Maybe they're watching this show to get entertainment from Christian television or something; I used to do that too.

[Laughter]

But for someone who is curious about Christianity or about Christ, "What does he mean?" Is this a good starting point? I think it would be the best place to start.

Steve: I actually wrote it from a perspective of two Christians, because that's really what -- Christ gives so many statements, hundreds and hundreds of statements to believers. But this pastor friend of mine who has a mega church, he said it's going to become the number one evangelistic tool of his church. He says because it makes Christ alive and brings him into the day. He said it takes him out of the picture in the foyer and it brings him into our everyday life.

He said, "I can tell you right now, our people will be giving it out to their kids that are rebellious that have walked away, teenagers."

What it does is show Christ for who he is, alive today interacting one-on-one with us. That's a Jesus that has not been portrayed to most people. Even Muslims -- I have friends that are giving

right now Greatest Words to Muslims because Muslims consider Jesus a prophet. And instead of talking about the religion, they want to see what that prophet said. The same thing here, they're not going to see Jesus as the author of a religion but they're going to see him as he really is, as he proclaims himself. And that's one of the goals. So we believe it's going to have a real ministry to literally everybody.

Honestly, what motivated me initially to start the project, it real quickly morphed, I have grandchildren. I have grandchildren in Philadelphia. They don't get to see Grandpa much. I wanted them to come to know Jesus as he is, not as he's been portrayed.

Randy: What better way to get to know someone than to read their words. What better way to honor someone than to do their words. That's what we've been talking about.

Now you have the opportunity because we're in the last week of our Water for Life campaign where we literally take water to people who desperately need it because they don't have clean drinking water and it has terrible consequences.

In fact, I want you to journey with us to the Amazon to a remote location and see the impact that polluted water can have, and then I'm going to tell you what you can do to change that. Watch this!

On the mission field

Announcer: In a remote Amazon village, vastly unfamiliar from the world we know, lives Ticcoya. This young mother's world revolves around her children, and their care has driven her on in a world that is arguably one of the world's most challenging to live.

Open captions: The water of the river is filled with parasites. It makes us very sick. My son became sick from drinking the water. He was vomiting, he had diarrhea, and then he died.

Announcer: Resilience and instincts are a must for survival here. But some battles are never meant to be fought. Like disease-filled water against the immune system of a child.

Open captions: My little boy was a very happy boy, a very strong boy. It hurts for me to remember him.

Here, in our village we bury our lost children under our beds because it feels like they are still with us. I can dream of him running and playing and I sleep over him to cover him with my

love. I still feel so sad I lost my son. I try not to let the rest of my children see my sadness. But when they sleep at night, I cry for my lost son.

Announcer: With little choice, Ticcoya presses on, heart shattered, both from her loss and because her situation remains the same -- the same water, their only water.

Open captions: I look at my other child and wonder if she will die also.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I do want you to get Steve's book, *Jesus Speaks* because his Words will change your life. But I've got to tell you something, I want more than anything to get them water. It is not right. A mother should never have to sleep over the body of her son.

Sheila: The thing that's so heartbreaking to me about that story is the Sophie's choice of that mother. It's like do I give my child water because if I don't she'll die of thirst? Or do I give her water knowing it might kill her? No mother should have to make that choice when you and I can make a difference.

Randy: We can! And Sheila, I'll tell you, I've knelt down beside graves, graves that were smaller than graves should be. This is not right. This is an injustice. As believers, we should do justice.

Let me tell you how we do justice. We take that cup of water in Jesus' name and give it to those in need. The great thing about what we're doing is it is not just a cup of water, it's a water well for life! The average cost of a well is \$4800. Some of you can actually drill -- some of you could probably drill ten. And frankly, I wish you would. Some of you, you're like me. I need ten other people to join with me to do that -- or 100 other people.

Let me just tell you. This is the last week we're asking you to give but I'm absolutely asking you to give. Why? Because it is a joy -- it is a joy to share the love of Christ with those desperately in need. Those who will die without the water -- literally water but also, the water of life of Christ.

Steve, I want to give people your book if they will ask for it and if they will participate in the outreach. Is that okay?

Steve: Amen! Well, I want to tell you and your viewers that I am so grateful because I can remember clear back to my first appearance on this show in 2006, we were drilling water wells. I can't do what you do. I can't do that. But the fact that I have a way to do that in the name of Christ through your organization, my wife and I are thrilled, my kids are excited about it.

I just want to say to the viewers, you're probably like me, you can't go to Peru. You know our company went to Peru and dug a well and the kids prior to were going four hours down to get water and four hours back -- no time for education. Just putting a well in that village meant that they could get an education because now they all had eight hours a day.

So it is not just the health but the neat thing is just think about Jesus' request that we give a cup of water in his name and it won't go unrewarded. You and I can't run down to these countries. I don't have time to go to Africa and probably most of you don't, but we have in you an arm that can go for us. The father is sending you and he lets us join in that ministry.

And I'm so grateful. And I hope you will join in time because it is life-saving and they're giving it in the name of Christ. These families don't just get the water, they get to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, something we take for granted but we can't.

Randy: We can do it but we can only do it with your help. Sheila, I know you've seen us do this now for many years. What an opportunity!

Sheila: This is so doable. If you think about the well, yeah, a cup of you might be able to do that and that's fantastic. But \$48 provides clean water for ten children for the rest of their lives. We can do this people. We can't let this happen on our watch.

Randy: Go to the phones right now. Make the best gift you can. Go online, make a gift. Just be a part as we share Water for Life around the world with people in desperate need. Go right now.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice: drink water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

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 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 people; \$48 will help

provide for 10 people; \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we would like to send you James Robison's book, *God of All Creation*. Through his personal observations of animals and wildlife, James shares heartwarming stories and spiritual lessons of God's love and grace.

With your gift of \$100 or more, be sure to request *Majesty*. This beautifully illustrated book teaches you the blessing and significance of the names of God, including Jehovah Rapha, your healer and Jehovah Jireh, your provider.

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 beautiful new "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

This is the last week! Call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip

Randy: Sheila, you think people should give some water and get *Jesus Speaks*?

Sheila: Absolutely! I would like to -- \$48 will provide clean water for ten people for their life. So I want to do ten on behalf of my son, I want to do ten on behalf of my husband, and I want to do ten myself. We can cut back on a few things we don't really need and it will make an eternal difference for these -- because not only do they get water, they hear about the water of life.

And not only that, you will get this book that will be life-changing. Just request this book, *Jesus Speaks* and we will be thrilled to send it to you.

Randy: Absolutely! Go to the phones right now. Go online and call. And join us again on *LIFE Today*.

Would you thank Amy and Steve for being with us? We appreciate you guys! -- Such wonderful words, words of Christ.

Be sure you join us again next time on *LIFE Today*! Set your D.V.R.'s to catch *LIFE Today* every day.