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Week 27/Medical Cure Partnership

Randy Robison/Sheila Walsh

Beth Moore: Spiritual Discernment #3

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Sheila Walsh is with us again today.

Sheila: Hello!

Randy: Sheila, how are you doing?

Sheila: I'm great! Thanks!

Randy: You look good!

Sheila: Thank you! I just had my hair cut.

Randy: In today's world we're told you're not to discriminate, you're not to even judge but Beth is talking to us about discernment which requires a bit of judgment, a bit of decision as to what's right and what's wrong, what's best.

Sheila: I think that's the gift of a believer, spiritual discernment; to be able to tell what's good, what's of God, and what's not.

Randy: Yeah. It's good. If you've missed the series so far you can get parts one and two on our website at LifeToday.org. But right now let's go hear Beth. Part three: spiritual discernment.

Begin video clip

Beth: I just wonder, how many of you have been punked? Anybody? Betrayed? Misled? Taken advantage of? Taken for a fool? Duped? Flat out lied to? Looked back on something you swallowed whole and think, what an idiot! When was the last time you believed something you shouldn't have? Or you accepted something or welcomed something that you terribly regretted that bit you on the back of the neck so hard you still feel shamed by it? What was it? When was the last time you just had that feeling inside you could not shake but you could not quite define it? When was the last time? A whole lot of life we've already established is black and white but then we get into that gray zone and it is in that gray zone where you and I have the biggest capacity to get sideswiped.

In Paul's words to Timothy, we've come into an age of seduction -- "seducing spirits," he said. What that means is we've got a regular warfare. We've got opposition, which is a normal part of the experience in the realm for believers but then we've got oppression; that's when the enemy somehow is in it now. Where we can sense something. We can have warfare but we can know it. But every now and then, there comes a time of seduction when we did not see it coming. It just was not black and white. It was not clear to us.

Now somebody is going to be thinking right about now on the other side of that screen, you know I can see, Beth, where you would need it but I really can't see where spiritual discernment comes into play in my own life. Like you definitely shouldn't believe things that people tell you like that and then go broadcast them only to find that it is a lie. I can see it with your life but I'm not sure I get it with mine and I would beg to differ. Can you imagine how much it could be the salvation of marriages?

My man always comes with me on these tapings. It's just been something again, when we're talking about how did we know? It is not something he does the rest of the time. But we knew that for this place, for these tapings he was supposed to come and provide a physical covering. He always prays for me over the phone for the rest of the events on the calendar, but God told us early on. You say how did we know? We somehow knew it -- in our spiritual gut, this is what I'm talking about. So he always comes with me.

He would be able to attest to the fact that some years ago in the business that he was in for so long, I got a strange feeling about a woman -- a strange feeling. And I said, "Listen, I really feel like --." He knows I'm not just the big jealous type. I said, "I really want you to be aware. I think that you are going to have a very subtle advance come to you." And he knew it did not mean money.

[Laughter]

"I want you to be on the lookout!"

He comes back the next day and says to me, "It happened exactly that way!" He says, "I want you to know, Beth." He said, "I had no idea she even felt that way. No idea!"

Came and told him she was going to be leaving the workplace because of her feelings and he acted like -- he said, "I acted like I had no idea what she was talking about." He said, "I just saw her and said, 'Well, have a good life. We're glad you stopped by!'"

[Laughter]

You know what I'm saying? Like, "Glad you came -- glad you're going!" And he said she walked out the door and he shut it and went, "Oh, that was it! That was it!"

How did I know? I don't know how to explain it! Listen, we could get all wiggy here and like we can manipulate everybody we know but it wouldn't have been the spirit had it not come out exactly that way. Then it would just been imagination -- it would have been jealousy, it would have been suspicion! But it wasn't, it was God! It was God! And he placed a warning on us.

The salvation of our marriages -- certainly it could be the salvation of our churches! If we began in our churches to operate with spiritual discernment, can you imagine the difference? Protection in all sorts of relational entanglements. It could keep us from taking up employment where even if we went -- I'm not trying to make something mystical out of it, but if we went to an interview and we thought, uh-huh. Something is creepy here. Something just feels creepy here. You know what? Don't go to work there! Don't go to work there!

[Laughter]

The Word of God tells us that in the latter days there will be greater deception. I want to tell you something, all of us would say, all of us have heard this phrase that this is the information age. We live in the laptop age. I can get all of my information that I need off of my phone. I can check my e-mails. I can get on the Internet. I can find where the nearest Starbucks is. I can do all of these things straight from the apps on my telephone. We live in the information age. The information age presumes a deception age; the more information the more deception because there is just more potential to do it!

In every realm of social networking you've got opportunity, you've got blogs, you've got people taking up entire identities that are not true because they can pose it, they can become someone online that they never dreamed of being otherwise. I'm not saying everybody does it, I'm saying it's happening. And everyone I talk to has a story about somehow being duped on a blog, on a Facebook account, on something that turned out to be so different than it seemed.

I want you to turn with me to Second Timothy chapter three and we'll begin to close up this first half of our two-part series in Second Timothy three. Anybody think they can use any of these kinds of lessons? I need to know what I cannot with my human thinking begin to know. Second Timothy chapter three.

See here's the thing, we don't want it to get where all the freedom of speech is removed or we lose our freedom too. We can't just have it all policed because that's where we'll lose our ability to speak the truth of the gospel of Christ on salvation. So there's got to be another way to get around it and that way is to be discerning -- to be discerning.

Second Timothy, chapter three. Let me show you something about it. This is the wildest chapter. It begins to tell us about perilous times in the last days -- in the latter days there will be perilous times. But unlike Matthew chapter 24, that tells us about the ecological disasters and the environmental disasters and circumstantial disasters, earthquakes, famines, all sorts of things that will erupt in the last of days, the witness of Christ going into every nation and people group, this particular chapter tells it from a social logical point of view. What will be perilous about the latter days according to Second Timothy chapter three is people. People will be this... this... this. It starts by saying:

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. (NIV Anglicized)

Sound familiar to anybody? Sound like the days we live in? Well, drop down now and I want you to look at verses 12 and 13 of the same chapter.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (NIV Anglicized)

I want you to get your darling little pen out if you have one. You can get out a pen that is not darling if you can find one. I want you to underline that verse if you mark in your Bibles because it tells us exactly what we're talking about here. How to combat what we're up against because it says:

You will see that evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse deceiving and being deceived. (NIV Anglicized)

If we have ever in our lives needed discernment of the spirit we need it now because we live in the age of deception. We are living in the age of the poser and we need to know what's true, what's authentic, and what's not. We've got to operate past the things that we can see with our human eyes into what the Holy Spirit is telling us and what we're going to call our spiritual gut. What is he saying to you? Is he warning you or is he saying, "Move in -- without hesitation go with these people." Or is he saying, "You back off and run for your ever loving life!" What is the Holy Spirit telling you?

I want you to read on before we conclude this part. I want you to see what it says next. Many of you know some of the verses coming up but I want you to see them in this context. Verse 14:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Okay, when we're talking about spiritual discernment, it is important for us to understand that we're talking about something we're going to operate in most accurately. Remember we're in the gray zone right now. Where it is black and white, go with black and white. Sometimes he says flat out, "You don't need to pray about this, flee from sexual immorality!" I mean it goes, "Flee from it!"

You don't have to think like, okay, now this is gray. Oh, no it is not gray. It really is not gray. Am I supposed to work -- am I supposed to be an exotic dancer? No! No! That is not gray. I'm praying this through. No! I'm not making fun. Listen, we all have all sorts of temptations, all sorts of pasts and all sorts of histories but I'm just telling you, some things we can just go, "That is black or white."

Do I need a church that teaches the scriptures? I don't have to pray through --. "Now they never do open their Bible but I'm trying to think, God may have us here for --." No! God does not have you there for a reason. Move! Move! Unless you're the pastor; if you are, start teaching the scriptures. Some things you don't have to pray about them; they're either go or stay.

"I don't know, I just don't really feel the same way about my husband as I used to. I wonder..." No, you're staying. You know what I'm saying? Some things are like black and white. But this one, this is in the gray zone here. And what we're going to find out is that we will most accurately discern the Holy Spirit when we have an operating knowledge of God's word.

I'm not saying we have to know the basic foundation of every book, all 66 books of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I'm saying the more we get to know God through his word the more we're going to be accurate when it comes to matters of spiritual discernment. Why? Because the Holy Spirit will never work contrary to God's word; it was God-breathed. He will always be congruent. Always -- it will always line up. So we've got to know God's word because sometimes we're going to go, "I'm feeling that because this is what the scripture says and that's not what we were doing." That's the best way to do it.

But here's what I want to say and the first time I ever taught this, I left this out. And I'm so glad - - this has been something God has been working in my heart -- I'm so glad he brought it back to my remembrance this time. If you have no background in God's word but you still have a feeling

in your spirit, if you received Christ some time ago but you've just never grown up in him and the Word of God and you're thinking, then I can forget it where spiritual discernment is concerned. You may still -- because his Holy Spirit is in you, he may still check you on something. You might still get a feeling.

So I'm not saying that it never applies to you. I am saying this, go to someone you know who does have a working knowledge of the scriptures and ask them, "This is what I'm feeling. This is what I think that God is telling me through the indwelling spirit. Do you think that I'm right here?" And begin to know God through his word. But even until then, is he telling you something you need to respond to? Can you find out from someone is it congruent with the Word of God? What is it he is telling us? I need to be smarter than I am. I need to be wise about matters in this age of the poser. If you have a teenager in your home, you need spiritual discernment!

Audience: Amen!

Beth: If you're a teacher... A friend... A relative... A neighbor... There is so much going on that we cannot see. The Holy Spirit can make known to us, can reveal to us, disclose to us what our human eyes would never see. If he can do it, I want it! I want it! That's what this series is about. Let's pray together.

Father, we ask you in the mighty name of Jesus to work this work even as we study it together. That even today, Father, in something that you're doing, would you just show us, God that we really can hear you. That when you have a mind to speak, LORD, you are perfectly capable of letting us know in matters, Father, where it's got to be right or it's got to be left. It's got to be this way or it's got to be that way. You really do have specific will in mind for us. Tell us, God, show us what we need to see. Give us ears to hear what we need to understand. Open our spiritual eyes and enlighten us. In the mighty and miraculous name of Jesus.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: Always a blessing when Beth teaches on *Wednesdays in the Word*. I need to mention we have a great devotional book by Beth. It is available right now. It is called *Blessed Mornings and Restful Nights*. We all could use more of those.

Sheila: I know one of the things I love about Beth's writing is she's funny and approachable and real but very profound. I mean real spiritual nuggets.

Randy: Oh yeah! I've been listening to her for years and I still listen and I go, "Wow! What depth!" She just knows how to unpack the word.

You can get that devotional today when you'll support our medical mission. We're doing something a little different here at *LIFE*. We've done water and food and rescued girls out of sex trafficking. We're doing something special right now where we go and we provide surgeries or we provide braces for children who have been born with a birth defect known as clubfoot. Sheila, you got to witness it firsthand.

Sheila: It was really amazing. The thing that blew me away even more was watching those who had not got help. Literally, we were in the van and we're driving to the hospital and suddenly one of our crew said, "Let's stop for a minute." We got out and there were these two men in wheelchairs. Their feet are so badly malformed. Literally, their whole life now is simply begging. So if they don't get help when they're a child, that's their future.

Randy: That's tough! Can we go take a look at one of those stories that you got to see in the Dominican Republic with someone, a mother?

Sheila: I fell in love with this woman and her baby and her family. Watch this!

On the mission field

Sheila: Did you know that one out of every 750 live births the children have clubfeet? But the amazing thing is fixing it is really simple. Our darling Nelsario will have to wear a plastic cast for a time. Then he'll have to wear braces for a time. But all of those simple things are non-invasive; will mean that this boy, this beautiful boy will grow up to have a normal life. And it's not just here in the Dominican Republic but we're working in 18 countries with children just like Nelsario who need help.

So would you call that number on your screen? Or would you go to LifeToday.org and make the best possible gift so that all around the world there will be boys and girls that finally are able to kick off those braces and run? And it's our prayer that because of your love they will be running into the arms of Jesus.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: Sheila, what do you even say?

Sheila: The amazing thing was I got to take me son with me, Christian came with me. He's 19 and he was moved by this mom because she's malnourished. She can't even produce enough breast milk. So my 19 year old son looked for his backpack and found his wallet and emptied out his wallet and gave it to this mom to buy milk because he said, "Mom, on campus at university we're worrying about what size of pizza we should get. She can't even provide milk for her child. Her baby is hurting and broken and she can't even feed him."

I just know if you'd been there with us, you would have wrapped your arms around this woman. She is beautiful. She loves the Lord. She has faith. She prayed. The thing is you and I get to do something. Those little braces, Randy for the feet that I took little Angel Davie out with his mom and we got his very first step because it's \$17! If just cut out fancy coffee for one week we could help one child; \$34 for two; \$68 four kids are going to have the chance to run.

Randy: As a parent I can't think of anything worse than that sense of helplessness when your child is in need, when your child is suffering. I would hate to face that. And to think for a lifetime.

A lot of these kids I'm told they are seen as cursed when they are born with that.

Sheila: One of the dads that I talked to said, "My greatest worry for my child is some people think that there is something evil in our family or our child would not have been made like that." But thing that's amazing is so many of these moms and dads that I met, we went to the hospital and they all have a worship service before they go and get treated. I watched these moms and dads raising their arms in worship before they go and take their little one to get help. That's what we want to do all around the world. What we want to do is provide for 10,000 children. That sounds like a lot but when you think it's just \$17 we can do it! And we want to do 400 surgeries because some kids need a little bit more help. But its only \$400! A lot of you can do that. In fact, God really moved my son and I and said, "We're stepping up and we're going to pay for some of these surgeries."

So I just want to ask you, would you do your best? Would you give your best gift? You can call the number, you can go online to LifeToday.org. Let's make a difference. Let's set the children of the world running!

Randy: Let's send a real clear message: you are not cursed! Jesus came to break that curse. You are blessed! As Christians, we are reaching out, we are blessing you, we are giving you a future because that's what you're doing. You're giving these children a chance at life. They don't have to be beggars.

This is the last week we're going to ask you to do this. I'm asking you... look at that Sheila!

Sheila: It changes their life!

Randy: It changes their lives! You can do it. Go to the phones, go online, give the best gift you can today.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Children born with birth defects in underdeveloped nations are often overlooked, uncared for, and even abandoned. For tens of thousands every year born with a condition known as clubfoot, their deformity leads to a struggle to just survive. The good news is there is a simple and life-changing solution. This summer with your support, *LIFE Outreach* will provide 10,000 children with corrective braces that will give them a chance to walk like any normal child.

With the cost of \$17 per brace your gift of \$34 will help provide two children with corrective braces, \$68 will provide for four children, and \$102 will help give six children braces and the opportunity to walk. And for children with a much more severe need gifts of \$400, \$800, or even \$1200 will help provide life-changing corrective surgery for one, two, or three children in need.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Beth Moore's devotional, *Blessed Mornings and Restful Nights*. With your gift of \$102 or more to provide six children with corrective braces you'll also receive the journal edition N.I.V. Bible.

Finally with your gift of \$1200 or more, you may receive "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture. This summer join with us to give children hope for a future. Let's give them a chance to walk.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Sheila: Did you know that one out of every 750 live births the children have clubfeet? But the amazing thing is fixing it is really simple. Our darling Nelsario will have to wear a plastic cast for a time. Then he'll have to wear braces for a time. But all of those simple things are non-invasive; will mean that this boy, this beautiful boy will grow up to have a normal life. And it's not just here in the Dominican Republic but we're working in 18 countries with children just like Nelsario who need help.

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End of clip

Sheila: I know that you don't give to get. I know that but when you do we just want to say thanks. We have some lovely gifts that we'd love to send to you thanking you for making such a difference!

Randy: Beth Moore's devotional is one of those gifts so request it. This is the last week we're offering it so this is your last chance to get it. So make the phone call or go online. And join us again every day right here on *LIFE Today*.