

7/14/16
Week 29: Mission Feeding
Sheila Walsh
Anne Graham Lotz

Sheila: Hello! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. My name is Sheila Walsh. James and Betty will be back with you soon but I have the awesome privilege of being on this program today.

Why don't I just tell you a couple of things about my guest? Her father, Billy Graham has called my guest, "the best preacher in the family." The New York Times named her "One of five of the most influential Evangelicals of her generation." Pretty amazing! Her Just Give Me Jesus revivals have been held in more than 30 cities, 12 different countries, hundreds of thousands of attendees.

But this new book, *The Daniel Prayer: The prayer that moves heaven and changes nations*. I believe, by God's grace and mercy, could have the potential to impact the future of our nation.

Would you please welcome my guest today, Anne Graham Lotz.

Anne: Sheila, thank you!

Sheila: You're welcome. I got hold of the book a few days ago and some days I just skim if I have a few guests and I don't -- but the minute I started this book I had such an urgency in my spirit that this was something that really mattered. It was important. But as I thought about your life over the last couple of years, you've had a lot of stresses, a lot of things going on. What compelled you to write this book at this time?

Anne: This book has been in my heart of the Daniel prayer, which is Daniel chapter nine, has been in my heart for 15 years, Sheila. And for some reason, just in God's sovereignty, he put it on my heart in the last couple of years. So what had been sort of percolating for 15 years just came out. And I felt, when I look at our nation, we're in a mess; just every side we're in trouble and at every level. I believe it's beyond human help. I don't believe any one person can resolve it. I believe it's time for God's people to get really serious about prayer.

But I think a lot of people want to, they don't know how. They feel shy about it. We go to prayer events or we go to concerts or prayer and we let other people pray for two minutes here and two minutes there and we don't know how to enter into that serious prayer ourselves. In

The Daniel Prayer, I wrote it just following the pattern that Daniel uses in chapter nine. So it is a pattern we can follow. It is something anybody can try.

I just shared it with a friend and she said, "Anne, I finished reading it." She said, "I can do this."

It is not something that is lofty or super spiritual or up there. This is practical, how to, and it just leads you into deep serious prayer.

Sheila: For those who maybe don't have the context of what was happening in the life of Daniel, would you just give us a little background as to when Daniel prayed this prayer?

Anne: Yes. He was an amazing man. He lived in Jerusalem and when he was maybe 14 or 15 God had been warning Judah that he was going to judge them if they didn't repent of their sin. Instead, they became more defiant. So God, it says in Chronicles, he turned on them and became their enemy and he sent in the Babylonians.

So it was a 22 year process, Sheila. It wasn't quick. It was 22 years but from the first time the Babylonians attacked, Daniel was captured and he was taken 800 miles east as a prisoner in Babylon in that first, what we call deportation. He was stripped of his masculinity. His immediate superior was the chief of the eunuchs. His name was changed. He was forced -- they tried to force him to eat food sacrificed to idols, which meant that he would give tribute to these idols. He refused on that. He couldn't help his name change and what they did to his physical body but he wasn't going to give tribute to the gods.

So anyway, God honored that decision and God raised him up so that under four emperors and four world empires he became the number two man. Just because he was faithful to God, God honored him.

He was reading the book of Jeremiah and after he had been in captivity 67 years, so he was in his mid 80s and he was reading the book of Jeremiah and he came across a promise that I'm assuming was in Jeremiah chapter 29, that where God said, "After 70 years I'll bring you back from captivity because I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you a hope and a future. But you have to seek me with all of your heart." And Daniel read that and can just see the light bulbs going on thinking, I've been here 67 years. In three more years we're supposed to get out of here, who is claiming that promise?

He got on his face with prayer and fasting and sackcloth and ashes and he prayed God's Word back to him. He just reversed the thunder and held God to his Word. So that's the context. I have to tell you the end of the story, in a sense three years later God moved in the heart of

Cyrus, king of Persia. He issued an edict out of the clear blue and sent all of God's people back to Jerusalem.

Sheila: That was a direct result of the fervent intentional prayer of a godly man who would not bend the knee.

Anne: That's right. Heaven was moved and two nations were changed: The Persian Empire and also Judah.

Sheila: Where do you see us as a nation at this moment, Anne?

Anne: I believe our nation is possibly coming under what we would think of as a Romans one judgment. When we sin and refuse to repent of our sin, God backs away. Then if we continue to sin and refuse to repent he backs away further. And we get more defiant and more rebellious and shake our fists in his face, he backs away further until in a sense we're abandoned by God.

At any point you can turn to him. You can repent of your sin. In fact, that's why he took 22 years to send the Babylonians in to totally wipe out Jerusalem because I think he was waiting for them to turn to him. If they had turned to him and said, "God, we're sorry. We repent of our sin. Please protect us from the Babylonians." I believe he would have. I believe right now if our nation would get on their face -- if God's people would get on their face before God and just say, "God, we're sorry for our sin. We repent of our sin. Would you come in and forgive us and heal our land?" I believe God would.

But I see our nation and even people, Sheila, can I say, within the church, generally speaking across the board. I know there are some great churches but generally speaking the church itself has lost its focus and we've left our foundation of faith in God's Word. So we're abandoning God and I believe he is abandoning us. When he does that, what happens is he just backs away. And I think with tears coming down his face because he doesn't want any to come under judgment. He wants all to come to repentance. But he backs away and he removes his hand of protection and his hand of blessing and his hand of favor. He doesn't want to do that because he knows what happens when he backs away. But he is not going to force himself on a nation.

Right now our nation is becoming -- Romans one, he gave them over to themselves and they had a reprobate mind and they couldn't think straight, they did silly things. They were just -- it was like they lost their common sense. And I look at our nation today and it's right there. He's turned us over to ourselves.

But reversing the thunder, Second Chronicles 7:14: God, you said if your people would humble themselves and pray and seek your face and turn from our wicked ways, God, you said you would hear our prayer, you would forgive our sin and heal our land. So God, keep your word.

Sheila: It's really interesting, Anne. Sometimes social media can be a good thing and can be a very negative thing. But I've noticed, even sometimes like on Facebook and places where believers are arguing about who is going to end up in the White House. I find it kind of horrifying at how angry people can get as opposed to thinking, no matter who ends up in the White House, that will never be our hope. Our hope is at the throne of grace and mercy. Our hope is in Christ alone.

Anne: And if we're under the judgment of God, if he is backing away and he is abandoning us, then there is no politician, there is no economic reform, there is no -- anything we can -- no military, no education, nothing that would resolve the problem. -- Only repentance of sin and turning to God.

Joel chapter two says if you would rend your heart and not your garments. Stop giving this lip service and just platitudes. If you truly rend your heart and return to me, then Joel two says that, who knows that God would return to us? He would come back and he would bless us and save us from ourselves.

Sheila: I wonder what your perspective is on the fact that God's Word has made it very clear that if we do that, that he will respond, why we are the way we are? It's almost like we're in this kind of slumber. I don't know if it is that we can't be bothered or maybe people don't believe that their prayers will make a difference.

Anne: I don't know and I don't think people are going to know their prayers will make a difference until they pray -- and pray the Daniel prayer. Not just a "Now I lay me down to sleep" kind of prayer but a prayer of desperation. The thing about the Daniel prayer is that -- I don't know that you can pray it every day average, it is when you're desperate.

It is when you're attacked in San Bernardino, when you see the attack in Paris or Brussels and you wonder is it coming here? It's when you see the Trade Towers come down. It's when you see your child picked up for drugs. Or your unmarried teenage daughter comes home pregnant. Or this last summer, when I found my husband unresponsive in the pool. I can tell you, I prayed a Daniel prayer. It doesn't have to be -- it's not -- it's a cry of your heart. It's like a heart scream almost. God responds.

So he doesn't change his mind. He responds to our plea. He's a tender loving father to his children and he wants us to cry out to him and he wants to answer our prayers.

Sheila: One of the things that surprised me about your book because I read it all and honestly, and this says more about me than anything else, I was little intimidated initially because I've always felt I'm not that great at prayer. But I felt like your friend when I got to the end of it. I thought I can do this. Because you give such -- plus you're very honest, Anne, but you don't see yourself as a great prayer warrior.

Anne: No. I never have, Sheila. Prayer has always been a fight for me. I've struggled with content. I've struggled with consistency. I've struggled with concentrating. As soon as I start to pray I think about just everybody -- everything else except for what I'm supposed to pray about. So that's a battle. The victory for me is that I haven't given up yet. I still pray.

But, I'm not what I consider "a prayer warrior." I think some people are called to intercede and I believe they're almost gifted in that kind of prayer. I'm not but I know it is time to pray. I know I'm commanded to pray and I know, God has given us access into that most holy place through the blood of Jesus. He's given us the Holy Spirit so if we don't say the right words the Holy Spirit will help us. He's given us his Word that we can pray back to him. I think it is time we got serious about prayer.

Sheila: I do too! I love the fact that you're using Daniel's pattern but that he had a place that he went to three times a day. Do you have that in your own life?

Anne: I do. And I'll have to say I don't go there three times a day but I have particular place in my home where I have my Bible that I don't travel with; it's my devotional Bible, and I have a pair of glasses. I have a pen and a pencil; I have a pad of paper. I have some devotional materials and I have little volume called The Daily Light, which is just a compilation of scripture morning and evening.

And I start by reading that. Then see if God's Word will trigger something because God has things on his heart that he wants me to pray about. So it's not just coming to God and giving him a prayer list. We can do that but I believe God has things on his heart that he wants to impart to ours so that we ask him what he's wanting to give us. So I start with his Word and I talk to him and then I go through the scripture and just spend time. So that's a particular set aside place.

Daniel had an upstairs room so he was a prime minister. He went there three times a day. He opened the window towards Jerusalem that didn't even exist anymore, got down on his knees and he gave thanks. That was maybe one of the most convicting things in the Daniel prayer or in his life to me because if he had been emasculated and he was a slave -- he was a slave all of his life. He never got to go back to Jerusalem because he was too old to travel at that point that

he could go back. And he was a slave, a servant of these wicked pagan kings and three times a day he got on his knees and gave thanks to God -- such a powerful man of faith and prayer and integrity. He's one I'm looking forward to meeting when I get to glory.

Sheila: When you and I were sitting and chatting together you said something I hadn't even thought about. He had this level and commitment to pray but it was before the coming of the Holy Spirit. He didn't have -- Christ hadn't come. He didn't have the New Testament.

Anne: He didn't have the canon of scripture. He had Jeremiah obviously, the book of Jeremiah. So there was so much that he didn't have and we have so much but look what he did with what God gave him.

I was regretting with somebody that my husband, he was always one of the first ones to read my books and he moved to glory, moved to heaven before he had a chance to read the Daniel prayer. Somebody said, "Well, Anne, he doesn't matter because he is up there talking to Daniel making sure you got it right."

[Laughter]

Sheila: What do you think about my wife's new book, Daniel?

What would you say, Anne, to somebody who thinks, I've prayed and prayed in situations before and God didn't answer. What would you say when they're discouraged in their praying?

Anne: That's one of the hardest things. I have some prayers on my list like that. I can tell you they can really rattle your faith. Daniel, I end the book with an epilogue that is based on Daniel chapter 10. Because right after Daniel prays what I call "the Daniel prayer" and God answers even while he is still praying, in Daniel chapter 10 he prays and God doesn't answer. So he goes three weeks in just agony until finally when the answer comes it's revealed that there's been a huge battle in the heavenlies that has prevented the answer from coming.

So I think we need to be aware when we pray we're entering into a spiritual realm. We're entering into warfare. It's not just about us. So I think God, a lot of it has to do with timing. I've seen God do things that I wanted done now and then years later he's answered but in a way that I never would have expected -- it was not the way I prayed but he went and answered my hearts desire.

Habakkuk is a good example. When he started out praying that God would punish his nation because they were so wicked and then God said, "Well, I'm going to tell you what I'm going to

do but you won't believe it. I'm going to send in the Babylonians." And Habakkuk said, "Oh, no, don't do that!"

And then in the end he let go his prayer and he said, "If the fig tree never blossoms, if there are no cattle in the stall, if there are no figs on the vine, I will still praise the Lord. I will rejoice in the sovereign Lord who gives me feet like hinds' feet to walk on high places so I can triumph over the circumstances."

There are some prayers, Sheila we just have to let go. We just can't -- if God doesn't answer the way we want, when we want, how we want, we keep praying and ask God to give you a promise about whatever that is and then you pray it back to him so you reverse the thunder. If he still doesn't answer you continue to pray until you have the assurance he's heard and then you just let it go.

Sheila: I love that, reverse the thunder.

Anne: It's Eugene Peterson's phrase.

Sheila: Let me just read this tiny little, just this paragraph to you. If this doesn't make you want to go out and buy this book, check your pulse.

"One day you and I will join with millions upon millions of angels and other followers of Jesus singing, 'Worthy is the lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise. To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever.'"

"One day the entire universe will rock in a victory chant of praise to the lamb who was slain, who has won the victory over all his enemies. One day we're going to say that every moment we spent in prayer, that God used to achieve victory for the glory of his name was worth it."

Isn't that just the most amazing...!

But that is just so exciting to me to think we have the privilege of -- and the other thing I love about the Daniel prayer, it was all about the glory of his name. He never said it was about -- don't do it because we're worth it, Lord. It was the glory of his name.

Anne: And he prayed, we don't want to go home just because we're homesick. We don't want to get well just because we're tired of being sick. We don't want our finances resolved just because we're tired of trying to meet our budget. We want this answer to prayer for the glory of

your name. So when people see you answer this prayer that they will know there is a God in heaven. We give glory to you. It's a big difference in the motivation for your prayer.

Sheila: Because I think sometimes our society sees us as just angry at things that we don't approve of, as opposed of seeing us weeping on our knees for a nation that so desperately needs the Lord.

I'm so profoundly grateful for Anne's book. I'm going to tell you in just a little bit how you can get a hold of it because I really believe -- I don't say this very often although I love books, I love reading. I believe every believer should read this book because I think if we took this seriously, if we began to plan daily, and this is something that we believe we have a divine appointment and we can see God have mercy on this nation one more time.

But there are some people in the world at the moment who are crying out for mercy in kind of a different way. There are people who simply cannot even provide enough food for their children or enough liquid to be able for that child to be able to even see their mother's face. Would you watch this?

On the mission field

Open Captions:

"Malnutrition is so cruel to these little children." -- Jeanne Rogers

[Weeping]

Jeanne: This little girl, she is so thin. But she is so dehydrated, her eyes roll up in the top of her head. I know this breaks the momma's heart to see her little girl get like this.

[Crying]

Malnutrition is so cruel to these little children. This momma needs our help. I've been sitting here praying for her. I've been saying Jesus' name -- it's a powerful name over her. But he wants us to reach out to them. I know that I'm just in one clinic -- one little clinic and there are so many thousands like this that need our help. Lord, help us! Lord, help us! We need to save these children's lives.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That should never happen. In this day and age with everything that we have, with all

the resources we have? No mother should ever have to sit with her baby sitting in her lap whose eyes are rolled back simply because they're so dehydrated.

That was our darling Jeanne Rogers in there. Jeanne and I are going back to Angola soon. But the thing is, if we do something now the children that we help are not going to get to that stage. See we're going to minister to those children that are already there, that are in the hospital that are desperate and we're going to take them food and we're going to make sure they get proper hydration so that they're able to recover.

But the other thing that we want to do this year is we want to feed 400,000 children and I want to get to them before they get to that stage. Because as a mom, how helpless would you feel? Everything within you, every single instinct within you is to provide for your child, to make sure that they're strong. How does that little one even sleep at night? And how does that mom sleep at night?

I love the fact that Jeanne was there praying over them because that's what we do. When we go there, we don't just provide food and water but we have a chance to worship with these people too and to pray over them.

But I imagine a mom like that sitting there praying, "God, if you see me in this barren land will you please send help?"

And so here we are. It's us. We're God's guys and girls. We get to rise to the occasion and do something. It takes so little. Do you know that if you simply give a gift today of \$30 you will feed three little ones like that for three months -- for \$30! If you give \$100 you'll help feed ten children for three months. Some of you have been blessed with more resources, which I always think is such a gift because the more God gives you the more you can give back. So for \$1400 you can help sponsor a whole school, feed every child in that school for three months.

Sometimes it's the way we get these little children to come to school because they're weak and they're not motivated. But they hear, "Well, there's going to be a meal if I go to school."

So they go to school, they get a meal, they get to learn. It changes their destiny. We have been talking today about *Living Your Destiny*. It's never about us. It's all about those children.

So if God has really blessed you then for \$5,600 we can actually feed the whole school, all the children for a whole year. This life will be over like that. [Snaps fingers] I want to make sure these kids come with us, that we all get to stand and worship around the throne. So please, call that number. Call now. Go online, LifeToday.org and give the best gift that you possibly can.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation and those hit the hardest are the children. Life's mission feeding program is there ready to feed and care for these children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

With all of our previous reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months. Please also consider a special gift of \$1400 to help sponsor a school and help feed 140 children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you the brand new audio series, Living Your Destiny. Hear five outstanding Bible teachers and women of faith share how to live the life God destined for you. With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive The Longing in Me by Sheila Walsh, and Unashamed by Christine Caine. And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, be sure to request "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip**On the mission field**

James: Why don't you help give these children a future? Why don't every one of you -- and some of you on fixed income. You know what? You'll likely be the first one to respond. I want it to be where every single person watching me coming to you from Southern Africa, a place in Mozambique that was absolutely hopeless during the war but we were here all through the war feeding, beginning 20 years ago. Now they're in school, they need a future.

I'm asking that every person in every country around the world, you're watching today to give children like this a future, not just save them from death, because we're going to do that in crisis areas, but we're going to give them the nutrition to learn. They want to learn, they're here at school; we're going to give them the support so they've got a bright future.

Would you right now go to the phone or go online and respond and make the best gift you can possibly make? Please do it! Don't turn away. Do what you can to help.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: This is Anne's book, *The Daniel Prayer*. It literally can change our nation. We will send that to you as well because just as you give we want to bless you back.

Will you please help me thank our guest Anne Graham Lotz? What a gift you are to the body of Christ. Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for being with us. Please call and please help us feed the children. We love you! We'll see you next time.

Announcer: In his new book *The Stream* James Robison charts a clear path to personal revival and spiritual revolution in our culture, values, morals, and in government.