

2/16/17
Week 8: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Kristi Watts

James: Thank you. It's so good to be spending this time with you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you.

We have sitting here by me what I refer to, and this is absolutely beautiful! I don't know if you can tell just how beautiful it is by just looking at it. But this is the real deal bronze. But we captured with the paint that's appropriate for a bronze the beauty of the eagle, and this is a "Determined Eagle." This eagle is determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and the challenges of the day. We rise up with wings as eagles. The Holy Spirit is the wind beneath our wings. We soar on turbulence. We don't fear it. We don't run from it. And we face the challenges trusting God with confidence because the Lord is our Shepherd in whom we trust so that we don't live in want or desperation or dependence on others.

One of the things I want all of our viewers to see this year, Betty, because we'll be releasing the book that's kind of the journey of what I've seen, *Living Amazed* -- how you can preorder it.

Let me just say this to you. I believe what everyone that's already seen the advanced copy has said to me, if you read and see what God does with a kid that never had a chance and what he's accomplished, he, God, the Holy Spirit through somebody's life amazingly, you're going to begin to live amazed. So keep that in mind. Because that's we're going to talk about all year, Betty, about *Living Amazed* and being "Determined Eagle's."

And we have a determined eagle here. I mean we've got a "Determined Eagle" that when you go... you're a co-host of the 700 Club, you're a gifted communicator, a lovely woman, at home, behind the scenes, things are coming unglued. You've got an alcoholic husband and then all of the sudden the wheels come off. How in the world do you write a book called *Talk Yourself Happy*? What in the world does she mean? I don't think anyone has any greater ability to tell you what she means than Kristi does. So would you welcome Kristi Watts to *LIFE Today*?

Kristi, good to see you.

Kristi: Thank you so much!

James: We want to cover some ground because there's a lot of people who have sorrow in their heart, whose broken heart needs to be bound up, who don't have what they would call a flowing joy of the Lord. You used the word *happy* and then you talk about talking to yourself. I think you're communicating what is to you a very important message even in the simplicity of that title. So help us grasp it.

Kristi: Sometimes we talk about *Talk Yourself Happy* and Christians have the tendency to dismiss the word *happy* because it's based upon circumstances or it's flighty. The truth of the matter is really *talking yourself happy* is encouraging yourself with the word of God. But not just the word of God, the word who is God. The word of God and the word that we've got to get deep down into our heart that hold on to the promises of God.

One of the things that I learned, I was a co-host of the 700 Club for 14 years and it was really, really easy for me to sit on that set with the perfect hair and the makeup and stylist and scripts and all that stuff and tell you that God is good! Trust God! It was real easy to say, "have faith in God" or "give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together."

James: You're doing good!

Kristi: But what happens when life isn't good? And what happens when your faith is beat down and you're so faith weary? What happens when you give and you're still depleted? God got me to that point where I was miserable. I was joyless, I was hopeless, and I was at that place of despair.

James: While you were still in that place, the position, or did that change?

Kristi: No! When I first started the 700 Club I was 27. When I left I was about 42, 43; so life had experiences of divorce and just different things.

James: That happened to you when you said that divorce?

Kristi: Yes, sir. But toward the end I was unhappy but I didn't know what I meant. I wasn't happy with where I was in life. I wasn't happy with who I was around or my life and I'm single and my job and the money and my son. I just wasn't happy.

But what I came to realize is that I wasn't saying I wasn't happy, I wasn't fulfilled. Here I was on Christian television and didn't know the fulfillment of Christ because I talked about Christ but I was so busy doing that that I forgot to talk to him. And I knew the terminologies about having

faith and having trust in all these things but I didn't know what it really meant.

What changed my life was a scripture that says, "whosoever trusts in the Lord happy is he." And that's King James, that's not N.I.V. or The Message. But I had to learn what trust meant because when your husband leaves you, when you have no money, when every door is shut from a career wise and you've reached the top of the academic ladder but yet you can't get a job anywhere, when your friends who you knew no longer answer your phone calls and you've relied on the Lord and trusted in the Lord and had faith in the Lord and obeyed the Lord and lived a godly life, and people say "trust God." How? And God had to get me to that place where I knew what trust meant. And trust meant, for me, reliance, dependable. Kristi, trust me even though the circumstances are hard. Trust me.

James: Even though you're alone? Because you're really not alone though but you felt lonely. Did you get honest about how you felt? Was that part of the process to be able to express what's actually going on? Because you act like there was nobody around to listen; that breaks my heart to think that, especially in Christian circles. Why do you think that was happening that people seemed to be disappearing? Because you were moved out of one place and now you're in another place and all of the sudden it's like nobody is there?

Kristi: I think as Christians we get so busy in life that we don't see people. We'll pray for you but we don't extend help to you. It's like the person who says "I'm hungry." "I'll pray for you." No, feed them! It's like the person who says, "I'm lonely." "I'll pray for you." No. Talk to them.

I think there is a lot of Christians, myself included who are heartsick and hope-depleted. Sometimes the church isn't enough. Meaning, just going to church and saying the right things isn't enough. It is about really knowing the love of Christ and knowing the person of Christ and the power of Christ through the Holy Spirit that brings the person of Christ alive. And knowing the Papa, God, our Abba Father. And for me, those are the three dynamics that I came to learn because life for me got really, really hard.

Betty: Don't you think sometimes it's easy for Christians to put on a front because we feel like we're expected to have it altogether? And yet inside we're hurting real, real bad but we don't feel like we can open up and let everybody know that because they have a different opinion of us. They think we're okay.

Kristi: Betty, you hit the nail on the head. It's something about when you work in Christian television or Christian ministry or you're part of a church, we wear a mask. We've got the hair and the makeup and we sit all straight sucking in our stomach makes and we know how to say "praise God," "hallelujah," "God is good!" But people don't know that when we go home sometimes we're broken. And people don't know how sometimes --

James: Well, you were going home to an alcoholic husband. In the situation you were in you found it hard to even talk about that.

Kristi: Well, here's something that you guys don't know. I had my son on a Thursday, came home from the hospital on a Saturday and Sunday my ex-husband walked out on us. There are three things that happened. One he said, "I never loved you." He said, "You used to be so pretty; look at you now." And I'd just given birth. And the third thing he did was, he wiped all of our bank accounts down to zero. So my security, my significance, my value, and my love was torn away.

And the next day, what people don't know is that night I stayed on the bathroom floor weeping and crying in a fetal position so wounded and so hurt I couldn't even quote scripture. Have you guys ever been to that point where you know scripture but literally, you can't even speak the words? You can't say it.

And this particular time, Philippians four is my favorite scripture, talking about rejoice in the Lord. And I would listen to that scripture about how rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice! Let prayer and petition but the peace of God will guard your heart and your mind.

And at the time I didn't understand the power of peace because at that time, I had the position, I had the money, technically, I had the power. But I didn't have peace in my life. I was on that bathroom floor, curled up in a ball, saying, "Lord, I need you because I'm just about to break. I'm about to lose my mind because my mind is all scattered and my heart is broken into a million pieces." But yet, less than five hours later had to get up and smile and preach on the 700 Club. That was hard.

James: How did you do that? Did you feel hypocritical doing it? Did you feel like a phony?

Kristi: I didn't feel like a phony. I felt like I was being a strong Christian because the truth of the matter is I was doing my job and my job was to minister to the nations and to love people. Even if that was sacrificing my own -- I won't say stability, my own strength for that.

But one day when I was at the 700 Club, a year before I left, I remember praying and I said, "Lord, I just want your heart. I just want your heart." At the time I thought it was a holy prayer. I didn't know a year later that in order for me to have the heart of God everything that I held on to tightly disappeared: My job, my position, not just the husband, all these things that I found my significance in, my value, even my security in were gone.

But the greatest thing about it was though, all I had was God and I couldn't fake it anymore and I couldn't pretend anymore. And little scriptures, they couldn't pacify me anymore. I needed to know the person of the word, not just the word that I could quote, I needed to know the person of the word. And it was in that process that the Lord started to teach me biblical principles that taught me how to be happy.

James: Okay, tell me where you want to take the viewer if they read the book because you're trying to not just take them on your journey, you're trying to take them somewhere.

Kristi: Well, the key is for the whole *Talk Yourself Happy*, I cried for five days and my mom, I grew up in a safe, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost family. And my mom would call me every day and pray with me and talk to me and try to encourage me. And it was New Year's Day and all I kept thinking of was I'm going to hit another year of this hurt and pain in my heart.

All the sudden as she was talking she tried to divert my attention. I start talking about my sister, something going on with her and I said, "Remind her when the Lord did this... And Mom, remember when the Lord did that? Remember when the Lord did that?" And all of the sudden that spirit of oppression and depression started to lift off.

That was the first time that I learned a valuable principle which is there is power in our spoken word but it is about remembering what God has done in the past. So when we're in that place of despair and discouragement and all we feel is the hurt and we feel like God has put us on hold and walked away from the phone, we've got to remind ourselves, if God did it before, he'll do it again.

So for me, it wasn't just me speaking but it was me recognizing that God's word is true. And talk of the whole talk.

How many times do we talk ourselves miserable? We do it all day every day. We talk about what's not happening. We talk about what God is not doing; what's not going on in our lives. We talk ourselves miserable all day every day and that instinctively will change our perspective and wound our heart even more.

But when we align our words with the word of God, with the mind of Christ, having the heart of God, that's when our perspective and the joy comes. Because what does the scripture say? Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So it is not just about the equality of our words as it is the condition of our heart. God wants to get us to the point where our heart aligns with him so we can trust him, have faith in him, and walk out that path that he has for us. Talking yourself happy is biblical; it is a biblical principal potential to remind yourself...

James: It is not self-hypnosis. It is actually applying the balm of Gilead. It's applying the healing truth, transforming truth.

I think there is just so much people, Kristi that have just all the reasons to find not to be happy and I think you've shared your journey and I love the reality that Beth Moore talks about it doesn't matter how you got in the pit, whether you were thrown in, fell in, or dug the pit you find yourself in, he's still inclining his ear to lift us up.

So when you begin to see that with all the pain that you had, you were not just talking to yourself, you were speaking truth, you were speaking reality and in a sense then you were talking yourself into another level of peace and calmness and contentedness and discovering that peace that understanding.

Is that what began to happen because you talk about transform your heart by speaking God's promises. So you're not just talking to yourself, you're talking about the truths of God that actually find fulfillment when you do that. Is this what you're trying to say to people? No matter where you are, where you find yourself, there is someone ready to help walk you out of it and reestablish you. And your words, just like your thoughts, from the abundance of your heart, go ahead and say it, talk to yourself, don't talk what the enemy talks, talk truth.

Kristi: Yeah! The Lord was really teaching me about agreeing with the word of God because to use my marriage for example. Yes, my ex-husband was an alcoholic. And yes, the marriage was very, very difficult. But the truth of the matter is I would sit and pray in my closet and then I'd get on the phone with my girlfriend and say, "This marriage is doomed." So I would negate the very promises that God had given me.

James: That you'd just prayed.

Kristi: And how many times do we do that?

James: You moved into doubt and denial.

Kristi: Sure! We forget that words not just have power, think about it, in Genesis, God spoke the earth into existence; right? So then in the New Testament the word was so powerful that Jesus became the word. And so we know that the word of God uplifts.

Now going back to the whole thing with how the Lord healed my heart. The whole thing is about transform your heart while you speak God's promises or speak God's promises and transform your heart. The Lord showed me that I wasn't just what I speak, once again, it's about the condition of my heart, and my heart didn't really line up with the heart of God. I played the act

really well. I played Christian.

James: Well, I found, and I'm 73 years old now, and more and more as I've lived I've prayed to be able to identify with the heart of God and be so close to him that I feel every heartbeat. I know what's on his heart. I know what's in his heart. I know what he longs for in behalf of all of us he loves so fully and so freely. When we identify with that -- I think there is healing in that. I think it is amazing grace that you begin to experience.

Let me just pray this for you. Father, I know there are many watching right now, their hearts are broken. Their marriages may be very challenged. There is incredible, indescribable difficulty and pain, there is perhaps disease or sickness. I don't know what they're dealing with but I'm asking you, Holy Spirit, another just like Jesus, to comfort those right now that are watching and make them aware of your presence and your promises and let them begin to agree with you. And as Kristi said, "Just say what he says." Go ahead and talk to yourself. Let the Lord speak to you through what comes from your lips.

And we pray miraculous that you will heal hearts, relationships, lives, bodies, disease -- just work a miracle in people's lives. And those of you right now who just knew I was praying for you and you're praying, just trust God with your life, your past, your failure, your accomplishments, your success; just trust him with all that you are and really mean it, have your own way. Thy will be done in me, right here for your glory and you give him that clay.

Do you appreciate Kristi sharing her story and her journey and just trying to be an encouragement to all of us? Thank you, Kristi!

The book is in the bookstores. We will send it to you but we're going to ask you to do something. We want to send you Sheila Walsh's devotion book, *A Fresh Infusion of Joy*. What do you think about that? *Talk Yourself Happy?* How about *A Fresh Infusion of Joy?* Another 700 Club host and how many people have been blessed by that wonderful outreach, hopefully, and with *LIFE Outreach* we pray. And how many people have been blessed through the outreaches of life that you make possible.

Here's what I'm going to ask you to do. Betty, our viewers are going to see something very, very unique. You know that for years we've been drilling water wells, thousands of them. Many of you have drilled a well. Some of you make it a goal to drill a well every year or to help with a well. But a lot of times people say, "Well, what about the areas where they can't get a drilling rig? What do you do for those people?"

Well, a miracle has occurred. We can now give every family their own filter system that they can take the most filthy water on the planet and get the purest water possible. I mean it's just like

osmosis, dialysis, it's like cleansing -- it's just amazing what this does! And everybody can have it. And we can give three families this process of giving their family clean water for \$100, three families. We can drill wells for \$4800. We've got emergency areas where we've got to immediately drill over 180 wells.

I want you to look at this right now and listen to a mother telling you what goes on in her heart and you're the answer to this heartache. I mean you're the perfect, miraculous answer. Watch, listen, and respond to the heart of God and the heart of this mother.

On the mission field

Open captions:

>> I remember my daughter as a very loving person. When I was coming home she would run to meet me. My daughter was six years old... Her name was Jehovahnice. Because we have to drink this bad water every day, my daughter got really sick... and that is what killed her. I am afraid my other children are going to die too. Because we have to drink the same water. I still feel very sad about losing my daughter. I cry.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, it's sad to say but Betty and I know what that feels like to lose a child that every one of you would have given us the miracle not to lose our daughter. This mother's story is too typical too often.

Now here's what I'm just really pleading with you to focus on. We can stop this. We've been drilling water wells for villages now for I guess close to 20 years and you have faithfully helped us. We have right now found 188 areas where there is such a crisis they've got to have a well. It's almost like the whole village is going to die.

And the water is there, we just need the rig there and drill; \$4800 has to be covered by somebody full of love. If you can pay for a well, I believe you will. If you could pay for two I believe you will. If you give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray three people join you or one other person joins you, we've got another well.

Betty, we'll never make it with the goals that we have, the opportunity, the need if the people don't respond. But many people say, "I can't do the 25% of a well, I can't give \$1200." There are not many people watching who could not give somebody a filter system that would give them the water that they

need. We have that ability right now. If you would give \$100, we give three families a filter system that you can take the filthiest water in any river or any borehole in the ground that is contaminated and give water that's just like what we buy in the store and bottled water. Would you do that? And some of you right now, you're seeing the images of that simple five-gallon container, going through a hose, that filthy water in and coming out beautiful clean water that our mission director or you or anyone here could drink it and know this is perfectly non-contaminated, not disease-ridden water. Would you like to do that?

Father, I believe today there are literally hundreds and hundreds of people who will say, "Thank you Lord, I can reach out to three families -- families! Not just one in the family, three families and give them clean water for \$100."

And then Lord, those who can drill the wells, whatever part or all of it, please touch their heart and let their heart be filled with joy as a cheerful giver to know we're giving life; in Jesus' name.

Remember. You're giving water for life because of the water of life; and our missionaries are going to tell them about the water of life. We want to send you a beautiful canvas to say thank you; Sheila Walsh's book, *A Fresh Infusion of Joy*. You help with a well, the beautiful "Determined Eagle." I'm praying there wouldn't be a single viewer of *LIFE Today* during the whole year that would not become a determined eagle and even contribute and say send me that bronze because I'm going to soar but I'm going to raise people from death to life because of the free release of love. Would you do that?

You can go online or you dial the number there, take your bankcard, use it like a check, the way you should always use them and make the gift God puts on your heart -- and do it joyfully. Would you do that please?

By the way, call and tell us if you're writing a check made to *LIFE*, call us and tell us you're sending it in. Would you do that? Thank you so much. And going online is so simple for so many to do. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty 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.

Our teams have recently identified 188 remote villages in southern Africa where children are suffering from contaminated, disease ridden water. The situation is desperate. They need clean disease-free water immediately.

With your gift today you can help drill fresh water wells in remote villages across seven African nations. Your gift of \$24 will provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will provide for ten. \$72 provides for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we'll send you Sheila Walsh's devotional, *5 Minutes with Jesus*, a fresh infusion of joy to help you experience a deeper connection with God.

Please consider an additional gift of \$100 to help provided three families with water filtration kits in emergency areas where our rigs cannot reach. And you may request our "No Greater Name" canvas print.

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 hand-painted "Determined Eagle" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I want you to know you released a river of joy to mothers that won't have heartbreak because they lose another child because you gave them clean water. When you make others happy it is pretty easy to find joy yourself.

If you'd like to have Kristi's book, it is in the bookstores. You can get it. Go online and get it. But you help us give a filter system, a cup of water, you ask for this book if you'd like, we'll send it along with the one that Sheila has on devotions but just thank you so much for your help.

Would you like to thank Kristi for sharing with us today? Kristi, bless you! Comfort you -- direct your steps and keep you happy!

Thank you for making some people happy, changing their world. Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*!

Announcer: In his new book, *Living Amazed* James Robison shares how divine encounters can change your life. *Living Amazed* -- coming soon to online and retail bookstores.