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Week 23: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Living Amazed #7
Dudley Hall

James: Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We're so grateful we have this opportunity to share with you. We're actually in a seminar on spiritual warfare. This is the emphasis the entire week. *Living Amazed* is the journey, let's say, the entire 73-year journey from a miraculous birth where my mother was forced in sex, and conceived in a rape, and a doctor wouldn't abort me. But the miracle things that happened are so amazing.

The thing I want everyone to understand is everyone can live amazed in the power of God's spirit which is why we spent three weeks here with just folks who wanted to be able to say thank God I'm free. Betty, more than 25 years ago, God did a deep work in my life that led to this incredible story of freedom and understanding spiritual warfare which we didn't understand; did we?

Betty: No, we didn't.

James: And we experienced defeat that was unnecessary. We would resist the flesh and reckon the devil dead when the Bible says resist the devil and reckon the flesh dead. Well, you're going to see how in the world we can have spiritual victory in the area of spiritual warfare. We join that seminar living amazed.

Begin video clip

James: Well, I'm so grateful you joined us. We've got a studio full of people that have been here for three weeks. That doesn't mean that they've been here every day for three weeks. This isn't a 21-day deal. But they have come to spend the evening with us for three straight weeks.

By the way, if you've been blessed by what we're sharing, we may be doing this on Tuesday nights where we will take a topic or a subject and we will deal with it for a couple of weeks and it will be me, it will be my wife, Betty and it will be Sheila Walsh and it will be Dudley Hall; and oftentimes, we will bring in someone else who is really anointed to deal with a particular subject that we're going to deal with. And we're going to continue to have our guests that you're going to meet and come to love and appreciate their testimonies and their stories.

When I released the book, *Living Amazed* I wanted to make sure that everyone understood that this is just not some special journey that I've been on -- an amazing journey -- but it is in fact God's divine design for all of us to live in in the power of his amazing grace. But not only his amazing grace, his supernatural enabling; that's what anointing is. The anointing of God, the divine gifting of God for specific assignments or purposes, to anoint with divine enabling even the gifts that God has given us. The Lord gave me a gift to communicate. He anointed me, it appears, everyone seems to see it with a special ability to communicate effectively in various settings and situations.

I never thought I would be effective with television. As a matter of fact, I told you it was Billy Graham's team, it was Billy Graham that said to me, "God told me in a prayer time that you're supposed to be on television on a regular basis and I'm not. I'm supposed to do the crusades and you're there all the time.

Well, I said, "Billy, I haven't heard that."

He said, "You need to pray about that because I heard it."

He sent his team to me. He sent the Walter Benn Agency to me, his son-in-law, and he said, "This is what you need to do."

I said, "I can't talk to people. They're not there. I'd just look at that camera. I'm not an actor. I can't do that!"

And they said, "Millions of people are sitting out there and you can talk to them."

You know what happened? I mean Billy Graham prays pretty effectively. Did you know that? He's pretty good with his prayers. And you know what happened to me? And I just told the audience here, I'm not exaggerating. I look at every one of you in the face and you'd be surprised what I see.

I once said, "I look at some people and God tells me that they're not saved."

I had to tell T.D. Hall, Dudley's brother that our soprano soloist at the youth camp at Falls Creek where you got touched by God, Dudley, as a football player in Alabama. You said you came to the retreat because you wanted to see all the pretty girls there. I think they asked you to help be a life guard position and you surrendered to do that when you came.

[Laughter]

But I pointed out to your brother, I said, "Our soloist is not saved. Jeanne doesn't know the Lord."

And T.D. your brother said, "Are we going to tell her?"

I said, "No, we're not going to tell her. We'll let God tell her."

You know what? He told her and she got saved. Well, since I told that, I've had many people, "Would you look at me and please tell me whether or not I'm saved?"

Well, let me just tell you right now, "No." I told T.D. Hall, Dudley's brother, I said, "God's going to tell her. We're just going to pray."

And tell her he did. And I want to say Jeanne Rogers, what a missionary you are, what a treasure you are and what a beautiful transformation God has worked in your life and continued to work through your life and I praise God for it.

God's telling me about you. He tells me about many of you. Now listen to me. You don't have a need, you don't have a blind spot, you don't have a weak place, you don't have a pain, you don't have an issue that our Father in heaven is not concerned about. He is able to deliver you.

Now I want you to remember this. He did not deliver the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace, he delivered them in it. Most Christians go into a state of panic at the very thought of being in such a test. But you know what those faith-filled men said? "We will survive. Our God will deliver us." Now get the rest of it -- "but even if he doesn't he's still our God and we will not bow the knee to your idols, period!"

That's the way you go through the battle with God. I'm trusting him with my future, my problems, my pain, my issues and I'm going to trust him in the storm as well as when there is peace in the valley. I'll trust him."

Father, I pray for everyone listening today that they will realize you're the answer to every challenge they face. And even in the fiery test they can be refined like pure gold, like silver, and I pray dear God that they will welcome and count it all joy even when they come into trials knowing that you are the one able to deliver them and to work through them your kingdom purpose; in Jesus' name.

I want you to open your Bible, if you would to Ephesians. I want you to go to Chapter 1. I'm just going to reference very briefly what we showed our son, Randy when we talked to him about

adoption. When God is talking to us about relationship with the Father -- if you remember when I began talking to all of you here and all of you at home, I said, "We're going to learn which father we are following and what spirit is controlling us -- or spirits. Are we listening to Father God or are we listening to the father of lies? The father of life and hope or the father of lies, of division, dissension, and destruction and death? Who are you listening to?"

We talked about knowing God as Father in a personal relationship with him. I've shared with you on television that my wife, Betty came out of the choir to give her life to Christ even though she was known as the ultimate church girl. She didn't know Christ. She came to know Christ. He changed her life. I was christened into a church, an Episcopal church but I didn't know Christ. We came to Christ and our lives were changed. So being a church member does not make a person a Christian; being protestant, evangelical, Pentecostal, Catholic -- that doesn't make us a Christian. It is a relationship with Christ where he comes in.

Here's what happens. In the first chapter of Ephesians we find that God has chosen us in verse four, in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him in love and he predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself -- the children of God -- according to the kind intention of his will.

From the very beginning God has wanted a family that he can be the father of and through that family bless the nations of the world. He wants to pour his life out on you and release his life and his love through you. You become a vessel that's been shaped by God to honor him, a channel through which he flows his life and his love, his transforming power. That's why we're here, and that's kingdom life.

Now look what happens to too many believers. Go to that second Corinthians Chapter 11 passage and look at what Paul said when he is writing to the New Testament church, the New Testament Christians. These verses God used to bring me to my knees. Years ago as a highly visible evangelist, I found myself so tormented by the deceiver, so assaulted, so harassed, I actually referred to the enemy's grip on my mind like a claw in my brain. What I found, think about this, that first year when I gave my testimony of freedom I prayed personally that year with over 100,000 professing Christians, many of them church leaders; for them to find the freedom from that grip on their mind that torments so many. The thing that happened to me is what he is talking about right here. And it is what happens to many very sincere Christians.

And as I read these verses prior to coming here during this week, the memories were so precious to me that I found myself moved to tears because I remembered what it was like to have been so in love with Jesus that I could hardly wait to get alone with him every day. I told people that as a student at East Texas Baptist University, I could hardly wait for the class to be over, not because the professor was boring. I just wanted to race into the woods, the piney woods of East Texas to

be alone with Jesus and tell him how much I loved him.

Look what Paul said to the New Testament Christian: I'm jealous for you with a godly jealous is, verse two, second Corinthians 11, for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I'm afraid, I'm concerned, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness your mind should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus.

That's what happens. The simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus -- one of the letters to the churches in the Revelation talked about leaving "first love." Jesus was such first love that I'm telling you when -- Betty has a whole shoe box full of letters. Have you found that shoe box?

Betty: Oh I know where it is.

James: You know right where it is. She has gotten those letters out that I wrote her and one day she let me start reading them and I'm a college student in East Texas and she is down in Houston and I'm writing these love letters. But it said something about: "Hi, Betty, been thinking about you." Then the whole letter is a love letter about Jesus and how much I love Jesus and how real he is to me. And I hope you're spending time with Jesus. He is so great. I said, "Betty, the love letters were love letters to Jesus"; weren't they?

Betty: They were.

James: When I actually read them during this time that I was defeated and I thought, God, I've lost that simplicity of devotion to Jesus. You know many people wondered how a preacher as visible as I was, as appearing to be so effective with such great crowds and such great response could suddenly get up and tell the whole world I was defeated and actually prayed to die -- I was that tormented. How in the world could that happen?

Here's how it happened. I didn't get caught doing something horrible. I missed the mark more ways than I would ever want to begin to talk about. I was rude, impatient, unkind. It was awful the way I would respond to people if they didn't do what I thought they were to do. One of my staff members called me the wounded bear when I came into a meeting -- and that was just a nice meeting we were having with the wounded bear. It was unbelievable what had happened to me.

You say, "Okay, James. What led you back?"

I missed Jesus. I missed him! I remember when he told me, "I'm going to use you to speak in the largest stadiums and coliseums and churches. In just a matter of months, it will happen."

And here's what I said to Jesus. Please, all of you don't miss this! This is what I said to him. I

said, "It doesn't matter what happens. It doesn't matter how big the crowds are. Jesus, I'm always going to come right back here and I'm going to love you. I'm going to spend time with you."

And so help me, it was almost as though I could hear him say, "Really? Will you really?"

I don't think you understand how much the Lord wants to fellowship with you. By the way, I want to tell you something. You sitting right there where you are, one of the biggest effective tools the enemy uses to literally disable us is to make us think that we never do anything sufficient to please God. And the enemy is an accuser and he never lets up.

All of you listen to me. Many of you write a check or make a gift to help feed a hungry child, to give water, to support a missionary. That is bigger than I can ever describe effectively. You are no small part in the body of Christ. There is not one person sitting here in this studio that's not bigger in the kingdom purpose of God than the enemy is allowing you to believe.

I said something to you before we came on the air about the importance of encouragement. If you become the shoulder for someone to lean on you're going to find his shoulder, Christ's shoulder always sufficient and always close. And you're going to find he lightens the load because he is in the yoke with you and the burden becomes lighter. Once you begin to minister life and encouragement to others and notice them, it is amazing how involved you find God is in your own life affairs. What you are doing to touch others with the love of God is no small act. It is huge beyond description. The prayers that you pray for others, for our leaders, church and national, for your neighbors, are not going unheard. Please understand that when you love Jesus and you devote yourself to him, he devotes himself to you and you have an intimacy and a fellowship and you do not listen to the accuser telling you that you're not adequate.

Dudley Hall, you and I have talked many times about how the enemy makes people feel unqualified no matter what and people make a big mistake trying to live up to some standard. Can you say something about the importance of people understanding their value in the sight of God and rule-keeping not making them worthy?

Dudley: I think we ought to understand that the enemy's strategy, hell's strategy is to accuse us, condemn us, tempt us, whatever, with a goal in mind -- his goal in mind -- it is to disqualify us. Because if I feel disqualified, first of all I won't pray because I think God is not listening to me. Secondly, I won't expect any gifts that I have to be useable or to be anointed. Thirdly, I'll think I can't really see. I don't have any discernment, so I don't know who God wants me to minister to. Fourthly, I don't think God will talk to me so I feel isolated, and so I'm disqualified.

Now think about the men who have heard so many sermons about men need to be strong and love their wives and protect them and whatever. I never met a man yet that did it right.

[Laughter]

So we all, so many of us men are sitting around going, "I'm disqualified. My wife knows what a jerk I am. She knows I'm a hypocrite. No use in me reading the Bible at night. She wouldn't listen to it anyway. There is no use in me trying to make spiritual stuff."

Then the wives feel the same way. It's like, "I'm not a submissive wife. I don't even know what that word means. It scares me. I don't know what it means and I'm not submissive." So they feel disqualified.

Kids feel disqualified because they haven't loved God with all their heart, with all their soul, and their might and so they feel disqualified. So you've got a bunch of people walking around feeling disqualified, not knowing that God is not keeping score. It is really difficult to play a game when nobody is keeping score. God is not keeping score.

Jesus kept score. He has filled out the card. He made 100 on every test, and he's paid the penalty of all the violations. If we could believe that truth that the Holy Spirit is whispering in our ear rather than that lie that the other father is whispering in the ear, we could walk in some sense of peace.

James: Well, that is exactly what God wants for every one of you here and every one of you watching.

Father, I pray right now that every person listening to us will hear your voice assuring them of your love and your grace; and that when they ask for forgiveness, they don't have to beg. When they ask for bread you're not giving them a stone. You're going to pour out on them the blessings that their heart longs for. And I pray this moment that they will simply yield their life to you and allow your spirit to fill them and your grace to cleanse them and give them the assurance of that relationship with you as Father, in Jesus' name.

God hears those prayers. You don't have to beg.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, I really appreciate what Dudley shared, Betty about feeling disqualified. I don't think there's a believer that the enemy doesn't try to convince we're disqualified. We're not affective, we're not able. If we can stop that lie and recognize that if we just give a cup of water,

the widow that gave the mite, almighty God looking through the eyes of his son Jesus saw that above all that happened in worship I'm giving to the glory of God, I'm giving for the benefit of the people God loves. When we do that, we are living amazed that God's grace flowing through us can totally change everything for someone. And we can in Christ and together win the victory as a family in the shelter of the almighty.

I want you to look right now and I want you to see some lives that the love of God, our Father, flowing through you will give a whole new life a whole new future. Watch this.

On the mission field

Announcer: South Sudan is facing one of the worst food crises since 2011. Parts of the country are experiencing the onset of famine causing thousands of families to flee their villages.

Open Captions: I didn't think we would survive. We didn't know what was happening. So we started running. My two brothers died and I don't know what happened to my father.

Announcer: Theresa's story is not unique. It is the story of the children of South Sudan who have been forced from their villages in search of food.

In their desperate struggle to survive thousands are forced to forage for anything to fight off starvation. According to the U.N. nearly one half of South Sudan's population are expected to be at risk of death in the coming months due to food shortages if help does not arrive very soon.

Open Captions: Now that you are here, can you please help us? Because people are still dying.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Dear God! And so many of those precious people that right now are threatened with death are believers. They love Jesus. They've been driven from their home by radical extremists, radical Islamic terrorists in their own country.

Betty, we've seen what the love of God does because we've been there. We went there with Franklin Graham years ago and right now the missionaries that are there are there at great risk and they're there because they're full of the love of God. But the starvation factor is a reality in South Sudan -- one of the greatest in history. The only way we're going to be able to touch those

people's lives is for us together to reach out in love and say, "I'm going to give you the food." So those missionaries that are there full of love, facing grave danger, there to express the love of God freely, can only do it if they have the resources to do it.

I'm asking you right now to help us care for three, five or ten children for the next months -- a miracle! As a matter of fact, if there is any way you can help take care of 100 children, we need it. We need a miracle outpouring of love right now: \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five or ten children. \$1,000 -- and there may be some of you watching say, "You know what? God's blessed me. I can give several thousand." Do it! But \$1,000 will touch and save the lives of hundred children.

Betty, let's just really join our hearts together as we do even before we come up here and as we're asking people to go to the phone or go online and make a gift, the best gift they can, they're giving the greatest gift, let's pray that every person watching will respond.

Betty: I hope you will! My heart was really touched as I listened to that child talking about their little sister or brother already dying because of starvation. I had to wonder, does that child think, am I next? I saw my sister or brother die. Am I next? Let's not let it be that way. Let's don't let that happen. Reach out and join with us and let's save the lives of these children.

James: I really believe our viewers will. So I'm asking you right now, take a bankcard, use it like a check. Go online, or dial that number and say, "I'm going to be an answer to someone's prayer today." We'll always be there to pray with you but right now you're the miracle answer to prayer. Would you please do it? Would you ask God to give you the grace and the ability to make a very large gift? So whatever you can do, do it with God's leadership. Thank you for being the miracle someone desperately needs.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and even now famine-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face death by starvation.

LIFE's Mission Feeding program is ready. With your support, we're able to feed and care for children in famine areas of Sudan, as well as Angola and Mozambique. With all of our previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding facing the worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your lifesaving 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 My Daily Word Devotional. This boxed set of four seasonal devotionals will help you read, reflect, and renew yourself through God's word with space to journal your thoughts and reflect each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you'll also receive Kari Jobe's newest music project, *The Garden*, along with the story behind *The Garden* companion DVD.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, please be sure to request "Determined Eagle," our 2017 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

In the studio

James: You know we're anxious to send you the gifts, the seasonal devotion and also Kari Jobe's *The Garden*; and then the story of how this came to pass.

I'm hoping you are learning to be a "Determined Eagle" that in light of all the things we face, the pressures, the age of rage, that you'll be determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and face the challenges of the day knowing that our God, our Father is a shelter in any storm. He gives peace in the valley. Thank you for being the answer to prayer for so many.

Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends to watch because we can be overcomers. The rest of this week is going to be a blessing to you dealing with spiritual warfare. God bless you and thanks for watching.