

7/27/17
Week 31: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Chrystal Evans Hurst #2

James: Hey! That's wonderful! Thank you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Tony Evans is not here but his offspring is here. Tony and Lois Evans have the most wonderful kids; they've got four kids, two guys, two gals and they're just remarkable! This is the first time we've been able to really visit with Chrystal. She's written a book, *She's Still There* and we visited with her and she went over several points: Fight for your life, look at your life, embrace your life. And we said we want to invite you back to take the next three major points: Develop your life, encourage your life, choose your life.

The title *She's Still There*, and someone shouted out right before we started and said, "How did she get out of where she was?"

[Laughter]

I don't know if I know where she was and how did she get out? So somebody shouted. So why don't we let Chrystal Evans Hurst tell us the answer. Would you welcome her, the author of this book to *LIFE Today*?

Chrystal, *She is Still There*; that doesn't mean you're still stuck?

Chrystal: No.

James: It means something is in you that is still there that matters; right?

Chrystal: Absolutely.

James: Somebody said, "How did you get out?"

Chrystal: There's first the realization that you've got to move and then everybody wants to know, where do you go next? I think in our world because we use words like "purpose" and we use words like "destiny" and "plan," we think about this big end goal and life is hindsight 20/20,

you know that. There are so many things you see clearly in reverse.

It's taking the solution that's so simple, like it is almost so simple I don't even want to say it. You just take one step at a time. You work with the light that you have. My mom always says, "If you want to know what to do next, until God tells you to do something different, keep doing what he told you to do last."

James: Wow! Say that again.

Chrystal: "If you want to know what God wants you to do next then keep doing what you told you to do last until he tells you something different."

James: Now this is not Tony saying this?

Chrystal: No, this is Lois.

James: You mean Lois says something in the Tony Evans' household?

[Laughter]

Go, Lois, go!

Betty: That's really good.

Chrystal: But because we want some big solution we miss the solutions that are right in front of us.

When I was in my first apartment I would tell my aunt, "One day when I get out of this apartment and get a bigger place, I'm going to have people over all the time."

She said, "Don't wait until then. You have people over now."

I had no couch. I had a rocking chair and I had a pillow on the floor. I invited my one friend over and I sat on the floor and she sat in the rocking chair. I fixed her some hot chocolate. Let me tell you, the sweetness of our visits in that apartment are exactly the same now that she comes over and I've got a couch and two chairs.

Many times we want to wait until we get to the spot, whatever we think that spot looks like to do anything. What God is looking for us to do is activate the simple things that we can do right in front of us to move us forward step by step. And we move forward miles and miles one step at

a time.

James: That's great! I hope that answers your question a little bit.

Now I want to repeat the points we said we're going to touch on. We touched on the first three that I mentioned and she thoroughly vets this in the book: Fight for your life, look at your life, embrace your life. Some things you've got to get over, some things you have to be lifted out of. And that you become an overcomer by the power that is beyond you.

Now we're going to talk about develop your life, focus on the finish, that's one point under that subject. Encourage your life, choose your life. So encourage -- do you encourage yourself? I think that's what I hear you saying there.

Chrystal: That's exactly what I'm saying. We live in a day and age where everybody wants to have a coach, everybody wants to have someone to spur them on. There's nothing wrong with that. But I think part of us participating in the rescue is realizing that you don't just sit there. That you've got to participate in even how you coach yourself; that you have to say, good shot! Good girl! Good job! You've got to do that. You nailed it. You have to do that because while yes, we should encourage each other and yes, that's a big part of what the body of Christ should do, we've got to understand that it's okay for us to do that for ourselves.

Now here is the specific ways that we do that. We coach our lips because the power of life and death is in the tongue and we're not careful about the words that we speak. So we wonder sometimes why we're struggling underground but we keep speaking ourselves into the ground. We've got to watch what we say out of our mouth.

You've got to coach your head, your thoughts, the Bible talks about taking your thoughts captive. And if a part of the reason why you are buried is because you've got thoughts that are running away, well then you have a job to do, you've got to coach correct thinking. So you identify the lie that's not true and how do you know the truth? You study God's word. And every time you find yourself thinking an incorrect -- and God is not going to say you're terrible and you're not accepted and you're not welcome; He is not going to say those things. If those are the things that you are hearing then you look for the scriptures in God's word that says, no, that's not true. That I knew you and I loved you from the beginning of time; that I value you. I'm always with you.

You coach your head, you coach your heart. Women have the tendency to let their emotions rule. And while your emotions should guide you they should not govern you. So you have to be willing to coach your heart.

And then your hands: What good does it do to have all the knowledge in your head of what God

wants to do in your life and then not do it. I'm guilty of that where we know what to do and don't do it, the Bible actually says that that's sin. So coaching yourself is what you say to yourself but it is how you encourage your head, your heart, and your hands.

Betty: So we're not as helpless as we try to see ourselves sometimes.

Chrystal: We're not! I've seen so many people that are waiting on someone else to rescue them. We need to do that but if you're sitting there, God has extended so much of a rescuing hand to you, just reach out and grab it.

James: Develop the other two points a little bit where you talk about develop your life and choose your life. Those last three segments in the book, they're so beautifully divided.

Chrystal: When I was 12, I ran down the hallway and I was crying, you know, 12-year old adolescent big tears. And I walked into my parent's room and they were like, "What's wrong?"

I said, "I don't know who I am."

My daddy said, "What did you say?"

I said, "I don't know who I am."

He busted out laughing at me. He said, "What do you mean you don't know who you are?" He said, "Well, you're Chrystal."

Well, here's the part that at 12 that you don't always quite get. You are who you are, you are God's design, whatever your name is but there is a development in life that takes place. There are decisions that you make. There are directions that you choose and as you live every day you figure out more and more what does that mean to be Chrystal. You learn the words to describe who you are.

When I talk about developing your life, it's almost like being born when you were a baby. God gives us ten fingers, ten toes and we hope we have a healthy baby. But you've got to feed that baby, you've got to nurture the baby, you've got to take care of the baby. And when God allowed each of us to be here, he gave us a starter soul; he gave us a starter kit. But what we do to develop that helps us to understand more and more about what he's given us. But if we don't exercise discipline, if we don't live with focus, if we don't make sometimes hard decisions to live holy, if we don't make those decisions and operate every day with a focused life that we may never discover exactly who he intended us to be. So we've got to participate in the development of our life.

And then choosing your life is simply choosing really, I want to put the emphasis on your life because we live in an age where we're looking at everybody else's. And because of social media and just because we've always been in love with what the Jones's have going on, we trade what God wants to do in our lives for what we see him doing in the life of someone else. Again, we can't live someone else's life, we can only live our own. So you choose freedom.

I ran a marathon three years ago. I ran the race and then kept running right into Cracker Barrel and that was the end of that.

[Laughter]

But I tell you, I ran the race and one of them -- one of the most difficult things in that race, I'm a slow runner, was realizing that as I -- it was a looped course -- that as I was not even to the halfway point there were people coming back. I was already feeling depressed. And then this walker lady, the ones that walk and -- she passes me! I'm running and the walker lady passes me. But she said, "Run your race, girl! Run your race!"

James: That's great wisdom!

Chrystal: Because I can get in that race and look at everybody else and stop or I can run my race and finish. We have to choose the freedom that comes when we realize that God is not asking me to do you. He is not asking me to do you. He is asking me to be faithful to do me because he put me on this earth with some specific things in mind for me to do, the only way I can do them and I won't do them if I'm busy looking at everybody else.

Betty: Well, we shouldn't compare ourselves with others because we're unique in who God created us to be.

Chrystal: We are. And how you beat that comparison green envy is by being really grateful about what God has given you. So every time you find yourself looking at someone else, you find something in you, in your life to give God thanks for. Celebrate what he's given you and you won't have time to be paying too much attention to what he has given everybody else.

James: And Paul said we dare not be like those among us who compare themselves among themselves and measure themselves by themselves and are void of understanding. We don't have wisdom or understanding things from God's point of view so stop the nonsense. We don't measure up in comparison. God doesn't do it so let's cease to do it. So running the race He set before us and that's what I hear you saying. You're getting in that race, you're going to run that race and run it well and you run it with endurance.

Is there any other thing you want to talk about, develop your life, encourage your life, choose your life that is we just kind of wind up our time with sharing and our viewers hearing what you want them to take away because they're going to go through all these things God put on your heart.

See, I know enough about talking about books because everybody that writes a book, the publisher says, you really need to talk about what this publisher -- I don't talk about something I think is a waste of time. I'm not a book peddler. I'm a person that wants to help people run their race effectively for the glory of God. So you wrote this with an intent in your heart. What's the intention you have and what's your prayer?

Chrystal: Well, I want every person who reads the book to realize number one, that if they feel stuck they're not the only person who feels that way and they don't have to stay that way. But they do have to get up and run. You can't just sit there and say, God, spoon me to the next location.

As you were talking about running your race, it made me think about my grandmother, my maternal grandmother. Her race -- and she would say it all the time for so many different reasons, "It's for his name's sake. I'm raising my kids because it is for his name sake. I'm being faithful to my marriage because it for his name's sake."

James: Which side is this grandmother?

Chrystal: It is my mom's mom.

James: Did Tony have any good things in his...

Chrystal: He did! He did!

James: Or did just Lois's whole family just got all over Tony? We're learning the truth, Dr. Evans.

Chrystal: But she would say that and while there is this end goal, we all want to live lives that honor God but everything that we do is for his name's sake. That lived itself out in how she took care of her family; it lived itself out in how she prepared meals. But my grandmother graduated with an associate's degree after going to school for decades. She was the one who always showed up and made good grades.

So all these mini finish lines added up to the main one. Everything that I do, every little thing,

every big thing adds up to the focus line.

But my dad's mom, I remember one of the last times I saw her. She had had her leg amputated, she had a walker and she was walking to the door. Her face was grimaced and I said, "Why are you doing that?" She said, "Because they said every day I've got to walk to my front door and walk back." That was her race. Every day she had to walk with that walker to the door and then walk back.

Now, does it matter that this grandmother got this degree and did all this stuff all over the world or that this one at this season in her life was walking to the door? That was their race. So we have to say God, what is -- because the ultimate goal is I want to please you. That's the ultimate finish line. But for right now, this decade, this five years, this year, today, this job, this family -- whatever! What is the mini finish line? Help me to run that well and be able to say, "It's for your name's sake."

James: Don't you love what you just heard? Is that not a beautiful testimony? I have to be honest with you. Your family are heroes to me. I'm curious. You talked about two grandmothers. Were their husbands active? Granddad was too?

Chrystal: Grandpa and Too-daddy.

James: Both sides?

Chrystal: Oh yes! I'll see Too-daddy in three weeks.

James: Doesn't it break your heart that we don't have that often enough?

Chrystal: But you know what? My dad's dad, somebody's got to be the first -- somebody's got to be the first. So his story is not necessarily my dad's story. At some point each individual has to decide, I've learned about God's love, I'm going to choose to live for him. And from this point forward I get to change the story for generations to come.

So it is hard, but even in your case, so many of the things that you are doing are because of the heart. So we want the joy, but if we want the joy and not the pain, it's like a faucet with only one spigot running. If you want it on, you've got to let them both through and God uses it all.

James: The thing I think is so important, I really ask the question there because I want every mother that is in this fatherless situation, dysfunctional father, missing father, you women are miracle workers. You're indescribable. The glory of God in you, the strength that God put in you, the divine enabling is magnificent. Don't lose heart.

How many of these athletes do we see thank mom? One of the saddest stories I've ever told that was true is when Hallmark sent out a message to the prisoners in prisons: "If you want to send a card to your mother for Mother's Day, we'll give them to you. We'll just bring them to the prison." And all the prisoners asked for them. It went over so well they came back to the prison for Father's Day. They said, "If you'd like to send your father a note, we'll give you a card." Not one prisoner asked for a Father's Day card.

God, would you please heal the fatherlessness in our nation. Would you continue to give women supernatural strength, give us all. Give each person listening to us today the knowledge that they can run the race you set before them with your strength and your enabling; in Jesus' name.

Boy, I pray that for you. If you need somebody to pray with you, that line is there as a prayer line. Would you like to just say thanks from the bottom of your heart for Chrystal and the way she's blessed us?

[Applause]

Chrystal, one of the things that our viewers, and I've said it many times, I don't think there are greater people on the planet and all over the world, all the different nations that sit right here and they listen and we try to pour blessing and spiritual insight and spiritual food and nourishment to you, but then we ask our viewers to be a miracle. Those of you who have prayers and want them answered, Isaiah 58 indicates that if you become an answer to prayer, your prayers are answered quickly.

I want to show you how right now you can be a perfect, perfect answer to prayer. Watch!

On the mission field

Announcer: One hundred hours -- on average, that's how long the human body can survive without water. In the face of death by dehydration, water like this is the only choice for many. Recently, while in east Africa we spoke with Fatina, a mother personally impacted by this crisis.

Open Captions: One year ago, my child had a problem of diarrhea. So I tried to help him. When we went to the clinic, they said it was because we drink unclean water. While we were there my child died.

Announcer: Unclean water is a common hardship throughout the world and when something is common it is easy to get used to but should losing a child ever be something we get used to?

Contaminated water has already taken Fatina's son. In Cambodia, Samnang lost his daughter to a waterborne illness. Flores and Anita from Madagascar lost both their mother and three year old sister after they drank from a contaminated canal. At the time we visited these sisters, they were still drinking from that very same water source themselves.

For years you've helped *LIFE Outreach* provide clean water in thousands of areas across the globe. Right now mothers like Fatina also need clean water in their villages before tragedy strikes again.

Open Captions:

>> I am afraid that one day my remaining children will die because of the lack of safe water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, I said to all of our viewers that the natural thing when you see that pain is to say, "I'll change channels. I don't want to watch it." The supernatural thing is to be moved by the love of God that gave his son to give you living water, to give you eternal life. The supernatural thing is to say, "I can give a cup of water in Jesus' name. I can stop another mother from losing another child or family member."

See, I'm not throwing out wishful thinking. I'm not throwing out some hope for, very difficult possibility. I'm presenting an absolute reality: A cup of water in his name. Clean water.

Now remember this. Because it's the missionaries carried by love into the place of suffering; they plant their lives in the midst of it, gladly. And the thing the missionaries have said to me over and over, "Our hearts are full of love. Our hearts are overflowing with compassion but too often our hands are empty. We can't meet the need."

And the missionaries have all said, "Could you go home and ask the people back home, that watch you on *LIFE Today*, if they would give life today because we're ready to share it."

So you become the supernatural answer to that missionary's prayer, to those precious parents concerning their children to every child because together we can give not only a cup of water but a well of water. And there are many people -- Betty and I are going to have lunch in a few days with a couple who give a well every month. They said it is as great a joy as we've ever found.

I don't know if you can give one well but if you can, I believe you will, they are \$4800. I believe you'll do it because I believe you want to be the supernatural answer to that need. And you're

going to give a whole village water for the rest of their lives. You can give \$1200 or \$2400, pray three people join you or another joins you and we've got another well. But most of the resources come from people who give \$48 and that basically gives ten people water -- or \$144 will give 30 people water.

I don't know at what level you can come in but we also need filter systems for areas where we can't get the drilling rigs in because of terrain. In an answer to prayer, we can give three families their own filter system to filter any water, get out all the bacteria and disease, it's not an exaggeration, it is a miracle reality. But \$100 will give three families that filter system. So could you do that? There's a level today in the supernatural, responding to God's love, you can become the answer to the prayers and the heart cry and the need of these precious people.

And remember this, you're going to give them Water for LIFE, the missionaries are going to be telling them about the water of life that inspires the actions and the supernatural acts of love that you express.

So would you right now, LifeToday.org, go online, get your bankcard and use it like a check. I pray you make one of the biggest checks you've ever made through that bankcard. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. So you can go to *LIFE Today*, or you can dial that number and use that card and say here's what I'm giving. Or if you write a check and mail it to *LIFE* and make it to *LIFE*, call us and tell us you're mailing it. It is very important we hear from you.

We've got some beautiful inspirational gifts for you that will bless you but you're in essence giving the greatest life, the greatest miracle, you're giving life itself. That's what you're giving. Thank you for doing it.

By the way, if you get a busy, you be determined, I'm getting through. I'm going to be someone's miracle today. Thank you for that.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink polluted water filled with deadly disease or perhaps die of thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution. **Mission:** Water for Life is one of the most proven and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 15 nations. A gift of

\$48 will provide disease-free water for ten people, \$72 will provide for 15 people, and \$144 will help provide clean water straight from the ground for 30 people.

Please also consider an additional gift of \$100 to help provide three families with water filtration kits in emergency areas where our drilling rigs are unable to reach. As our thank you, we'll send you the books, *Words of Jesus* and *Words of Healing*. One contains only the words of Jesus and the other scriptures for healing in your body, mind, and soul. With your \$100 gift you can receive both hardbound and softbound editions of these scripture promise books.

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 hand sculpted "Determined Eagle" bronze. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

On the mission field

Tammy: I've loved traveling all around the world with *LIFE Outreach*, being able to tell the stories of so many people. In many of the places I've gone into, many children that I have heard stories about have died because of the water that they're drinking. And it really breaks your heart when you go into these places and you hear such stories and you think, "What can I do?"

This is my heart's cry to you to say we need you. We need to continue to drill more and more and more wells so it will give Water for Life to thousands more people just like this all over the world. Please won't you help us? Go to the phone, go online and help us bring life through water to these people.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I are so grateful for your love and thanks so much! Those of you that have been spending the 30 days in focused prayer like turning the power of a river through a turbine to light up a city; you've been focusing in on our president and our leaders asking God to shelter them, protect them and pour wisdom out on them, that they'd receive it.

I want you to be determined eagles; determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and the challenges of the day. Remember this. This eagle is created to travel at speeds he can't generate. He has to be carried by a greater power and force but he's designed for it. You're designed to live in the divine enabling of the Holy Spirit. God wants to carry -- you're designed to be carried by power far beyond anything we can generate. Let's live that supernatural life.

I think that's what Chrystal -- I think the whole Evans' family is trying to help us all do that. Here's the book, *She is Still There*. You give a cup of water; you say, "Could you send me that book too along with those other books? I just think it will help me." Yes, if you want it, you touch someone with love, we'll gladly send it to you.

Would all of you here say thanks to Chrystal? Thanks to God for her. Thank all of you! Thank you Chrystal!

Thank all of you for watching! Thanks for sharing life. Encourage your friends to join us every day in the family room.