

10/2/19

Week 40: Mission: Rescue Life

Sheila Walsh

Stormie Omartian #2

Sheila: I'm Sheila Walsh. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm so grateful that I have a guest on today's program. God has used this woman so powerfully around the world. Her life was incredibly, unbearably difficult to start with. But now when you see the fruit springing up, it is almost like -- I looked at a map of the world last night just because I wanted to get this perspective and it was like seeing these little flames catching fire all around the world because of what God has done through her life and the power of prayer.

So please, welcome my guest with me. This is Stormie Omartian. So grateful you're here.

Stormie: Oh thank you, Sheila. I'm so grateful to be here. I love the vision of the little flames all over. That's exciting.

Sheila: Yeah! It really is. I think one of the things I've -- I put out a little thing in my social media saying, "When it comes to prayer, what do you struggle most with?" And within 15 minutes I had over 500 responses. But it was interesting the things that people said. "I feel like I just repeat myself over and over." "I get distracted." "Why bother praying if God knows already what he's going to do?" Do you get some of that kind of stuff too?

Stormie: Oh, I do. I do. I'm not laughing at them, I'm laughing with them because that's so common. I used to feel that way too. The thing is God knows everything, but he wants you to partner with him. He wants you -- he answers the prayers, but you've got to pray them. That's the way he set it up.

Most people don't realize that their prayers have power. They think it's just kind of going out into space and maybe kind of dropping off. But no, they're powerful! Because you are talking to the God of the universe. And sometimes, I believe people don't think of it that way. That it is all coming from them. And who knows if he hears.

God hears. If you know him, if you've received him, he hears you and he will answer but it is in his way and in his timing. So that's why I wrote all these books on prayer because I don't think it's boring. "Oh, prayer is boring." How can you say that? You're talking to the God of the universe! He hears you.

Sheila: Has that been a changing journey for you? When you started off, did you understand in the beginning how powerful your prayers were?

Stormie: I did because I saw answers.

Sheila: Yeah!

Stormie: I did because I was just such a mess. Just about anything I prayed was going to get answered because God has mercy.

Sheila: Let's work on this woman.

Stormie: Let's help her in any way we can! I saw such amazing answers to prayer because I have been, as long as I could remember, had severe depression and anxiety -- and fear was a big thing. That was my whole life. If I summed up my life back then, *fear* guided everything. So I was in such pain.

After I received the Lord and everything I was married to my husband and I still had the depression and I'm thinking, okay, I've got the Lord, I've got a husband who loves me, why am I still depressed and why am I still sad and brokenhearted and anxious about

everything?

So I went to the church where these pastors' wives were there who were gifted in the knowledge of the scripture and what God wanted to do in our lives and what he has for us. And they knew how to pray in power. So a pastor's wife had me pray -- fast and pray, big difference! So for three days, I had to fast and pray for three days and hope I didn't die in the night. So I went back and she fasted with me, so it wasn't just me. I thought that was amazing that someone would fast and deny themselves food for a stranger like that. I just couldn't believe it.

Anyways, she prayed for me, I had to confess all my unforgiveness toward my mother. I had to confess sins that were really, that I had committed that were really tormenting me. When she prayed for me, I felt that entire depression lift. All of that anxiety, it all lifted. I could feel it lifting off my shoulders like a weight. I'll never forget it because it changed my life forever. Because from then on, I thought if God would do this for me how much more does he want to do it for everybody else?

And from then on, my goal was to seek God and to learn to pray. Teach me how to pray, God. Help me to pray in power like you want me to. And it was just that constant desire for that; to see answers to prayer for other people. That's why we had all these prayer groups in my house; praying for people for different reasons, praying for kids, praying for people's children, praying for marriages, praying for ministries, different things and seeing God answer all these prayers.

That's why I don't think prayer is boring. I want to tell people, it is not boring! Believe me, talking to the God of the universe and seeing him answer your prayer is not boring.

Sheila: It sounds like a no-brainer, really.

[Laughter]

Stormie: It is! Believe me when I say that.

Sheila: One of the things I've been studying a lot, recently on prayer, I found it fascinating that the fragrance of heaven is prayer. That these golden bowls of the prayers of the saints, like an incense before the Lord.

Stormie: Yes! Yes! It's like your prayers are lasting. You don't just pray and it drops off a cliff or evaporates into thin air. They last. Your prayers last. You could pray a prayer now, a powerful prayer about God saving your son or something like that, whatever. And you may go on to heaven and you don't see it answered but that doesn't mean your prayer is not going to get answered.

Sheila: That's a huge point!

Stormie: It is! Your prayers are lasting.

Sheila: I remember growing up in my little church in Scotland. This man who prayed for his wife for years and I would go to the prayer meeting with my mom every Tuesday night and he would pray with tears rolling down his face. She gave her life to Christ at his memorial service. So he would not know until she walks through the gates to join him the power of prayer.

Stormie: That is so wonderful! That's exactly it. I wanted other women and men too, to be excited about praying, about getting into God's presence and worshipping him and praising him and praying to him, communicating with God, and talking and listening, and seeing God move, and seeing God answer. I believe women all over the world, and men too, I don't mean to be leaving men out. It is just that I've written a lot of books for women, that we can be a movement of prayer and these prayers can be answered in a powerful way.

Sheila: There could not be a more timely book than your new book, *The Power of*

Praying Through Fear. When I think of everything that's going on in our nation, what led to concentrating and focusing on this specific issue?

Stormie: You know my heart. There is so many things to be afraid of. It is just an epidemic. I would get to where I would be saying hi to someone like an acquaintance, someone I didn't even know well saying, "How are you doing today?"

And they would say, "Oh, I'm so afraid."

I'd say, "Oh! I'm so sorry. There are many things to be afraid of but what are you specifically afraid most?"

And they would tell me. And it would be different for different people. They would be afraid to go into a public place. They're afraid for their kids in school. They're afraid that they're going to get a bad diagnosis from the doctor. They're afraid of all kinds of things. It is just endless, the fear.

I thought -- I said, God, I know that you didn't give us a spirit of fear. And when fear over takes our life and controls our life it is a spirit of fear in charge. I want you to charge. You've given us love and power and a sound mind. I want people, and myself included, to lay claim to that love, your love, your power and the sound mind you have for us. And so that was the basis for this book.

Sheila: It's interesting when I was -- my husband's father, my father-in-law, his dad used to own a little store, and somebody broke in and they locked him in one of those barrels. They nailed it shut. He was left abandoned. He thought he was going to die. It so impacted the rest of his life. He lived perpetually in fear. One of the things I think is true about fear is it is paralyzing. It stops you from being who God has called you to be.

Stormie: That's exactly what I put in there. You can't be all God called you to be, you can't do all God called you to do because fear is going to limit what you can do and what

you can accomplish. And he wants you to be free of it. That's why he says, he promises, "I have not given you that. I have not given you that fear. Get close to me, spend time with me, and worship me. Read my word." It's all about liberating you from fear.

Sheila: One of the things I think is an important distinction is you can live in this world knowing that some things are going to happen that are not good but not live in fear. How do you get to that place where you think, okay, something could happen to my child at school, or I could get a bad diagnosis? How do you live with that and not be afraid? How do you shift?

Stormie: Well, you have to get close to God which means spending time with him. It means living his way, to the best of your ability. It means spending time in worship; that's really important. Because when you worship God it is like a funnel that he pours into you himself. He pours his love and his peace and his power and all these things like a funnel.

And when you spend time with him and praying and saying, God, I'm really concerned about this. This is really making me afraid. I'm so afraid with my children at school that something is going to happen to them. Or I'm afraid I'm going to get a terrible diagnosis from the doctor. All these things -- but take it, whatever you're afraid of, take it to him in prayer. Don't just say, "I'll just ignore it and maybe it will go away." Because it will always be there.

So take it to him. Say, "God, protect my children in school. Help us to do the right thing with our bodies, God so we don't get into trouble. But God, we know that you are the healer. And Lord, I pray that you would keep us well and heal us when we're not." -- to all these things.

I remember thinking, when my first, *The Power of a Praying Parent* book came out, I went around to the different schools and talked; did a talk on the power of a praying parent and had women in the school organize a prayer meeting. Sometimes they could

meet at the school, sometimes they met in their homes and whatever, pray for that school. Pray, if you're a parent with kids in school, pray for that school. Pray that no weapon formed against it will prosper. All these things that you can pray. And just be a praying woman.

Sheila: It's kind of fascinating and challenging to me when I look at my own life. I gave my life to Christ when I was 11. But for many years I lived with tremendous depression and fear. I ended up diagnosed with severe clinical depression. I ended up in a psychiatric hospital. My father committed suicide in a psychiatric hospital. So my fear was always whatever was in him is in me. But I stand with you, Stormie, knowing that the power of the Word of God can break all of those yokes and those things that you think, so many I'm thinking of some viewers thinking, well, this is just inevitable. But in Christ it is not.

Stormie: No, it's not! Exactly. You can break those family curses and say, I just refuse -- my mother is mentally ill too and very frightening and so I had that spirit of fear on me as far as back as I could remember. But I prayed for my kids that it would not come on them. I was always afraid that I'd inherit it and I just prayed for them that they would never inherit anything like that. Just constantly praying. They didn't and I didn't either. So prayer is really powerful.

So whatever you're afraid of, start praying. I know you think, I've got this little prayer and this problem is so big and how can we control everything? You don't have to control anything. Let God, invite God to be in control. Let him be in control of your life, let him be in control of your school. These women praying in these schools, I'm telling you, not one of them, we haven't lost a kid yet and I know that their prayers are powerful. I'm saying that prayer works. That's all I'm saying.

Sheila: So I'm thinking of, I know some of the letters I get from some of you. I'm thinking of somebody listening in and watching and thinking, I believe that. I want to do it but I don't know where to start. Because a lot of people think, I don't know what to say. I'm not a prayer warrior. What would you say to somebody who says, "Where do I start?"

Stormie: Buy my books; okay?

[Laughter]

Sheila: That's a brilliant answer!

Stormie: I gave my life, poured my life into these books. I did! And I wrote them for you. I want you to know how to pray. Because I saw... one of the most shocking things to me is that after I'd seen all these answers to prayer is that people weren't praying. I'm talking believers, a lot of believers weren't praying. I thought, oh, this has got to change. So I would organize prayer groups in other places and in other people's homes and in other states in other countries; and organize, where two or more are gathered God says he's right there. He's in the midst of them. "I'm there. If you've got two or more, I'm there," he says. So invite him. Invite someone else and invite him in prayer to be a part of your prayer group. All it takes is one other person and you can add as many as you want.

So it's just starting to do it. Saying, "God, I'm not good at this. I don't know where to start, or what to pray." Usually you start right in the word. If you read any of the word, it's going to inspire you to pray about something.

Sheila: One of the things I love is that my understanding is like the Psalms were Jesus' prayer book. We can pray the Psalms back to God as well. I find that it's almost like God gives us words then to be able to know how to pray back. I love that!

Is there any way that God uses fear for a good purpose?

Stormie: Yes! Fear can be good or bad. Mostly bad if it is controlling your life; good if it is drawing you close to God. If you are afraid of something and it brings you to your knees, that's good! That's good! Or maybe you're afraid, I don't feel like I should be driving into town tonight. And there on the road is a huge accident. There are things like

that happen and have happened to me. Where I thought, oh no, I'm not going to go today. And sure enough, there was some horrible thing.

If you're constantly praying and constantly in tune with the Lord, if he lets you be afraid of something ask him, "God, are you trying to tell me something with this?" And he will. Pay attention! Exactly! That's when it is good.

Sheila: I totally see that. That that can either drive you further away from God or it can push you on your knees, on your face before him. I love that!

What would you say to somebody who thinks that well, I'm doing pretty well with most things but the thing I'm actually am afraid of is death? What do you say to that?

Stormie: Oh, I used to have that too. I used to be, when I was a new believer and I was coming out of this horrible life that I was living. But as I got closer and closer to the Lord, I began to see everything in his word about what heaven is like and what that transition is like. I think trusting God's word to speak to you, and just trusting his spirit to speak to you about that too because he is going to be there. He is either going to send his angels or he's going to be there in person. It will depend on how busy he is.

[Laughter]

Sheila: It is a win/win either way!

Stormie: Exactly! It's a transition that is going to be peaceful. And actually, you could pray for that too. You can say, "God, I want my death to be peaceful. I don't want it to be a horrifying, gut-wrenching, miserable, horrible thing. Let me have a peaceful transition to you." What have you got to lose? You know? I don't know yet. If that worked, by praying that, but I think it will.

And I've seen people who had peaceful deaths and they have seen something. They have

seen something. One lady had her eyes closed, eyes closed and almost like in a coma and then she opened her eyes and she had this great smile like, "Ah!" And then she died. And I know she saw something really great! I've heard that a lot of times. So something great is going to happen.

Sheila: I believe that. I had a letter from a viewer who said that her husband, like that had not been communicative for some time and in the last moments he opened his eyes, but he said, "You came!"

Stormie: Yes! Oh, I love that! I love that!

Sheila: Isn't that beautiful?

Stormie: Yes! My Uncle Jack died recently, and my aunt said, she said, he was basically comatose and then he did the same thing. He opened his eyes and he says, "Look at all of those people! And some of them are angels." And then he died. This is just recently.

I think, oh, there's some good things going to be happening. Not to fear it. Not to fear it. He is going to be there. To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord. That's what the -- yes! Me too. And I'm thinking, we're dreading this death thing, but he's got something good for us! So we don't have to fear it.

Sheila: I'm going to tell you how you can get a copy of *The Power of Praying Through Fear*. A fantastic book! It will make a huge, huge difference.

I recently had a trip to Southeast Asia and saw some girls who live in fear every single day. But you know what? We are God's girls and in his name we're going to make a difference and see some people literally rescued from the gates of hell. Would you watch this with me?

On the mission field:

Sheila: Riding in the chuk chuk in the red light district here in Southeast Asia. It can look -- some of them can almost look kind of glamorous. The girls are smiling, inviting men to come in and have a drink. When it's daylight and there's no one watching them, their pimps are not watching them, the difference is unbelievable. Then it's not smiles and makeup. Then it is tears, and tears and brokenness -- and hopelessness. And underneath the makeup and the short skirts is just a little girl -- just little girls like your daughters.

This is a place of absolute living hell. There's not one girl on these streets, and I don't care whether she is smiling and calling people in, there's not one girl here who values their life. Because they think, if you can be sold every night what are you worth?

I asked one of the girls we met today, "Who on this earth cares for you?" And she said, "No one. There is no one who cares for me." We want each one of these girls to know there is a God in heaven who cares for you. Let me tell you, if there is any place where the body of Christ should be showing up and caring for people it is on these streets, this red light district, where these girls are being sold every night time after time after time.

You and I as God's sons and daughters, we've got to be the ones telling these girls, you have a future and you have a purpose, and you have a hope. There is a God who loves you. They need our help and they need it now.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: I cannot tell you what these trips do to my spirit. What you might not know is some of these girls, they are 12 and 13. And maybe you're tempted to think, well, why did they get into that? Why are they doing that? Some of these children have absolutely no choice if they want to make some money. So many of the girls I work with, their parents are in jail or they've left, they're on their own.

I met a 12-year old girl who is the bread winner for the family. So she goes out at midnight and gathers beer cans when they're thrown out of the clubs. But that's when they're kidnapped. And they'll maybe be brought into club and somebody says, "Would you like a hot meal?" And they're like, "Yeah!" They don't know it is drugged. And they wake up the next morning and they've probably been raped four or five times.

I love all of our missions here. I love when we put water wells in. We give food to kids who are starving. We put little shoes on the feet of children who have never had them. But there is nothing that captures my heart more than our Mission: Life Rescue where we reach, rescue, and restore. Let me explain what that means. We go into the villages way high up into the mountains where children have never heard of this kind of evil and we teach them, if a man arrives with a van and wants to give you a better job, run for your life and scream as loudly as you can.

But when girls have gone and they've been kidnapped, we have teams that will go in. They're amazing! Some of the best guys on the planet and they will blow down these doors and they will rescue those girls -- literally, snatching them from the gates of hell.

And then restore. We have beautiful places where we can take these girls and say, "Listen, you're not a number." I walked into one club where all the girls had numbers tattooed to their thighs and men would say, "I want number 12." I want to say, "You're not number 12 to God. You are loved. Christ died for you."

So this is so important to us. As long as we, as the body of Christ, are on this earth, who knows when we'll be gone with the Lord, but as long as we're on this earth we cannot allow this to happen.

So here's the great news I have. We have a matching gift at the moment from some of our very faithful partners of \$320,000. Which means it used to be, for \$128, that is what it really took to be able to physically rescue one girl. And that's too much for some of you. But do you know if you can give \$64 our partners will match it. And with your \$64

matched you will now have the potential to rescue a girl. If you can give \$128 matched, you can rescue two. \$1280, which is a lot for some, but it is nothing for some of you, if you can do that, it will be matched to rescue 20 girls!

I've been in both places. I've been in the worst of the worst. I've seen things I will never unsee and I've seen the difference when they're brought to a place where they can be free to know that there's a God in heaven and I'm a child of God.

Will you help us do that? Go to your phone, dial that number, give the very best gift possible. I'm going back soon, and I want to tell some of these girls, "Help is on the way."

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there's a darkness where a world of innocence is lost, and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 Mission Rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

And with your donation of any amount we'll send you the faith, hope, love tea towel set. These beautifully woven hand towels are a wonderful reminder to remain steadfast in faith, hope, and love each day.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive the life-giving Proverbs journal bound in

genuine leather. This journal is filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, featuring lined pages for your personal notes as you reflect on godly instruction to success in life.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,280 which will now help rescue 20 children! And you may request our beautiful bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Yes! We can make a difference in Jesus' name. For any gift at all, I'm going to send you this amazing new book from Stormie, *The Power of Praying Through Fear*. Can you imagine, Stormie if every believer got a hold of this and began to apply these principles?

Stormie: Oh, that would be an answer to prayer. It would. That's why I write these books. I want everyone to have one and get it out as much as possible because people are living in the bondage of fear. It is ruining their lives because it makes you sick. It really does. And so they can be set free.

Sheila: So if you want to know how to be set free, we'll be glad to send you Stormie's book. Just ask for that when you give your gift.

I'm Sheila Walsh and I just want to say from all of us here at *LIFE Today*, thank you so much for joining me and we'll see you next time.