

11/4/19

Week 45: Fall mission feeding

James and Betty Robison

Anne Graham Lotz #1

James: I love you. You say, "You don't know me." That's okay, I love you. I'm James Robison, this is Betty. She loves me, I love her and we love our guest, and we love the family. This is one of Billy Graham's children. Billy, we love you, buddy. Thanks for loving me. I know you're watching. Proud of your kids. We've got one of them here -- a real blessing. Her name is Anne Graham Lotz.

She's written a lot of great books. She came here when she kind of launched her revival tour that was fabulous. And many of you are here, because she impacted your life, in this studio, and you're watching. Here is a book that's just coming out, *Jesus in Me*. Well, this is what she has come to talk about. Anne has said good-bye to a husband in the last few years. And she said hello to cancer. But she has a constant companion. I want you to welcome Anne Graham Lotz to *LIFE Today*.

Anne: Thank you. Thank you, James.

James: Anne, I love you. I said to you privately, the glory and glow of God is on you. I don't think you've ever looked more radiant.

Tell us how in the world do you say good-bye to a husband, who even left in such a way that sometimes you thought, maybe I wasn't quick enough. But you were. But you knew he was fighting a disease and it was tough. And then after he's gone then you get an intruder. How in heaven's name, how do you handle that?

Anne: One day at a time, James and one step at a time. When I found my husband, I found him unresponsive in our pool and had to wait for E.M.S. to take him. And then two days later, we took him off of life support and he went to heaven. At that moment, the Lord gave me such peace. Just incredible. And he carried me through all the planning that you have to do, and everybody who has lost somebody knows all the... It's not easy.

But the Lord, but after that, the Lord put this on my heart because he was so present with me. And the Holy Spirit was someone we were talking earlier, I was raised in a committed Christian home, raised in the church, I was in church every Sunday, really never heard that much about the Holy Spirit. He was like the Holy Ghost. "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." Or at the benediction, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. But I didn't know about the Holy Spirit.

So it wasn't until I was actually teaching, and I was in the gospel of John, in Chapter 14 Jesus said, "I'm going to send you another," meaning somebody exact, I'm a comfort, I'm going to send you another one. He said, "It's better for you if I go away because if I go away then I'm going to ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit."

I thought, wait a minute, how could it be better for me if Jesus went away? What could be better than having Jesus with you? But he was saying it would be better to have the Holy Spirit who would come in you. So that just opened up sort of the world of the Holy Spirit to me.

You can know it in your head and you can be taught it and I can teach it but when I found my husband and then went through three years, and then my daddy moved suddenly to heaven, and both of them left without saying good-bye, which is such a hard thing because you don't have closure. You just wish you could say I love you one more time or thank you one more time.

James: He didn't know now is the time I've got to say good-bye.

Anne: Exactly! And then six months after daddy went to heaven, then I was diagnosed with cancer. But I had immediately, when I was diagnosed, the immediate sense that this was an assignment from God. That this was my new ministry assignment. I say all that because while I was going through my aftermath of my husband's homegoing and then my father, and then my diagnosis, I was writing this book. So my focus, and the Holy Spirit who is so sovereign and he knew what I'd be going through, but it is just like he put his hands on my face and just drew my attention right down to the one who is my constant companion. And he has been.

Sometimes I don't see him at the moment or I'm not aware of him at the moment, but I look back and I think, oh my goodness! He was right there; comforting, helping, guiding through this whole experience. There have been tears, and you know I would be less than honest if I said there weren't tears, and moments when you feel lonely, but I know I'm not alone. I've never lost my joy. I've never lost my peace. I've not been afraid.

Even with this -- the only time I was unsettled with cancer was when I thought I was with the wrong surgeon or the wrong doctors. Not that they were wrong, but they were wrong for me. And then the Lord...

James: The Holy Spirit directs you with discernment oftentimes that this is not best.

Anne: And he did! He kept me up all night one night. And finally, I said, why am I so unsettled? And it just came to me, I was with the wrong doctors. Then I was sort of panicked because I was facing a life-threatening disease and where do I go? And within six hours of my understanding that I was with the wrong people he led me to the right doctors and the right place.

James: This is the Holy Spirit that you're writing about in the most unbelievable fashion. You've broken it out in the most literally, supernatural outline in my opinion. God just gifted you. I know how diligent you were to work.

But the thing is as you were writing you were experiencing, just like when you talk about, when you had the losses and we lost a daughter. And we do believe, and you know people were praying for you as we did when your husband was fighting diabetes. We knew when we heard what happened, so we're praying. There's a comfort there. But there is personal comfort that the Lord had his arms around us. I can already tell he's got you up close. And then when you were going through these decisions, that same Holy Spirit, another one like me that's in you, Jesus said, he was giving you not only comfort but discernment and he wants to do it for everybody.

I talked to your dad a lot. Baptists, we didn't talk about the Holy Spirit a lot. And you probably hadn't as Presbyterians, we don't talk about all of this. And if you talk about the Holy Spirit, you're Pentecost. You're just bouncing off the wall. A lot of them do sometimes, they'll take it there. We get a little carried away. We run right by heaven we're so happy.

Here's the thing. We really did experience something. I can remember scolding your daddy and saying, "Billy, you just have everybody on your platform and everybody... and you just ought to be more careful." I'm being this big Bible Baptist guy straightening out my Baptist brother.

He said, "Do you know these people you're telling me to avoid?" I said, "I don't know them." He said, "I do." He said, "I see Jesus in them."

And I want to say thank you, Billy! Let me tell you something, I love you so much. I really believe if we're not willing to see Jesus and see him in them, we may miss him completely and they may miss something in us that we share. He has brought us together with a great love. I'm seeing more Christians lifted by the Holy Spirit, wisdom and grace and love above those barriers, those walls that we foolishly built, the tribal mentality that has hindered the family. And I'm watching us being lifted up into the presence of God.

And you're a big part of inspiring that. Even as you're talking right here, you're

experiencing the reality, what somebody may have said, "We defend this as our Pentecostal faith!" No, we want the all, the power of Pentecost. That's the real key. Not defending what we believe but expressing the power of the person that lives in us. That's what you started experiencing and expressing right here and it is for the whole church, it's for all of us.

Anne: Well, it's for every single person. I would like to make something clear. When you talk about seeing Jesus in you or Jesus in you, he actually he's not in everybody. I know that you know that but when I was a little girl, I was watching a film of Jesus on TV and it came to the scene of the crucifixion. And I felt very convicted of my sin and told God I was sorry, and I asked him to forgive me and come into my heart. So I invited Jesus to come into my heart.

Now I didn't know as a little girl that Jesus is in heaven in a man's body. He couldn't possibly come into my heart. He came into me in the person of the Holy Spirit. So I think it is important that we nail down that we need to establish a relationship with the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus. That when we put our faith in Jesus at the cross, we confess our sin, we're willing to turn away from it, we humble ourselves and ask him to forgive us, to come into our hearts. Then he comes in in the person of the Holy Spirit.

So then we want to let the Holy Spirit take over inside so that he just fills our lives. As he fills our lives then I think other people can then begin to see *Jesus in Me*. What they're seeing is the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is *Jesus in Me*. And the interesting thing, James is that I think sometimes he -- not sometimes, he uses pressure and pain and disasters and suffering and brokenness and that just, if we allow him, that just is like the clay in the potter's hand, it just makes us more pliable. And then he shapes us into who he wants us to be and then his glory comes through.

So what I've been through in the last four years, a lot of has been a breaking time and a deepening time and a difficult time. And I don't want to make light of that because anybody that's gone through these things, whether it is cancer or death or some of these

other life-changing events, can be a child or can be ourselves but you know the pain that's involved. So I don't dwell there...

James: Pain and pressure.

Anne: Yes. And you just want to look up and say, God, all right, here I am. I'm willing for you to take my life and use me in whatever way you choose. As I allow him to take over and to fill my life, then I would pray, you or my children, or my grandchildren can say, "I see Jesus in her."

Betty: All those times in our life, whether like loss of a loved one or any kind of tragedy in our life, the heartache, heartbreak, they become those precious moments in our life that we grow closer to God.

Anne: Yes! And you look back and that's what you remember. It's not the hardship, it is the precious presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Betty: And we see his joy.

James: Philip Yancey and Paul Brand wrote about *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. Paul Brand spent his life as one of the most gifted doctors in the world working with lepers in hidden places. And the leprosy is dangerous because they lose the sense of pain. They can actually wear their fingers off and never know it. They don't feel anything.

And pain and pressure, you were talking about, I really want you to hear this because a lot of times we don't really like to associate God with that but God is the master potter and we're to be yielded clay in the master's hand. And he is shaping -- shaping us, conforming us to Christ. When the master's hands are shaping there is pressure involved. Sometimes that pressure is painful. Here's what people wonder, did that come from devil or did it come from God?

Well, if the clay is in God's hand and yielded to God then the pressure is either filtered through the fingers of God for a divine and heavenly purpose or it is from the fingers of God. But the potter's the source and what is he seeking to do? Shape Christ in us because he's in us. And he's shaping us so that the radiance comes out. And there's more of it on you, and I've known you a long time. We've been friends, we've kind of been family too.

But the glory of God is on you, and your daughter, it is greater than I've ever seen it. And I'm watching it. I'm watching it on Franklin, and I see it on Ruth, and now we're seeing it all the way down impacting the grandchildren. This is Holy Spirit power.

Here's what you've done, this is your gift. You are penning so much truth about what you're experiencing and boy, you talk about going through pressure and the shaping process but it is working. Christ is being shaped in you to where he shines. What I hear you sharing is *Jesus in Me*, the Holy Spirit is in me. This is Jesus, he's here. He wasn't just there and gone and coming back, he's here and he's coming back in glory for us adorned his glory. That's the work of the Holy Spirit.

So would you say if people read this book, and they're reading it, what are you praying? And boy, you poured a lot into this. We're going to do another program. I may read you some of the just little outlines. This is a classic outline. This is an outline every preacher will want to write her down because you'll probably break it into about five or six weeks of preaching. You'll take three of these thoughts -- they're great! And you'll preach them, it's that good.

But when they read, what is in your heart you're praying will happen in their life?

Anne: I want them to experience the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit. I want them to be drawn into a personal relationship with God, through faith in Jesus but it is one that the Holy Spirit develops within us. It is the Holy Spirit who quickens us, who guides us, who shapes us, as you've just described. And the Holy Spirit is, sometimes we treat him like an optional extra. He's just, you have the Father, Son, and sort of the P.S.

Of the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit is a divine necessity. And he is available. He lives within us. And as we release our lives to him and let him take over, then it doesn't make the Christian life easy. The Christian life will never be easy, but it works. And there is joy, there is peace, there is blessing, there is hope, there is a sense of purpose.

And so the relationship that God is offering us is not a denomination, an organization, a tradition, rituals, it is a personal relationship with himself. When we place our faith in Jesus at the cross, we invite him to come in, he comes in in the person of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit -- you can't be more intimate than that. For the Holy Spirit to be within me. And the Holy Spirit is Jesus. He is another Jesus. So I don't want to get heretical here --

James: Paraclete, he is another of the same kind, "This is me."

Anne: Exactly! As Jesus was the exact representation of God, the Holy Spirit is the exact representation of Jesus with the same mind, will, emotions but he is within me. He is the invisible Jesus. Jesus without skin inside of me. And I have experienced his presence, his love. And that's maybe something for the next program but the Holy Spirit loves you.

You talk about loving the world and loving these people, that's the Holy Spirit through you. The Holy Spirit loves people. He loves you and he loves me.

James: I just want to say to our viewers, she is going to do another program with us. But please hear this. You were talking about the Holy Spirit came in, I was a Christian, but I didn't understand about it. The Holy Spirit at salvation becomes resident. But see Jesus said to the disciples, because he had earlier said, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit." Well, they did. But then he said, "I want you to tarry until you are endued from power from on high."

I want, and this is breaking it down into just actually what takes place. I want the resident Holy Spirit to become president Holy Spirit. I want the one inside to get in every room, every area of your life in fullness until it overflows. He says be filled continually to overflowing. Doesn't mean go back next week and get filled up again. Drain her out and go back. He says, "Be continually filled." That's what she is talking about here. It's the way God wants us -- we can live that way. Now there is a lot of intermittent and we know that, and he'll pick us right back up. But just remember this, it's his will for his power to so fill us that it overflows. The amazing Holy Spirit she is talking about.

Don't you appreciate Anne Graham Lotz? Don't you appreciate the gift God's given us when she shares? I'm telling you, this is good stuff. Listen to me. It is online. Hey listen! Thanks to Mr. Amazon, he can have it to you tomorrow.

[Laughter]

Bezos doesn't understand this, but the greatest gift is servanthood and he has served a lot of people well. He delivers!

And you know something, Mr. Bezos? I'd love to get God's arms around you because you sure have helped a lot of folks. I hope you realize who it is and how much he loves you and the gift he gave you has blessed a lot of people.

This is great folks! In the bookstores. Anne, you know that -- you may not know. We gave Franklin probably the first big check he ever got when he took over Samaritan's Purse. And we had him over in the studio. The lights were so close they were burning our hair. We had just started daily television and brought him in, just loving him. We kind of been around the world with him. The missions are so beautiful. I'm watching Samaritan's Purse when a hurricane hits.

Franklin, hey, one of the Graham family members, Franklin, sure love you, buddy. Your

dad commissioned me to win you to Christ. Didn't get you. But he told me when God got you. Sure love you. Love the whole family. Thanks for what you're doing for the poor.

I'm telling you, when we saw the hungry and the thirsty and realized what love could do, and we told our viewers, they wanted to do it. I think it is beautiful. So here's what I want to ask you to do right now. I want you to look in, now listen to me, we talked about losing a daughter, listen to how many children this precious mother lost. And listen to me, if you could have come to our home and saved our Robin, no question you would have come. You would have said, "Here."

I'm telling you, listen to me, you're the miracle somebody is praying for right now and you're the perfect cure because of the love in you. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Mandalina is weary. For years she has battled an enemy that thrives in the environment she calls home. Despite her most desperate efforts to protect them, five of her children have lost their lives.

Open Captions:

>> The sickness that has taken my children is hunger. I had to sell everything in my house just to help my children survive. But we are still struggling, and we have nothing left.

Announcer: The most recent victim in her home was her four-year old daughter, a dearly loved girl whose greatest joy was helping her mother. Mandalina clings to those memories even as her grief threatens to overtake her.

Open Captions:

>> She was so young, but she always wanted to help me with everything. I remember us cooking and cleaning together. I cry when I think of her. All we have left is suffering and

hunger.

Announcer: In the face of such a relentless enemy Mandalina continues to fight all the while caring for her children who have fallen ill because of malnutrition again and again and again.

Open Captions:

>> The future is so dark.

Announcer: This shadow of death has loomed over Mandalina's family and so many others like them for far too long. With your help we can provided a daily bowl of food for all the children in Mandalina's village. The darkness can be rolled away and a bright future can be revealed.

End of video

In the studio:

James: That wasn't an exaggeration, Betty, what that closing statements were there that we can provide a meal for everybody in that village. We can feed all of them. We! What happens in your heart when you see a mother that's lost five and has another? And you realize that our viewers, if we would just join together can save all those children in that village and stop that cycle.

Betty: Wow! As I listen to that sweet mother, I know what it's like to lose a child. We know what it is like. It's like someone coming and physically ripping out your heart, robbing you of a joy and blessing that God gave both of us. But I can't even imagine five times? That's unspeakable. And that's happening all the time. We can stop it. Together, if we join together, we can make a difference. We can save the lives of these children from starving to death because they have nothing to eat -- their mother has nothing to offer them. And the heartache that she goes through because she can't help them. But we can. So please join with us, will you?

James: I'm going to ask every one of you watching right now to please join us. We've saved millions of lives. That's not an exaggeration. By the way, we save them and get them stable and show them how to live. And we help them in school because once they're stabilized in an area, we start school feeding. And the World Food Program adopted what we were doing for the whole world -- the school feeding.

Because you see, love will change everything. And I'm just simply telling you that this cycle of transformation begins with the love of God expressing and flowing freely through us. This is just one way.

If you would reach out today and say, I'm going to be an answer to mothers' prayers, I'm going to be their miracle, we can feed three, five or ten children for the next months with \$30, \$50 or \$100. That's not total child care, that's lifesaving nourishment, especially balanced for the particular need in that area. You help build food factories to create such an effective food, the U.N. and the World Food Bank asked us to do it for them. We can't, we don't have that kind of resource. The point is, this is what you're doing.

Would you right now go online or dial that phone number that's paid for by love as a counselling? Which we're going to pray with a 1,000 to 1500 people every day, paid for by love. Would you dial that number or go online and take your bankcard and use it like a check? Could you give \$100 and feed ten children? Please do that if you can. If you can give \$1,000 and feed 100 do it. Surely you could feed three. What if three of those five children had been saved by someone like you? There is a level at which you can help.

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you. Would you please give the greatest gift -- life and love? Please right now do it. Thank you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Mission feeding began with a promise to be there in times of crisis for

thousands of hurting and hungry children in their time of need.

Now more than ever we need your help to save lives by feeding and caring for children across the continent of Africa. With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish our supplies to reach the 400,000 children who are counting on us. Your gift of love can be the miracle answer to a desperate mother's prayer.

Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50 or \$100 that will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift, we'll send you the authored worship CD by Anthony Evans. This powerful full-length album includes unique versions of some of today's most cherished worship songs that are sure to uplift and inspire you.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Filled with Faith" and "...Joy" travel mug set. These 12-ounce mugs are crafted with large handles, double-layered insulation and vacuum sealed lids to prevent spills. Each mug includes a message to remind you of God's blessings and faithfulness.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

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

End of video

In the studio:

James: I know you're going to be blessed by Anthony's incredible CD, and the beautiful "faith" and "joy" mugs. But if you'll reach out and say, "James, we're going to help those children. Would you mind sending us Anne's book?" Yes, I will. We'll send it to say thank you for expressing the love of God that the Holy Spirit inspires us to share. And

we'll send it to you. It will bless you and I think you'll pass it on. You can get it online or in the bookstores. But I think Anne will rejoice with us. You help us feed these kids and give them a future, we'll be glad to send you the book.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Anne Graham Lotz?

Anne: Thank you! Thank you!

James: We can talk about the Holy Spirit in another program? All right! Thank you so much for watching. Tell everybody, watch *LIFE Today*! Share *LIFE Today* every day!