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Week 45: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Anne Graham Lotz #2

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! We're so delighted to have you. I'm Betty and this is James. And we're especially delighted to have Anne Graham Lotz with us.

James: Who is this Graham?

Betty: It might be somebody we've heard of.

James: No, really. What is this Graham name? Who is this Graham?

Betty: That would be Billy Graham's daughter.

James: I want to tell you something. I love this family. I was really blessed to sit in the presence of the Lord at Dr. Billy Graham's funeral because I saw Jesus, and all over the place. It was right. Here's a man that honored Jesus and loved you. Because you see, I got to talk to him a lot about how much he loved you. He would just say to me, "James, I think you can really preach. I don't do very good."

I said, "That's just laughable."

He said, "No, no! You're really... But me? I don't know why anybody listens to me. You know when I give the invitation, I'm just always amazed. I'm amazed they're there and I'm amazed they come."

I said, "Billy, it is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit you talked about after Steven Ofred had talked to you about it. And you told the story in the room there. If I remember correctly, in Chicago, when you and the team, you were praying for the Holy Spirit power to come and all of the sudden the room was like shaking with wind. It was so strong that I believe it was T.W. That went to the window and threw it open to see, what is this wind outside? And it was totally calm. But in the room there was a rushing mighty wind. Do you remember that's when you said something wonderful happened?

I said, "Billy, it is the same thing with all of us. It is God. It is the Holy Spirit."

Now then here's his daughter, Anne writing about *Jesus in Me* and it is the Holy Spirit. Here's Billy already preaching and pretty well known and suddenly they have an unbelievable experience. Same as with us. You know what God did? He stretched me way beyond my Baptist boundaries. When God set me free, he said, "You're going to go to the *whole* church -- not part of the church -- the *whole* church and let them see they're my family, my body. You're going to everybody."

Holy Spirit stretches us. He's still stretching some of Billy's family. He's still stretching Franklin and Ruth and all of them. Would you welcome Anne Graham Lotz back to *LIFE Today*?

Anne: Thank you!

James: You've been our friend and in our prayers. You've been through a lot. We talked about it in an earlier program. You can get them on line, go back and watch as she broke out some of this that she's been through. But you were really inspired by God to write this. How do you explain that God moved on you so strongly that you would spend the time to write about the Holy Spirit?

Let me give you, preach you some outlines. Just listen: "The person of the Holy Spirit." "The presence of the Holy Spirit." "The power of the Holy Spirit." "The purpose of the

Holy Spirit." Preachers, are you getting it? It is all P's. It is called alliteration. You getting it?

[Laughter]

"The precepts of the Holy Spirit." "The purity of the Holy Spirit." "The Providence of the Holy Spirit."

You really came out with something. Why did you pour yourself into this book? What in the world happened?

Anne: Everything I've written, James, the books that I've written come out of my own heart, where I am at that time. My husband had gone to heaven very suddenly and in a tragic way. I just turned to the Holy Spirit or turned to the Lord in a way that if you have a husband to turn to, or a father to look to, then sometimes we don't depend on the Holy Spirit but when my husband left and then my father left, then I became more aware of the Holy Spirit, I guess. I felt like the Holy Spirit within the mainline evangelical church, and I hate to paint stuff with a broad brush but I am, that he's not taught, he's not represented sometimes authentically. And I feel like you described that experience that my father had. I've not had a supernatural experience like lightning flashing or flat on my face.

James: Or wind -- you don't have to.

Anne: Yes. So this is my experience. And while I was writing it I was rather intimidated because there are volumes written on the Holy Spirit and people can fight over the Holy Spirit and they can argue and they have theological...

James: So sad.

Anne: So this is not a full explanation of the Holy Spirit, it is just my experience of the Holy Spirit. But I can tell you it is authentic and it is real. I believe the Lord had me, he

put this on my heart because I felt like there are a lot of people sitting in church, like I was. I was raised in a committed Christian home. We loved Jesus, obeyed Jesus, served Jesus, told people about Jesus but I didn't know about the Holy Spirit. For some reason I don't remember learning about the Holy Spirit until I myself got into the scriptures. And I thought if I'm like that, then I wonder how many people sitting in church, who love the Lord, who are serving him, obey him but they don't really know who the Holy Spirit is.

So he put this burden on my heart after my husband went to heaven and I began writing down who the Holy Spirit is. And as I did, then the Lord just fleshed it out and my father went suddenly to heaven. I was diagnosed with cancer so I had just went deeper and deeper and deeper in my experience and my awareness of who the Holy Spirit is.

I can tell you that I would not be sitting here today and I would not have my wits about me, and I wouldn't have a smile on my face had it not been for the Holy Spirit. I believe one reason he came down in a sense in fullness, and you've spoken to these people and told them how much you love them and I want to say I love you too. Because when I first was diagnosed with cancer the Lord told me from James five that the prayers of others, you will be healed through the prayers of others. So I just put out the word, social media, and just asked people to pray.

James: And we did.

Anne: Yes! And all over the world people have prayed. I believe the Holy Spirit moves on people's hearts so that people are still writing me weekly, still sending emails, still praying for me and knowing that cancer is not something that you just immediately get over. It is lifelong battle in a sense. And yet, the Holy Spirit has blessed me, he has surrounded me with himself, with love, with family, with friends.

And so this book is my experience. And if it is my experience it can be -- none of our experiences are exactly the same but when we profess faith in Jesus, when we come to the cross, like I did as a little girl, I confessed my sin, told God I was sorry. Asked Jesus

to come into my heart. He came into me and I didn't know it at the time because I invited Jesus to come live inside of me, but he came in in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Once I established that then I get to know who Jesus is, I get to know the Holy Spirit. I yield my life to him. As I go through hard things, and Betty and I were talking in the last segment, the difficult things, the pressures, the pain, the problems, if we'll yield our lives at that point then they just break us and I think, expand our capacity to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

So rather than resist him or harden our hearts or we talked about clay before in the potter's hand. The clay, when it becomes brittle, the potter has to break it again and remake it, as Jeremiah 18 said. He just had to remake the pot. Corinthians tells us that each one of us are clay vessels. But the point is not to draw attention to the clay but that the Holy Spirit in and through us would come so that people can see *Jesus in Me*, and Jesus in you, and they're drawn to Jesus.

So the purpose is not to draw people to ourselves or even to the Holy Spirit. Our purpose, and the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to shape us, guide us, equip us and all that so that people are drawn to Jesus. And not only come to the cross but yield their lives to him and we serve him and surrender to him until one day we see him face to face.

Betty: A lot of times, it is easy, easier for people to see the Holy Spirit working in us when everything is good and we're on the mountaintop. But I have really come to that special relationship too, as it sounds like you've experienced, through the heartache and things. I realize when I am weak he is strong. And he has become stronger in my life through those weaknesses. And he's taught me. He's made me stronger.

Anne: I actually think, Betty, when everything is going well, and our hair is always right and our shoes are always matching. And we have enough money and our children obey us and our husband loves us, then people just shrug that off because anybody can be kind and loving and happy. But it is when your husband walks out and your kids are rebelling

and you don't have enough money to see you through the month and you're still sweet and kind have joy. Then people say, "That's not natural. That's got to be supernatural. That's Jesus in her."

James: Well, it's all over you, Anne. I've known you a long time and you've been here many times and always come full of the word. But there is a -- what I think has happened is you've become more aware of this person in you and this manifest power. So the manifestation of it, you've become a vessel yielded so that this river of love and life and peace and joy and comfort just flows through you. And even now, you are comforting people with the comfort with which you've been comforted and that's the Holy Spirit is the comforter. He is the supernatural comforter.

Betty and I couldn't be sitting -- when you say people say that losing a child is perhaps the greatest pain a person can experience. Of course, we've experienced that but I've watched a lot of my friends say good-bye to their spouse. Some of them have been married a long time, just like with you. That's got to be unbearable. My friend told me, he's about to say they told him his wife is leaving, I couldn't even talk because I couldn't even imagine.

So these things are very, very real what we go through. But the Holy Spirit is the one. And we see the Holy Spirit on you. He's just there.

Anne: And the Holy Spirit balances that pain. The Holy Spirit can take the sting away so that it is not that you don't curl up in a fetal position and go back to bed. He makes it bearable but not just somehow, but triumphantly.

And the Holy Spirit... plus this life is not all there is, James. The best is yet to come. I felt like the Lord taught me after my husband went, from Philippians, for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. I knew my husband was gain, he was better off. And for me to live is Christ. And the next verse says, "And if I'm left here it's because I have more fruitful labor." I feel like I'm fine if the Lord takes me, I want to go to heaven, I want to see my

husband, I want to see my daddy and my mother but if he leaves me here then I have more fruitful labor and I'm okay. So I'm okay to go, I'm okay to stay. But I don't have -- if I had babies, or small children I might feel differently but I feel like I hold life loosely.

So I just want the Lord to use my life in the short span I have left to draw people to Jesus that they might know him. And there can't be anything more intimate than having Jesus inside of me in the person of the Holy Spirit. So it's a personal relationship he's offering. In fact, I introduced the book, I was out walking. I'm a walker so I walk maybe two and a half miles a day. And I've gotten back up to that after all this year. I'm so thankful.

James: That's the most important single thing people can do. All who understand health say that even Harvard just did a study saying that is the single most important thing you can do for your health.

Anne: Well, if I can get out and do that, it's a stress reliever for one thing but it also helps with energy and all that. But as I was walking I thought, sometimes I have a friend who walks with me. We discuss politics. We discuss the world's situation. We discuss our children. We discuss what we're going to get at the grocery store. When I walk with her, the time passes so fast and the walk was almost easy. When I walk by myself its like, can I make it to the next bend? Can I make it around the lake?

[Laughter]

I thought, what I need is a walking partner for life. I need somebody that I can discuss world politics with, somebody I can confide in, somebody I can talk to about my children. I want somebody who understands me, who knows me, who loves me, and I thought, I don't have to look for somebody like that, I just look within. That's who the Holy Spirit is. And the Holy Spirit is somebody I can talk to. It is somebody I can confide in. He never breaks a confidence. Somebody who is utterly trustworthy -- and somebody who loves me.

This was a new thought when I was studying the Holy Spirit because it says not to grieve the Holy Spirit. We grieve for those we love. I grieve for my husband. I grieve for my mother. I grieve for my father because I love them! And when it says not to grieve the Holy Spirit I thought the way I grieve him, the only way I can grieve him is because he loves me. So if I do the right thing he rejoices but if I do the wrong thing he grieves. It just struck me that he is emotionally involved in my life. I thought when I received Jesus he was sort of assigned to me. Host, but has to go into Anne. One day he will present me to the father and say, "Well, I did the best I could."

[Laughter]

But I found out it's not... The Holy Spirit loves me. And he is all caught up in making me into a person that reflects the image of Jesus.

James: This is really good.

Anne: It is precious because I think sometimes we're afraid of the Holy Spirit. We think he's, can I just use the word spooky? We think that he's mystical and he's not. He's Jesus! The invisible Jesus living inside of me. And anybody who receives Jesus by faith, receives the Holy Spirit but then I think the purpose is to sort of let him loose.

I remember Alan Redpath, great old British Bible teacher but he gave a definition for being filled with the Holy Spirit. He said, "It is moment by moment surrender to the moment by moment filling." So you just moment by moment surrender to his moment by moment control. And the Holy Spirit just... So it involves continual confession of sin and just opening up our hearts. And then when we go through those hard things, the Lord breaks us and he breaks our will, he breaks our want-er -- all the things we want, we think we have to have to be happy. And he just strips us right down. I've been stripped right down. And I can tell you when I'm stripped right down, I'm more full than I've ever been because the Holy Spirit fills you. When you're an empty vessel, he just fills you.

James: Anne, you are flowing. It is like a vessel overflowing and it is flowing... Do you all see Jesus flowing out of Anne Graham Lotz? Would you just say thank you, God, thank you, Anne? Thanks Billy and Ruth for giving us kids that magnify the Lord. Boy, we're proud of you.

This woman has a gift from God. I kind of gave you some of the outline. She will really help all of you preachers, it will bless you. But what she's talking about is real and you can see it in her. It is for you. The Holy Spirit is here to fill you to overflowing with Jesus.

Father, I pray everyone listening will just invite you to come in not as just resident but as King Jesus, president, Lord of lords, King of kings, every area of their life, in Jesus' name. Invite him in.

Would you like to say thanks to Anne for sharing? One of the greatest joys Anne, and this is so amazing! Betty and I have tried with *LIFE Today*, because people like to hear me preach. But God said I want you to be servant, that's most effective. When Franklin wanted to know why I wasn't doing the crusades all the time, I said, "Because God told me to serve you and serve others. And we'd win more people than we ever did."

Here's what we do. We bring people in that you know, that you see Jesus' glow in, we bring people in Anne that nobody knows and they see Jesus glowing. Many of them saw Jesus in a very quiet, very shy homemaker and she shows them Jesus. You know what they'll think? They say, oh I can't talk like James but maybe I can glow like Betty. So see here's the thing, you can -- you can!

You know what you showed us? When we came home and showed you hungry, thirsty precious little least-of-these, overlooked, you said, "God notices. You pointed at them, James. We notice and we're going to touch them the way Jesus said to touch the least of these." And you've done it. It's been a miracle.

I want you to watch right now because you've got a chance to be the miracle Jesus wants us to be and the answer to someone's prayer. Watch.

On the mission field:

Isak: We had heard about how bad the conditions are in this village. We started the next morning to just talk to mothers. Almost every mother we spoke to told a similar story of at least losing one child but some had lost two or three children. We asked one of the mothers, "Where do you get food from?" She said, "We have no food. We literally have no food."

Announcer: One of the mothers we spoke to was Maria, a young woman who had beautiful twin daughters, both babies recently became ill with the unmistakable signs of malnutrition. But one of them deteriorated far too rapidly to react.

Open Captions:

>> My baby was crying and crying. She was very sick. She dies beside me while I held her sister. My heart was broken.

Announcer: Maria can't allow herself to mourn. The sorrow makes her physically ill. So she pushes away the thoughts and tries to focus on her remaining daughter. She is doing all she can to survive but without food, Maria fears she will live the same nightmare again.

Open Captions:

>> I pray for her health. She's always sick, and I can't find food. I pray God will take away the suffering from our bodies... and provide for us.

Isak: Please! Help us today to bring mission feeding to this area because we can't do it without you. If you'll knit your hands and your hearts with us, and if you'll do what you can do, you'll enable us to do what we have to do and that's establish mission feeding

here and save these children's lives.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, we've lost a daughter to cancer and people like you put arms of love around us with your prayers. As I was looking at that precious mother and the little sister, the little baby on her back, I think these women are the most beautiful women in the world who just love their children so much. And they're their greatest source of joy because they are poor. And when we found out that we could save their lives and give them a future, we started doing it. But we sold things here at the ministry and we started supporting and we didn't know if anybody would join us. So we started telling and Betty and I started going to the ends of the earth to show you a need that love can meet. And with amazement, you stepped up.

We have saved somewhere between 13 and 15 million lives. Did you hear what I just said? Like that -- little ones, 13 to 15 million! That's the reports from the nations where we saved them. When I say we? Who is that? That's us. So we give people a future and a hope and we show them how to get on their feet. And we teach them responsibility, accountability, and even how to work.

You saw a lot of children lined up there in that area where we're feeding, and they had clothes given and donated and a lot of them came from all the different parts of the world. It made them look nice even though they're poor. And then we're feeding them food that you give.

Betty, it's been the most amazing thing. Right now we have 400,000 children in need, situations just like that. Now think about what I'm saying. This is a miracle. For \$30, \$50, \$100 we can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. Would you please help us feed ten? Could you do that? Surely you could help three or five, \$30, \$50, \$100.

There are many of you that have been so blessed you could help us feed 100, you could give \$1,000. I really believe that.

All I'm asking you to do is be an answer to that mother's heart cry. She's already lost a child. She doesn't want to lose another one. She's working, she's trying to find a little grain and it's so meager but we not only feed them and stabilize then we encourage schools and we do the feeding there, so they get an education. And everywhere we feed, girls who are taught to work, the attendance of girls goes up 70%! Because only about 10 to 20% attend until we feed. Listen to me. It is a miracle.

We have some beautiful gifts. Anthony Evan's CD, his songs, "Altared" became number one right off. We're sending this incredibly gifted beautiful music from Anthony Evans, Tony Evan's son; you know Priscilla Shirer, this is the Evans family. Beautiful -- we love them. We're sending that to say thank you. We've got the beautiful mugs, "Filled with Joy," "Filled with Faith" for those of you who will receive the CD but also both mugs if you just say, "James, I can give \$100." You can! You give \$1,000, we've got a beautiful bronze "In the Arms of the Shepherd," that's what you're doing.

Would you right now go get your checkbook and write a check to LIFE? But call us and tell us what you're mailing. Or will you go online, go get your bankcard, use it like a check or dial that number? People have been calling and saying, "I want to know God as father." Would you please call right now and say I'm going to help you feed ten kids, five kids or three. There is some level you can be an answer to somebody's prayer. Please do it right now. If you put it off, chances are it will be put off. Go do it right now. Thank you for doing it.

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 can't tell you how excited I am that I believe the love of God that Anne talks about, the Holy Spirit is being expressed through you, that you would reach out and touch the least of these with the love of God that you won't ever see in person. But you're going to be the miracle some mother prayed for, some child needed, some family. We can be the miracle that the world is longing for by delivering Holy Spirit Jesus in us and doing what he says.

We'll send you Anne's book. You help us feed a child, you say, "Would you mind sending me that book? I can get it online or at the bookstore." But yes, you help us help somebody else and say, "Would you mind sending me that book?" You better believe it. Along with the other gifts to bless you because you are giving the greatest gift.

Would all of you join me and Betty saying thanks to Anne for coming? Anne, we love you. Appreciate you and your family. God continue to strengthen you. Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. And like I say all the time, share life every day!