

1/27/20

Week 5: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Sheila Walsh #1

**James:** Wow! I'm sitting here with two beautiful women and two of my favorite women in all the world. I think I've said it many times and I believe it, aside from the Holy Spirit, apart from the Holy Spirit, the greatest inspiration and influence on the planet, in my opinion, for positive, and they can also be a distraction, but the greatest source of inspiration are women.

Betty, I want to thank you. I've said it many, many times, boy, for God to bless this kid here when I was only 15, when God showed you to me. Now what did he do to get you liking me?

**Betty:** Well, you were pretty cute too!

**James:** It's a "were."

[Laughter]

**Betty:** I meant you're handsome now. Cute to handsome.

**James:** Okay. Here we go. I'm telling you.

[Laughter]

All right. Here is the other person I'm talking about, Sheila Walsh. And the title of this book is *Praying Women*. Now ladies, let me just tell you something. I really believe this.

I believe one of the reasons God has blessed the outreaches of *LIFE* is because of *praying women*, and probably, some weeping women and caring women and sharing women.

And I know some of you, you have a hard time leaning on your husband to get him to realize we ought to do this. Thank you for being persistent. I would say to every man that hears my voice, ask God to give you, because I pray this, I want the sensitivity, and I want the ability to have the compassion that a mother has for a child, for all people God loves. And you know what? God is hearing that because he's put a lot of compassion in my heart. And it's because of *Praying Women* in many instances.

Would you welcome to *LIFE Today*, one of our wonderful hosts of *LIFE Today*, along with our son, Randy and then incredible specials that she does, and speaking all over the country, would you welcome Sheila Walsh to *LIFE Today*?

**Sheila:** Thanks!

**James:** I'm glad you're a part of *LIFE Today*, I'm glad you're part of *LIFE Outreach*.

**Sheila:** I'm so glad! I'm so happy. I feel so privileged to stand beside you and to carry out this glorious message that you are not alone, God is listening.

**James:** He is listening. Boy, now you said a mouthful. Let's repeat that, "You're not alone. God is listening." Listening to who? You! And this fatherless kid being heard by the ultimate Father and he likes to hear me. And I've learned, Sheila to love to hear his voice. I really believe that when we pray, we can download our heart but I really think if we'll be still a little while we can hear a lot of wisdom and insight from his heart.

**Sheila:** It's interesting, for the last two years, literally two years, I wake up every morning with that one word on my heart and spirit: Pray, pray, pray. So much so that I began -- for two years I've been studying everything the Word of God says about prayer, what other great giants in the faith have said about prayer.

So I've decided to put a little thing on my Facebook page and ask people, "What do you struggle with in prayer?" It was really interesting the feedback: I get bored. I get distracted. I'm halfway through my prayer and I'm thinking, did I defrost the chicken for tonight? Or why do I pray if God already knows what he's going to do?

So that's why I wrote this book because I wanted it to be a ten-chapter manual on what to pray when you don't know what to say.

**James:** Well, I think you've really just fleshed it out beautifully. Do you want to take off on some of the points? I know I can go and just read chapter titles and boy, to me they're all blockbusters but you want to start?

**Sheila:** I took my notes.

**James:** You really, you talk about due diligence. She says, "I'm going to say the things that I really believe will help you because I want you to get in the book." And I think the book can help you get into prayer with a fuller understanding and have a more meaningful, let's say, intimate prayer relationship with God to where you all of the sudden realize, I'm not just talking to the air or to the wall, I'm having fellowship with somebody that's really tuned in. Do you feel that way?

**Sheila:** Absolutely!

**James:** He's anxious to hear us.

**Sheila:** Absolutely! I have this thing about not liking photo shoots. And so when they wanted me to have my picture in the front of the book, I was like oh gosh, no. So we drove down to this beautiful big white barn in East Texas to do the photo shoot and we were early. Barry and I were the first ones there. He brought a chair from home, a white chair and he sat it in the middle of this big kind of cathedral place and he went to the car

to take a couple of phone calls.

And I looked at this little chair and I've never heard the audible voice of God but in my spirit I heard the Lord say, "Come and sit a while." I just went and sat in that chair. It wasn't a time of me bringing my requests, it was simply sitting in the presence of the Lord. I believe that we should process our pain in the presence of the Lord. Process your emotions, process your fear, process your doubts. And it's like the father is so glad you came!

It's a powerful thing! And I believe if God's daughters began to grasp hold of the power of this weapon it would literally change the world.

**James:** And you know, you can sure just open your eyes and look around and just listen to the sounds or just glance at the news for a moment and you see the sheer chaos, you see the stage set for indescribable damaging chaos, even deadly chaos. You see dissension, deception, division that's not just disagreement but its outright hatred. You don't have to look very far to find something to pray about.

And here's the thing, if people would just realize, because you're talking about processing your pain, take your pain but you can also take the pain you see out here and all that's going on that's causing pain and ask God to give us the miraculous direction to begin to effectively deal with that. Don't you think he will give us some sensible solutions that can be delivered?

**Sheila:** Absolutely! But I love studying what Jesus said about prayer. Because it is one thing to read a book and here's what so-and-so thinks or so-and-so. But when Jesus said, "When you pray do this..." I want to pay attention. And he told that parable in Luke's gospel about the Pharisee and the sinner. The Publican, the sinner -- the Pharisee walked right to the front because he believed he belonged there. And if you read his prayer it's basically a love letter to himself, "Thank you that I'm not like him and I'm not like him and I'm not like him." But the Publican stayed at the back and beat his chest which was a

sign in those days of true repentance and said, "Have mercy on me a sinner."

So what I want to say to people is, it is not about finding holy words. John Bunyan said, "It is better to have a heart with no words than words without a heart." Sometimes the most powerful prayer is simply this, Lord, have mercy on me! Save me! Help me!

**Betty:** And no one is a greater listener than God. There are many times when just like you said, you feel like beating your chest and crying out to God. And no, any word we call out to God can be the perfect word for that moment and that time. I know everybody is going to go through heartaches and disappointment but just to know that he's there to listen and that he's there to speak to you too, he teaches us how to listen.

**Sheila:** I say it over and over and over, you're not alone, God is listening. Because a lot of people think, well, I know my own life and I know my life is not that pleasing to God. Why would God listen to me? That's because that's who he is. Barry and I tried to do a prayer closet like, I've heard of people who will get one room and they will put scriptures and they'll make that where they go to pray.

**James:** All of us saw War Room. We felt like we had to go get a closet.

**Sheila:** Well, I haven't seen it yet. But I got the idea from there. But for us it was a disaster because when I close the door the light goes off. So then what I did is I got three candles, but I set fire to my *Streams in the Desert*. So that was a disaster!

But do you know what I heard God say? Sheila, you don't have to find a holy place. You *are* the holy place. Because we love Jesus, we become a holy place to carry his presence. And just his delight that we sit, we spend time alone with him and we capture his heart and we listen to him.

**James:** And he said, you were talking about what Jesus says, he says, "Don't use vain repetition." And that vain repetition that he is referring to, he said, "Don't sound like

church folks. Don't sound like..." And really, this Pharisee was the ultimate end of church folks. And when the Lord Jesus was talking about this religious person... by the way, the self-righteous gave Jesus more real misery than anybody. Because what really hinders the grace and the transforming salvation and redemption he offers is a self-righteous person.

By the way, they make all of us nauseated. They're living nauseated. They look nauseated while they're stuffy. And what Jesus is saying is, "Don't try to be like what you hear in religious settings." Don't do that. And don't say it over and over thinking that you're going to be heard by your much speaking. "Be merciful to me," that sinner said. And the Lord said, "This man went away justified." Some people say meaning, "Just as if I'd never sinned." Mercy, grace covered him.

And so when we come like that it is amazing what happens. God downloads himself on us. Taking your pain and process that pain.

You've got another note. Now I don't want to read a chapter title that would take you off these notes because you have prayed over these notes.

**Sheila:** I have. I have prayed and wept. Honestly, James, I have had the privilege of writing over 70 books, this is the most important book I've written. I really believe that because prayer changes us.

**James:** Because if we pray it's going to shake the world. You just said that and it's true.

**Sheila:** The other thing I wanted to write about was how do you pray when it is hardest to pray? Like when you're praying for something and you're not seeing the answer. I didn't even tell you and Betty this, but like about three months ago, I came home from a trip and I had the worst headache I've ever had. And it didn't shift, and I thought I wonder if I've got the flu.

So I went to a drop-in clinic. They asked me a few questions and then the doctor said what I now know to be a pivotal question, "Is this the worst headache you've ever had?"

And I said, "Yes."

And he said, "Is there any history of brain aneurisms in your family?"

And I said, "Yes. My father died when he was 34."

So he said to Barry, "Get her to the emergency room immediately and tell them they have to take her straight in and she has to have a CAT scan."

And as we were driving to the emergency room all I could remember was what that had done to my father, how it changed his personality, how he was like a different person. And I thought, Lord, is this going to be my story? Is Christian going to end up with a mom who is not like the mom he knew?

And you know what was interesting is the more you dive deep into the presence of God, because when they were putting me in the CAT scan, they thought I was going in alone, but I was not going in alone. I was going in with the presence of Christ. And I remember laying there saying, Lord, thank you that you're in here with me. And I don't know what the outcome will be but what I do know is you are with me. Come good news, come bad news, because prayer doesn't always change the circumstances, but prayer always changes us. We become changed when we pray.

**James:** I just want to say, if you're watching and kind of zoom here on me for just a minute if you would where I can just talk to you. I just wish I could -- I feel like there is somebody right now that you just really heard her download, not just from Sheila, you heard a download from the Father that loves you more than you could ever imagine being loved. And he's wanting, you know, you could perhaps identify when she's lost her father to this and if you know as many people as we know, we know what happens when these

things happen, she thought maybe her world is changing. But she went in.

And I've been in when they did the CAT scan and the M.R.I. on me and it got worse and worse the longer they did it. I'm actually in the tube saying how much I love my kids and just telling God.

So we know this is -- this is what I just felt when she was talking that I need you to listen to something. I don't know where you are in your journey or your pain but if Sheila and I were there and Betty, we would walk over and sit down right by you. We really would. If we could pull you over, we would do our best to comfort you. God wants to do that. I'm telling you he does. So just say, "Father, would you just hold my hurting heart? Would you just take the challenge and the fear right now? And Lord, would you teach me to pray?" And you're going to begin a process.

Now Lord, just start this work and give them a peace and a comfort they don't even understand, just your presence. And then help them to learn where they're going to commune and fellowship with you in the sweetest fellowship they've ever known and let them see the miracle of your presence.

Sheila, continue to share with us out of your heart what God put on your heart because you've just really born not really your heart in this book but you've just shared the heart of God. What do you want us to hear?

**Sheila:** The thing I think is amazing. I think of viewers right now who are watching who are in a devastating circumstance and they don't know how to pray. And sometimes you're in a place where there is no road map, but Jesus is our guide to know how to pray when it is hardest to pray. Think about him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Luke the doctor gives us an interesting detail that Christ sweat drops of blood, that Hematidrosis, which not only means he was in agony, it actually makes your skin more sensitive, so it made the crucifixion way more painful because he prayed in agony.

So he told God the truth but then he said, "Not my will but thy will be done." And if you're in pain then you get to tell God the whole truth. You get to have a gut level, unedited conversation where you pour your heart out. The Psalmist said that, "Pour your heart out before the Lord." But then we're able to say in faith as Jesus our tour guide did, "Not my will but your will be done."

**James:** And he's worthy of that trust. We can trust his will. We may not always understand it but we can trust it. One of your chapter titles is "Pray when it is Hardest." I think you've touched on that with what we've already said. But is there any other explanation you want people to get of pray when it's hardest to pray? What do you want them to get? What do you want them to hear?

**Sheila:** Well, I just believe, and you know this, you and Betty know this, Christ is a redeemer of our pain. What I've learned is where your wounds are, there lies your authority. When you have walked through a cancer journey you can speak. When you have lost a child, you can speak with an authority. There is so many things that happen that we think, why Lord? But God is a redeemer. There is never a tear that's fallen without him seeing it, Psalm 56, verse eight, "You've captured all my tears in your bottle." We, as the body of Christ, get to share in the suffering because where our pain is, where our scars are, there lies our authority to speak about those who are further behind us and say, "Don't worry, keep walking. I'm further down the lane and Jesus is here. It might look really dark to you but Jesus is here."

**James:** This book is being released early in the year. We're giving it to all of you who will just give somebody a drink of water, literally. And you're going to learn to pray. What Sheila and other women are doing in their praying is they're encouraging you. They want to see a million women right now start praying and then it becomes millions of women.

Sheila, you've just come back from... By the way, would you just like to thank Sheila

right now for sharing his heart and her heart? Sheila, you've just come back from a trip to Africa. You've been on many now with the *LIFE* Mission team. You just came back from Zambia. What tore at your heart when you watched these mothers and these people that were losing children because of contaminated water?

**Sheila:** This one trip has changed my life for good. I sat with so many mothers who have lost a child. One mother, her child fell in the well. One mother her child was taken by a crocodile. I mean I heard horrendous stories. But then I got to go to this village where there was a well and it said, "*LIFE Outreach International*: Given by the partners." I was like, let's do this again and again and again.

**James:** Father, that's what we pray for. We are right now in the early stages of drilling as many wells as you'll enable us to drill. By the way, we can only drill the wells that love drills through you. We drill them one well at a time. They are paid for by love. They cost \$4800 on average. You may be able to drill a well or give part of a well and pray others join you but there is a level at which you can participate. I'm praying for a miracle outpouring of God's love through you. I want you to watch, I want you to listen and I want you to not only hear the need and see it, but I want you to listen to the heart of God. You're the miracle. Watch closely. Watch prayerfully.

#### **On the mission field:**

**James:** Here's a well right here for a family. It's a hand dug well. They've got a container like this that they lower down into the well. Again, you look at this water and it looks pretty clean, but it's actually got sewage in it. And this is very, very typical of many places near population centers.

#### **Open Captions:**

>> My name is Salefi. We get our water from a hand dug well and the water is not clean. The ground is open. Sometimes even dirty things get in there. We try to remove the dirty things and drink.

**Announcer:** For mothers around the world like Salefi hand dug wells are the only source for drinking water. But hand dug wells fail to stop contaminants into seeping into that drinking water.

**Open Captions:**

>> My son became sick for four days, he had diarrhea. After the fourth day he died. [ Crying ]

**Announcer:** The death of a child is always tragic. A death caused by what was supposed to have been a source of life is almost too much to bear. When we left Salefi her remaining children were still drinking from that same hand dug well. A safely drilled water well sealed off from outside contamination saves lives. Help bring safe and clean water to villages like these. Help give Water for LIFE.

**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**James:** Betty, we saw that tire over that borehole. And Sheila, you talked about a mother actually realizing that her child had fallen down in one of those bore holes and drowned. So there they're coming to get the water that they think is clean. It's contaminated. It is unsafe. Sheila did talk and we know it happened where a child went down to the river and an alligator, a crocodile killed her, killed them. It's horrific.

When that first scene that you saw came on, you saw me standing there by one of those boreholes, showing you that container of water. It is very significant that you understand because a lot of people ask, how is it that you can drill and get water and do it for \$4800? Well, one thing petroleum costs have stayed down, thank God due to the United States now becoming the highest energy producer in the world. And that's an answer to prayer. It's kept things better for everybody. But it's also kept it better for the missionaries and the workers to be able to have the petroleum necessary to keep the rigs going.

All right. What that picture you saw says is that water is there. In other words, we go into an area where they've got contaminated water and they're dying. We know the water is there subsurface. We know you can reach it because they're hand digging to it. We go down to that water. We find it very economically. We steel case it and then we make it accessible where it's a manual pump, they don't have electricity and if they did have it it's intermittent so you don't have it when you need it, it comes and goes. Little children can even get the water.

So we can do that. And we're giving oases of hope everywhere we drill a well; 1,000 people on average have water the rest of their life! Which means that when you give a well, you've just given people the greatest miracle they've ever known. And that miracle is an answer to prayer. And they realize God's real and they see the love of God in the missionaries. And you're the ones. See, the missionaries told me and Betty, don't... I said, "We'll come over here and stay here with you."

"No, no, no! Go back and get us help so we can stay here and do something for these people."

We came back not knowing. And you talk about a miracle for the missionaries, an answer to their prayers, an answer to those mothers' prayers, you became the answer to the prayer. You became the answer to our prayers. We didn't know if you'd do it. We knew we were going to help them all we could. We knew our ministry would do a little. We didn't have the money to do the things we're doing to give millions of people water, to drill thousands of wells and feed millions and millions of starving children. You did it.

Right now, I'm asking you to go and get your bankcard or get a check; use that bankcard like a check. Go online or dial that number that's always there, a prayer line, right now people are calling to get right with God, calling for prayer and we're praying with them because we know God answers prayer. But I'm asking you to call that number with that card and say, "I'm going to give life today. I'm going to be an answer to prayer today on

this prayer line." It's going to be a life line for somebody.

I want you to make the largest gift you can. If you can give a well, do it. You give \$1200, three people join you, we've got another well. Lord, raise those four people up. If you can give half the money, \$2400, somebody join them. \$48 gives ten people water the rest of their life. \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life.

There is a level at which you can share the love of God right now. Do it! Don't let anything distract you please. You be that miracle expression of God's love.

We have gifts to send you. Sheila's book, other beautiful gifts that are going to bless you and point you to Jesus. Thank you for making that gift. Thank you so much.

### **Begin video clip**

**Announcer:** Today, a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable, give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice what's a mother to do?

With your help clean water is on the way. Mission Water for LIFE is the answer to a mother's prayer to save the lives of her children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year.

Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *Praying Women*: "How to pray when you don't know what to say." In her new book, Sheila Walsh shows you how to reignite your conversation with God to become a strong praying woman.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "*Power of Prayer*" bundle. This bundle includes a cozy throw blanket adorned with words of The Lord's Prayer, a decorative pillow cover, as well as Sheila's book. All three are encouraging reminders of how there's power in your faith-filled prayers!

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 brand-new commemorative bronze sculpture, "A Mother's Strength."

Please call, write or make your gift online!

**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**James:** We're sending Sheila's book to all of you to say thank you but also because it's going to take you on a journey. But Sheila, if women understand the reality of the relationship of the person they're praying with, to say it is life-changing almost seems like an understatement. Do you think it's been one of the greatest experiences...? how long have you been a Christian? Do you mind me asking?

**Sheila:** I became a Christian when I was 11 and I'm 63 -- 52 years of the faithfulness of God.

**James:** And this has been the most wonderful journey, you told me, you've ever taken.

**Sheila:** Life changing -- life changing!

**James:** And it can be for everybody. You want to say thanks to Sheila Walsh for being here? Thank you for writing. We're anxious to send you this book. And you tell your friends to get it in the bookstores. Get it on line. We want everybody praying. *Praying Women!* And men, lets pray with them.