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Week 7: WFL

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Jimmy Evans #2

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Randy Robison. Sheila Walsh is here.

Sheila: Hello!

Randy: We've got good news because as a believer, the victory is yours. But there is something you have to do and here to tell us about it, the author of *The Overcoming Life*, would you welcome Jimmy Evans?

Jimmy: Good to be here. Thank you!

Randy: So I like the subtitle here because it spells it out, makes it easy for guys like me: "As a believer victory belongs to you but you still have to claim it." Tell us what we need to know about what's going on and what we can do to claim that victory.

Jimmy: Well, Jesus died not to give us the ability to cope but to conquer. And so he conquered death and hell. He conquered Satan and all of his power and he's given us authority but we have to use it. Luke ten, Jesus said, "I have given you authority over serpents and scorpions, over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means harm you if you use the authority." If you don't use the authority you're going to get hammered. And so the wonderful news is we can overcome, because of Jesus, we can overcome in any area of life but we have to claim it. So this is what this book is about.

Randy: There's a lot; right?

Sheila: What would that look like, say somebody who is trying to overcome something in their own strength and somebody who then is overcoming under the authority of Christ?

Jimmy: That's perfect. So we talk about fear. I grew up all of my life fearful and insecure. When I got saved... now on the outside I looked real macho and I acted macho. In fact, the more fearful I was the more macho I acted. And I tried in my own power to overcome that, the fear. I just couldn't do it. In fact, it got worse. It didn't get better, it got worse.

I can't remember exactly the series of events but I got to the point one day, I read Second Timothy 1:7 and it says, "God hasn't given us a spirit of fear." What I realized was this wasn't my fear. See I always felt... There were events that happened in my childhood that were traumatizing. See, the devil is not a gentleman. Whenever you're traumatized he uses that as an open door to come in. I wasn't demon possessed because there is no such phrase in the Bible but he's attacking us in that area. So I had certain traumas that had happened to me that were open doors and he was using those to harass me. I didn't know it was him.

What makes the devil so dangerous is stealth. When he came into the Garden of Eden, he didn't take the form of a wolf or a bear, he took the form of a serpent. And the reason that serpents are dangerous is you don't know they're there, they're stealthy. So Satan slithers in, slithers out and he doesn't want you to know it's him. We are his perfect disguise. So he came into my life through me and he was introducing thoughts and feelings into me that I had no idea were him. I knew they weren't God but I thought they were me.

What helped me so much was the day that I realized, this is a spirit that I have authority over. We're not born with any fear. We're born fearless. All of the chronic debilitating fear is of the devil and you cannot defeat it until you begin to deal with it as a separate entity.

Randy: Okay, that's interesting because you could take the idea of a spirit of fear as just an attitude of fear but you're saying it's more than that.

Jimmy: Well, for many people, their lives are debilitated by fear. They have this chronic... See, there is a good fear. And a good fear that God creates us with is you're driving down the street, someone swerves into your lane. Immediately you swerve out, fight or flight. It was temporary, it was circumstantial, and it was helpful. But bad fear is chronic, it is paralyzing and it is confusing.

What the devil is, and this is the way I say it is, fear is a prophet spirit from hell sent to give you a negative report of the future so that you'll make a fear-based decision that God will not honor. And see what fear does is...

Sheila: I actually would love you to repeat that because that's really profound.

Jimmy: Fear is a prophet spirit from hell sent to give you a negative report of your future so that you will make a fear-based decision that God will not honor. Because God only honors faith. And so the true prophet spirit is the Holy Spirit. "I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans of good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope." So God's out here saying, "Hey, child, it's all good. Keep walking in faith toward me." The devil is over here saying, "He doesn't know what he's talking about. You're headed for disaster and you better do all these things to keep it from happening."

In fact, in the case of debilitating fear, in many cases there is nothing to do to keep it from happening. You're just waiting for the next shoe to drop. You're just...

Randy: Isn't that the goal of the enemy?

Jimmy: He only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Part of the question is why does Satan use fear so much? Well, that's what he's full of. See, there's no peace, the Bible says for the wicked -- and he is the ultimate wicked person. This is what he... The devil thinks in fear terms, he feels in fear terms. As much as you know the presence of God by peace, you know the presence of the devil by fear, this chronic, debilitating fear. Again, the secret is the stealth. Once

you realize...

So anger, it says in Ephesians four, "Be angry, don't sin. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath. It will give a foothold to diabolos, the devil." So what happens when couples go to bed on anger, when you go to bed on anger? So let's just say you're married. I went to bed on anger for three years. I was mad at my wife for three years. So I went to bed on anger. When you go to bed on anger the devil slithers in and accuses your spouse, slanders your spouse to you. So you fall in love, you just feel so great about each other. How does a couple go from being so madly in love and thinking the best of each other to just hating each other and thinking the worst?

Well, part of that formula is you go to bed on anger. You don't resolve it, you don't talk it out, work it out, and the devil slithers in and slanders your spouse to you. He slithers out. You wake up the next morning and you've been counseled by the devil and you don't know it.

Sheila: Wow! That's huge! That's huge! I'm thinking back in the early years of my marriage and that's exactly what would happen. I would get so mad at Barry and I didn't want to talk, and I would go to sleep. And you're absolutely right! You're counseled by the enemy. That's a horrific thought.

Jimmy: I did that for three years. In my family, when we grew up, we didn't know how to deal with anger so you just didn't make eye contact. We didn't know how to talk...

Sheila: So you never deal with anything.

Jimmy: You knew how mad somebody was at you by how long they wouldn't look at you. Well, that's the most dysfunctional... Well, that's what I did to Karen. So when Karen would make me mad or something I'd yell at her for a minute, whatever and I would go silent for days just to punish her. Well, it's the most dysfunctional thing in the world. But I was under the influence of the devil's thinking. I was literally looking at my wife through the devil's eyes. I believed that I had made a mistake.

Sheila: I cannot just move on. That's huge to me! I think of how many Christian couples that's their story right at the moment and they don't even recognize it because they think, well, this is just what I think. They don't realize, no, actually I've been counseled by the enemy.

Jimmy: It is a spiritual world that we live in and we have to see through those eyes.

Sheila: Let me ask you then, so I'm thinking of a couple who are watching right now and they're sitting there and they're not even looking at each other as they're watching this program. How do you deal with that? How do you interrupt that? How do you change that?

Jimmy: Well, first of all you have to realize that the devil hates you, he hates your marriage and he's there to destroy you. And if you're a couple, your spouse is not the enemy, the devil is the enemy. And you have to come to the point of realizing, Sheila, like you said, and I did this for years, that when I go to bed on anger, it is an open door and the devil is going to take that door every time because he wants to come -- he only comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

You have to come to the point of saying, and I had to say this, I've made mistakes and these mistakes have been devastating to our marriage. And the mistake that I made for all those years was going to bed on anger and believing that my wife was the enemy. I truly believed that she had all the problems, and if she would change our marriage would change. And I believed I'd made a mistake. I know where I was standing and I know the moment when I had the thought, I shouldn't have married her.

Now we've been married 46 years. I married the perfect woman but back then because I was under the influence of the devil's thoughts, I thought I'd made a mistake.

Randy: So hang on. I cannot remember if we talked about this before the show or yesterday, or the previous show rather but the first thing that mankind does is deflect that blame, "The devil made me do it." Which there is an element of that but yet you're saying you had to own up. So where's the... How does that all work between pointing the blame at the devil and then owning up for our own shortcomings?

Jimmy: His part of the formula is he is going to take the door that I leave open. I left it open. When I went to bed on my anger... see even if your spouse won't talk things out you can devil proof your heart. And before you go to bed you can say, Lord, I forgive them, I'm not going to punish them. I pray that you'll bless me and protect my heart. I pray you'll bless them. That's not the problem. The problem is when you go to bed and you're laying there and all these thoughts are racing around your head and all the what ifs and all the scenarios of what's going to happen, that's when the devil begins to play with your mind. So he took the open door, I left it open. That's my part of it.

Sheila: But that's beautiful because some people will think, well, my husband doesn't want to reconcile tonight. But you're not left abandoned in that.

But you know what? What you're talking about makes me think that's how you can get to the place where the person that you looked at and said, "I love you more than any..." you can suddenly think, you're an idiot. That comes from the pit of hell. That's not from... That's huge!

Randy: You're looking at it through the devil's eyes. That idea right there will stop you. What you're talking about in a lot of cases is unforgiveness and that's even bigger than the marriage relationship. That's something that scars people for their entire lives. It can be family, it can be work, and it can be friends. Do you find that unforgiveness is one of the biggest areas where we need to learn how to overcome it?

Jimmy: I think it really is probably the biggest because we're all going to get wounded in life. This is in the book, there is a chapter on unforgiveness. I'm not a hater. I've never been a hater but there have been a couple of people that I really hated. One guy in particular just did me a lot of damage. I just hated his guts, wanted him to die. I just had a little torture chamber in my heart and I drug him down there five or ten times a day and just beat him up; just beat the nonsense out of him. So I just hated his guts, I just did.

It doesn't matter who you're unforgiving towards, it comes out on the people closest around you.

So what happened was it came out on Karen. I began to be short with her. And Karen walked up to me one day and she said, "Your personality is changing." And I felt oppressed the longer I hated him, because I hated this guy.

So I was praying one day and Karen said, "You need to deal with this." And I was a pastor. This is not back in my bad days. So I was a pastor and I was praying one day and the Lord said, "I want you to bless him."

Sheila: Yikes!

Jimmy: And I said, "No! No, I'm not going to bless him."

Randy: Well, he didn't deserve it I'm sure.

Jimmy: I thought, Lord, if I prayed a blessing on him and you actually blessed him, now I'm mad at you. And the Lord never says, "Jimmy, you're right." So the Lord kept on. So he said, "I want you to bless him." He just stayed in my face about it.

So finally I prayed a prayer of blessing. Didn't mean it. And here's what the Lord said, "You pray for him like you pray for you." And I thought he doesn't deserve -- I deserve, I'm such a wonderful person, I deserve to be blessed. He doesn't. So I prayed the prayer, had my fingers crossed, didn't mean it. It made me sick to pray it. And the Lord said, "I want you to pray it every day." So I woke up the next day, prayed it, didn't mean it. Woke up the next day prayed, I didn't mean it.

I think it was 10-12 days into praying for him and his family every day, and I was praying one day and I, in my heart now, I saw a little ten-year old boy standing out in a field and kind of on a ranch, kind of by a house, and I knew it was this man that I hated, as a little boy. What I knew is something horrible had been done to him. And the Lord said to me, "You see him for what he did to you. I see him for what was done to him."

And instantly, all the rage and the hatred became compassion and I never ever felt ill toward him again. And here's why I say it. A lot of people will say to me, "Jimmy, I have prayed to forgive my abusive father, stepfather, mother, ex-husband, ex-wife a million times but nothing changes." Jesus said, "Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who spitefully use you." That's not trite advice, that is healing. And if you can't bless you haven't forgiven. You can say with your lips all day long I forgive you, I forgive you, but you have to take it to the next level. And I'm talking about people that sexually abused you, I'm talking about people that did horrible things to you.

Jesus forgave us all that we did. We put Jesus on the cross -- we did. My sins put Jesus on the cross. So whatever a person does to me does not compare to what I did to Jesus and so it is grace for grace.

Randy: I also find that when you get stuck there, a lot of it is that conflict we have with that sense of justice, which is a right sense. But what we essentially say is I trust my sense of justice more than I trust God's by holding on. And not just letting them go, letting someone off the hook, putting them on God's hook.

Jimmy: Well, bitterness is a justice spirit. Bitterness demands justice before it will move on. It is the opposite of grace. See grace says God gave me grace, I give you grace. I'm going down the road, I don't have to have justice. But bitterness is I demand justice.

The thing is, that's great. If you want justice then God has to get justice with you. And see when Jesus in Luke six says, "Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over" the context there is grace. He says, "Love those who hate you. Bless those who curse you."

Randy: We like to quote the model prayer, "The Lord's Prayer" we call it. Do we read the next two verses?

Sheila: It's so interesting because 20 years ago somebody really wounded me and for ten years I prayed to forgive them. And I still felt this lump in my heart and then I began to pray that God

would bless them, would bless everything that they were doing. And two weeks ago, it's the first time I've seen them in 20 years, and when I saw them it was like my heart was full of love for them. I went over and hugged them and it was like, we both asked each other for forgiveness.

But you're right, there is such power in praying blessing and it is trust in God's goodness when you pray a blessing on other people.

Jimmy: It is the ultimate form of God's love. It is easy to love someone who is lovable. It is so difficult to love the ornery ones and the hard ones and the mean ones.

Randy: The ones that don't deserve it.

Jimmy: That's exactly right.

Randy: In our eyes.

Jimmy: But you know, loving people like that is a Christ-like spirit. And in many cases, it shows them Jesus in a way that they've never seen it.

Sheila: And if anybody could have said, this is not my job, that would have been Christ on the cross. If there was ever anyone who could have said, I don't have to do this, it would have been him. But he did everything for us so it is a privilege to forgive.

Randy: Are you able to tell us what happened to the boy in the field, as far as the relationship between you and him?

Jimmy: Not good. He was just a very difficult person. I forgave him and I never felt that thing in my heart again when I heard his name. He was just a difficult person who did a lot of damage to a lot of people and he didn't change. Not that I know of!

Randy: But you're saying you can forgive even when they don't ask you to.

Jimmy: Oh yeah, he never asked. I've heard about him in his later life and it seemed as though he softened maybe a little bit. But it wasn't a happy ending in the sense that all of the sudden we threw our arms around each other and we were friends.

Randy: But as far as for you, I'm sure your wife was quite happy with the ending in that it didn't change your personality.

Jimmy: It would have devoured me. It would have.

Randy: Yeah. Sometimes you just have to do things out of obedience because God knows the best way.

Sheila: It is just like dragging your will in line with God's will and suddenly life works. So I don't know what you're dealing with in your own life but I want to tell you this book will really impact you, whether you're dealing with shame, with unforgiveness, with bitterness, whatever it is Jimmy helps us to understand how we can be free to truly live in the freedom that Christ died for.

And we'll be happy to send it to you but we'd love it if you would help us do something to set some people free in a place where their bondage looks very different right now. Please watch this!

Open Captions:

>> My daughter got very sick at 6 a.m. I made her a rehydration mixture because she had diarrhea. It was raining and I couldn't take her to the clinic. She was sick the whole day and she died at 6 p.m. the next day.

Sheila: No mother should have to bury a child because they simply don't have a clean water source. And that's why we're here.

Announcer: These deaths do not have to happen. There is a simple solution that can stop the heartache and pain these families have experienced.

Sheila: I'm asking you to help us. The need here is urgent. So here's what I'm thinking. Can you think of one thing that you can live without to give them the one thing they can't live without? What they need is clean water. They just want to provide their children with clean healthy water so they don't get sick.

So I'm asking you in Jesus' name, it will make such a difference in their lives. It will give mothers hope and it will give children a future.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Someone said to me after I came back from this last trip in Zambia, "Do you think that these mothers, you know they're experiencing this all the time, perhaps they would get more used to it than we would." There is no mother on the planet who would ever get used to burying their child.

Some of these moms I sat with, there was a language barrier but there was a mother bond. We would sit beside each other and simply weep together. I didn't know how to express in words but we didn't need words because there was an understanding of the grief and the helplessness and the hopelessness.

But that last trip has changed me forever because it's not something that I think, well, there is nothing we can do about this. This is something we can do something about. Because I went from those villages where the water was filthy, and I almost wanted to stop the children drinking it but it was all they had. But then I would go to a village where there was a well and it said, "Given by *LIFE Outreach International*" and I watched these children drink clean fresh water. Death and life! And you and I can bring life-giving water in Jesus' name. And it's so easy! It's not something that you need millions to do.

Do you know that we can put a whole well in a village for \$4800? I think if we could just get into the habit of skipping something. Who needs to go and see one more bad movie or go out for dinner? Make yourself something at home and let's change the world for some people. And Randy, if we do it together, this is very doable.

Randy: Yeah, \$4800 is a lot to me. But \$48, that's a little more realistic and that gives water to ten people for a lifetime -- a lifetime! \$144 will give water for a lifetime on average to 30 people. We've been doing this for years. We've got the system down. We know what we're doing here. We just need you to partner with us. And it is as simple as going online, going to the phone, giving the best gift you can.

Sheila, you said something there where you said, "Is there something we can do without to give something they can't do without?" That's such a powerful statement because literally, one cup of coffee would give water to one person for a lifetime. That's a vast exchange.

Sheila: Well, I was standing beside a well and there was a snake in it and it's filthy and the water is dirty. And I'm watching this darling mom put her bucket down and that's all she's got and I'm thinking, you know, we could give up something that we could live without to give them the one thing they can't live without. So we can do it together. We can all do something. If we all do something together, we can literally change the world. Please go to the phone. Give the best gift you can.

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

On the mission field

Randy: This is one of the coolest things ever. This well right here can go up to 300 feet, it can get down to where the water is pure and clean.

Because in villages around here and places all around the world just like this, sometimes their only source of water at times of the year is dirty, it is contaminated. When people only have contaminated water they have no choice but to drink it. There is no substitute for clean drinking water.

And that's why the Water for *LIFE Outreach* is so critical, so important! We need to put these in more places. They work! This is success.

Will you help us extend the Water for LIFE program? Will you help us drill even more wells so that we can give life around the world? And remember, when you give to Water for LIFE, you give water and life!

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Thank you so much. If our lines are busy, please keep calling. Let's do this, let's change this world.

And for any gift at all we will send you this book, *The Overcoming Life*. As a believer, victory belongs to you but you still have to claim it.

Randy: That's right! And thank you Jimmy Evans for showing us how to do it. Did you appreciate what he had to share today?

Sheila: It was awesome!

Jimmy: Thank you. Thank you, Randy.

Randy: I know I do. Appreciate everything you do, Jimmy. Appreciate everyone who watches, and support the outreaches of *LIFE*. Please do! Make the best gift you can. You can make a difference today when you join with us! And join us next time on *LIFE Today*!