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Week 31: WFL

James and Betty Robison

"Divine Guidance"

James: I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm looking down here, Betty at a Bible that we gave away to our partners years ago. It is an open Bible. It is a New American Standard, which I really do enjoy. I like all the different translations that are faithful and true to the original.

But this was called our Restoration Outreach Partner. We were talking about how God wants to restore all things. In other words, he wants to bring the church to the highest level of his blessing. And he even references the blessings that he poured out upon the nation Israel when they would walk in the shelter and the shadow of the Father and how he promised them he would lead them into a land of promise that was so filled with promise and abundance that it would flow with milk and honey. And the blessings would be so great that they would need to guard their heart so that they could remain a long time in this blessed atmosphere of milk and honey, and prosperity, and not allow that prosperity or those blessings to capture their heart or their attention and take them away from God. Because if they went away from God -- don't miss this -- he said, "You will find yourself back in bondage as you were to Pharaoh." You know when those people got out and faced challenges, rather than trust the God who gave them the water out of a rock, who gave them manna, who cared for them, who kept them safe, they wanted to go back to Pharaoh.

We're going to have to be very careful because when the nation moves properly according to the design of God and the desire of a Father who loves, and according to the desire of the people to bless the other people, and they begin to work together even as national leaders to meet appropriately needs and challenges, we can then easily make them the source. You see the good decisions that are being made, whether it is the

healthcare providers or whether it is the scientists and the medical and health community trying to give us wise counsel, which good national leaders try to follow, and it won't be perfect, nor the leaders perfect but a perfect heart wants to find what's best for the people.

So when you find that and you see the wisdom of God flowing and you get the blessings of God, the enemy will tell you that it was him, that it was Pharaoh. It was a state, it was another source that gave you the wisdom. Not so! You've got to be very, very careful once you've taken these steps forward that you don't begin to depend upon an incorrect source for guidance and wisdom and provision.

According to the Bible, government authority, those in authority, legal authority is to protect you, not your provider. Can they gain wisdom from God as Joseph did when he gave that wisdom to Pharaoh to save them from a pandemic? Yes! But it is God's wisdom. And the foolishness of men, even supposedly brilliant men, wise people, well-educated people, they can be often wrong. Scientists, the medical community, healthcare providers and those in research can make mistakes.

But God, if we trust him will lead us out. Betty, if we come out from under all the chaotic pressure that's come from this pandemic it's going to be because of the wisdom and the power and the guidance of God.

Betty: Absolutely!

James: That's the only way. That's what we're praying for and trusting him for.

Betty: One thing that really concerns me is I heard one of the leaders of one of our states say, "Anything good that has taken place out of this tragedy, this pandemic, God had nothing to do with." That makes me very sad because anything good that's done, God had a hand in it.

James: If it is working and it is blessing and it is benefiting the people God loves and

gave his son to redeem, you can bet he had a lot to do with it.

All right. How do we go through this and how do we come out on the other side wiser and better and stronger? There's only one way. The wisdom and direction of Almighty God. He's the one that leads us through the valley, even the shadow of death and disease, all forms of destruction; establishes our feet on the solid unshakeable foundation. And we follow his leadership to find the security and the peace and the blessings that he promises so freely upon those who seek his will, seek his mind and desire to share his heart and his blessings with others.

Now the church of Jesus Christ, you say who is that? That is everyone who's been born from above of the spirit. Not those who become a member of a denomination, a member of a particular tribe or group or circle, but a member of the body of Christ. Those who have received him, Jesus, who died for us, died on the cross, was buried and raised, and lives to live in us, he sent the Holy Spirit just like him to live in the life of every believer; is when this church comes together like a body yielded to the right head Christ, like a family that knows the one perfect father who always knows best, that's how we come together. And we show the world the way out of darkness, the way out of the pit that deception leads us into, that disease and the enemy, the destroyer of life and everything good, drives us into or we're pushed into it by circumstances. God says he will lift us up out of that pit and establish us on a solid rock.

In the New Testament, and Betty, this was one of the most important moments in my life when I was preaching crusades in these huge Bible conferences, I began to see God doing something all over the world. You may not remember this, but in the late '80s a revolution occurred in Romania that got the attention of the whole world where a pastor that had actually followed a communist pastor that wore the red star, he was under Ceausescu's dominance in Romania, a horrific situation! He became the pastor. His name was Tokes. And Mr. Tokes was in love with Jesus. He was full of God, and he began to impact everything in Romania along with other courageous pastors who proclaimed the transforming power of the gospel.

During that time, and Betty, this got me, I'm telling you, we had someone come to our Bible conference, the Tarrant County Convention Center was filled 13,000 or 14,000 people. It was electric. Someone came and told us what was going on in Romania. And we actually saw clips that were video clips of how the communists were taking pastors and church members and isolating them and killing them. And this Tokes was a center piece. And the communist leaders and the communist army was coming to take him and his family and to kill him. And as these communist soldiers approached the church, in Chuck Colson's book, *The Body*, that he wrote, it is a fabulous thing. He told the story, and it is so important for today.

By the way, Betty, when I heard that, that was the first step toward me leaving the crusades and conferences to go overseas to the third world countries and those struggling for freedom, and offering them freedom. I went to Johannesburg, South Africa. The entire South African nation invited me. And I went there to stand for righteousness and against the horrors of apartheid. I went to the Soviet Union and we went all over the third world. I was in Berlin, and you were, when they tore the Berlin Wall down. We watched miracles. But it all happened as a result of what took place in Romania.

Well, what was the significance? And Chuck Colson told it so well. Here these communists are coming to the church in Timisoara to take Pastor Tokes and his family and destroy them. And they couldn't get to the church. They couldn't get through the thousands, tens of thousands -- perhaps hundreds of thousands of Christians that came from all the different members, let's say sectarian groups, the Roman Catholics were there who knew Christ -- all the different groups, the Bible Baptist groups, you might call them or Bible groups and the Pentecostal or charismatic groups. And it was such a horde of people that it became a wall of protection against the intentions of Ceausescu and the communists and it stopped it.

And Betty, when I read that again, remembering back what God did to me then, and how he sent me to the third world where we went from winning hundreds of thousands of

people a year to Christ to winning millions of people a year to Christ by becoming a servant minister. And those of you who watch *LIFE Today*, you became the supporters of servant outreach. You became a servant, a kingdom servant making a kingdom impact.

Man, as I look at this and I thought, God! That's what I've been trying to say to the church for the last years and it's beginning to take hold with the leaders. I'm seeing the strongest leaders in America that love God from all these different groups who do see things from a different point of view but they don't make that a dividing point. They find a common ground for the common good and the common benefit of all the people God loves, and for all the people on this earth he gave his son to redeem. And they stand together. And that pastor not only escaped but revival awakening broke out all over Romania. You remember we ended up there saving those children? Our daughter, Rhonda, our son-in-law, Terry went right into the drainage systems, into the sewers where the little children were living, and we went in to give them life and to build orphanages. And that was the beginning and the birthing of an outreach all over the world that has led millions of people to Christ, and saved the lives of millions of people.

You say, James, why does that come up right now? Why is that so big to you right now? Because that's what must happen in America right now. The only way that we're going to keep the right leadership, place the right leadership in every area of life, and boy, there have been some remarkable, miraculous changes that have taken place in behalf of religious freedom here and around the world, in the justice system here, in the corrections that have been made, in our economy, decisions in so many ways that are so positive, answers to prayer, the prayers of God's people. We have just seen miracle after miracle.

And if it is to continue, Betty, it's going to be because in the face of the enemy, just like the enemy came to destroy that pastor and all the churches of Romania, the enemy wants to destroy everything God wants to do. The only thing that's going to stop him is the church coming together like all those people, lay aside your little points of view and differences, what Ravi Zacharias said to me before he died, "We've got to lay aside these points of view that divide us."

We're not talking about basic biblical irrefutable truth. We're talking about where you look at something that we've been discussing or debating or arguing over for hundreds, even thousands of years and it keeps us apart. Nothing kept those people apart and a miracle occurred. And that miracle led to what happened in Poland with Lech Walesa and the movement there. It led to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. It led to so many powerful things, not just in Romania. And Romania still struggles out from under the adverse influence of the red threat, the communist, Marxist mindset. But a miracle occurred when those people came together.

And Betty, I know with all my heart that if God's people come together like you and I have seen this studio filled with pastors from all different walks of life, you and I have met with preachers all over the world from different backgrounds who found themselves in the center of God's will in kingdom purpose and they pushed back the intents of the enemy. The stage is set for the church of Jesus Christ to come together as we face the most important challenging decisions perhaps in the history of this nation and the world. There's never been an economic force, adverse force that came down like this pandemic -- all over the world!

The United States has never faced anything like this. But our God, through his people, through his body, the church, the gates of hell and death will not prevail against his family standing up in the shelter and shadow of the Father as the body of Christ yielded to the one head with our differences, with our distinctives, with our diversity and yet standing connected to one another, loving one another, appreciating the uniqueness of each part in the body, and pointing to him submitted to the head so we see the Father.

I am telling you the stage is set for the greatest awakening in the history of the world. Father, it all depends on your family coming to the shelter of your will and your wisdom and your covering, your security, your grace, your mercy, your divine guidance and you have promised to lead us in green pastures, to bless us, to anoint us, to meet every need, and we trust you to do it.

Would you say right where you are, I'm going to be a part of the answer of Jesus' prayer in John 17, one with the Father, sanctified by his word, and in supernatural unity with the other family members. I am going to believe what Jesus said, his kingdom is at hand, his kingdom is in us, his kingdom is here and he taught us to pray: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. I'm going to believe that his will can be done in this garden, this field, my life, my family, my community. I'm going to believe that God's will can be done on earth in the most perilous, crisis times in history.

We can stand unshakably in the shelter and shadow of the Almighty and the watch care of the shepherd. We're believing that with all our heart. I am! That's what you say. And Lord, I just yield my vessel, my life, my channel, I yield to you. Shape me, flow through me, bless through me others and bless the church, the nation, and the world because of your love in us. That's awakening. That's where we come together, imperfect people pursuing the perfect one and his perfect will he told us to pray for. And that will be done on earth. In the face of all the assault and the deception and the destructive, deceptive intent of the enemy, we stand unshakably in the shelter and shadow of the Almighty and that's awakening.

Betty, it's what the world is waiting to see. Do you believe? Do you believe we're going to see that?

Betty: I really do. You know our faith is being challenged. Christian churches are being pressed on. And where are we going to be? Are we going to be courageous? God gives us courage. He gives us love. He gives us wisdom. And he gives us an opportunity that he may be expressed through this world that needs him so much right now.

I pray that you will join with us and Christians around the world to say, we will stand together in the name of Jesus. We will be strong. We will form that wall of faith just as James, you shared about in Romania. That wall that stands for the truth of God. We will not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is truth. It will stand. It is steadfast. And God

will go before us and he will be our rear guard.

So please, let's join together. Join our hearts together to say, we're ready. Let's go! Let's stand strong and let's be faithful to God.

James: That's what we have an opportunity to do right now in America and around the world. Father, I just pray we'll do it. I just pray everybody watching this program will express your love freely every day of their lives; in Jesus' name.

I think most of you know we love meeting needs, undeniable legitimate needs with love. We're in the last days now of our Water for LIFE program this year. We need a miracle -- a miracle of love. Another 150 wells to go, they cost \$4800 a piece. Maybe you could give one.

I want you to listen to our mission director. I want you to listen to God speaking through this man who said good-bye to his wife a couple of years ago. It is a weighty thing. But he continues to go in the love of God to the ends of the earth to share God's love. Listen to Ralph share God's heart and the miracle that you can be for somebody, for some community. Please watch carefully and then say, "God, count on me. I'm going to deliver that miracle of love." Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Ralph: We're walking through another gravesite here. Heard a story about a little boy; died very young, very small simply because they could not find safe water.

Announcer: For millions around the world, what appears as life-giving water is actually a harbinger of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio. And one symptom that diseased water causes, diarrhea, is estimated to cause the deaths of over a quarter million children under the age of five each year.

Ralph: You know as I travel around the world, I feel like I see too much of this. Too many of these types of small graves of just children who were born to live. They were born to really enjoy life only to have that taken away from them; not by a bullet, not by any source of violence just because they had no access to safe water. Instead of giving life it takes their life. We have got to stop the death, the senseless dying of children because they don't have any safe water.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I tell you what. I can't talk to you, Ralph. I know you did that clip. You may be watching at home but that little kid you were sitting there with, they had smiles. Betty, we went to so many places children too weak to smile -- too weak to even sit up. Well, we see what children should look like. And that's why Ralph wanted you to see those beautiful kids. They all deserve a chance at life. We got the perfect cure for those children.

Betty: We do, James! And death, if you've ever lost someone, when death comes in your heart, in your family, time stops, everything stops. And in this case, these little children are not even having a chance at life. And when their mothers have to bury them before their time, before they've had a chance to really, really live and to express life themselves, it takes their life.

Well, we can make that difference. This is something we can do about to stop so many of the deaths as Ralph was talking about. Will you help us make that difference? Let's drill the water wells. Let's offer many cups of water to these precious little ones that deserve a chance in life.

James: You know, Betty, the missionaries have reported to us recently, and think about just how exciting this is, that we've actually passed the 16 million known lives saved there in those third world countries in Africa. And the majority of those are children. So

when you think about that we're rapidly moving towards 7,000 water wells, would you give one? Could you give part of one? The wells are \$4800.

Father, if somebody listening can do it just touch their heart. Let there be a joy, I can do it! I can do it! Thank you, Lord!

You give \$1200 or \$2400, three people join you or one more joins you, we've got a well. Most of the money that comes, it may surprise you but it comes in smaller gifts but people understand what that gift does. Let me give you an example. If \$4800 let's say will give a thousand people water the rest of their life, that means that \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. Where could you bless ten people the rest of their life for \$48? Would you do it and give them life for the rest of their life? \$144 will give 30 people water the rest of their life. There is a level at which you can help.

Father, just touch the hearts of everybody watching. Lord, we face a lot of pressure. We want a miracle. We have a miracle for these precious people. It is water! It is a well, provided through your people; in Jesus' name.

I believe God's moved your heart to go get your bankcard. I hope he has. I pray he has. Or get a check. Write a check and make it to *LIFE*. Take that bankcard, go online, many people do that now and we're glad, or dial the number and use that card like a check. Make the gift God puts on your heart. And thank you -- thank you so much for doing it. God blesses you as you bless others.

We have some gifts to send you to say thanks. We want to thank you for giving the greatest gift and that is life. And you know this, they're going to see the love of God and they're going to come to know the love of God in Christ because the missionaries are going to lead them to Jesus. Thank you for making it happen.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Dirty, diseased filled water! How desperate would a mother need to be to consider giving this contaminated substance to her child? For many mothers and their families living in extreme poverties, this is their only choice.

With your help, they won't have to make this choice ever again. Mission Water for Life provides clean disease-free water for thousands of children and their families, giving them a life free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish the final 150 water wells this year. Your gift of \$48 will help provide water for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime. And a gift of \$4,800 will help sponsor a complete well, serving up to 1,000 people.

With your gift we'll send you Today is a Good Day, seasonal devotional sets, broken out into the four seasons of the year. This beautiful set features a daily scripture, inspirational thoughts, and a place for you to journal your own thoughts, prayers and insights from God's word.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the leather-bound life-giving Proverbs Journal, filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, including lined pages for your personal notes.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request "A Mother's Strength" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, I want you to know we're sending the *Today is a Good Day* devotions. This is the summer edition and we've got the fall and the winter and the spring edition. And the life-giving Proverbs; this is a fabulous, fabulous journal of wisdom that you will really enjoy journaling in and reading the wisdom in the Proverbs.

Betty and I say thank you so much for standing together in the shelter of the Father and extending his arms of love to people all over the world. Thanks for helping us share water. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*.