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Week 40: Rescue Life

Sheila Walsh

Power in the names of God #2

Sheila: Hi! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh and I'm so glad that you stopped by. I want to thank so many of you who are writing me little notes and sharing some of your story or how a guest maybe touched you. If you ever want to connect with me on Facebook, I think mine is just called SheilaWalshConnects.

So somebody wrote to me last week and asked if I had a middle name or if it was just Sheila Walsh. I said, "No, I do. I'm called for my father's mother. My middle name is Davina." I was thinking about a time when I was home in London, I was speaking at a conference, at Hillsong actually in London. And I was in a big store, it's a very well known in London. If you've ever been, then you'll be aware of Harrods. And I was in the food hall and just marveling at how you can have 600 different kinds of cheeses when this girl came up to me and smiled. And she said, "Oh my gosh! I can't believe I bumped into you."

I was like, "Hi! Nice to meet you."

And she said, "I love your music."

And I thought, oh she must be somebody that remembers me from some time ago because I used to be just solely a Christian music artist.

She said, "Oh yeah! All your early stuff. It was amazing!" She said, "Would you give me your autograph?"

And so she handed me a piece of paper and a pencil. So I wrote on it and she kind of looked at it and she said, "What does that say?"

I said, "May God bless you with love, Sheila Walsh."

She said, "Oh! I thought you were Sheena Easton." And she tore it up and walked away. If you don't know who Sheena Easton was she was also a Scottish singer but of a very different genre.

But I've been studying the names of God. You may have watched an earlier program where I talked about the fact that in Psalm 23 there are actually 11 names of God. You know the beginning is easy to see, the Lord is my shepherd. And then it talks about God being our peace. God being our righteousness. But I wanted to look at the second half of that Psalm and unpack some of these amazing names of God because I think when you're in a relationship with someone you want to know everything you can about them. And God has revealed so much to us about who he is and what we can ask him for because of the way he has revealed his names to us.

So I was looking at this text this morning: *Even when I walk through the darkest valley I will not be afraid because you are close beside me.*

And that is Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is present.

That name of God is used only once in the Old Testament. In fact, it's the last literally, the last two words of the book of Ezekiel. We read: *"And from that day the name of the city will be the Lord is there."*

The Lord is present, Jehovah-Shammah.

Now for Ezekiel in his prophecy he was speaking about Jerusalem but for you and me, it

means the body of Christ, the church; that Christ is present. I think that's something that we really have to hold on to now.

The year 2020, none of us anticipated what we were walking into. I remember so clearly on New Year's Eve, I don't know what your New Year's Eve traditions are. In Scotland, New Year's Eve, if you're a believer is a very spiritual time. It is not usually a time when we would go to parties or anything like that. We would have what's called a "Watchnight service." Basically, we'd have a service at church from 11 on New Year's Eve until 1:00 in the morning. And it was a way of saying good-bye to the old year and thanking God for his faithfulness, and then committing the New Year to him.

So it's a tradition I still carry on. I love at the end of a year to look back. Sometimes I even have a -- in fact, I'm going to tell you about how you can get your own. But I have a little prayer bowl at home and I will write prayers all year and I'll put them in there. And I love at the end of the year reading through all of those and seeing the faithfulness of God; how he has shown up in ways that I couldn't have anticipated.

But right now I think we're in a situation where we think, I didn't see this coming. I remember as 2019 slipped away and 2020, just committing myself afresh to the Lord. Saying, "Lord, I don't know what this year holds but you do." That's been something I've had to remind myself over and over this year. That Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is present.

No matter what you're facing right now, no matter how dark the valley, the Lord is present. He's with you now. He's here. When you feel alone or afraid, I think it is really great to pause and to declare that name out loud. I found myself doing that so many times. The first half of 2020 I think I had like 16 speaking engagements canceled and it was just a different rhythm of life. What I honestly didn't realize is when I go out and I teach the word, I didn't realize how much that built me up as well. I love to pray with other women and I suddenly found myself at home thinking, I wonder if we'll ever getting back to being able to do that again.

That's why I've been studying the names of God because I've had to pause and say out loud Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is present. He is here right now. When you find yourself in a difficult place, write that down and remind yourself every day, the Lord is present, the Lord is here.

Well, then we move on to: *Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

That's Jehovah-Ezer, the Lord is my help. You'll find it all the way through the Psalms. In fact, Psalm 124, verse eight: *Our help, our Ezer, is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.* That word help is the word Ezer and it is one of the names of God.

Charles Spurgeon, a great teacher wrote, *"In all times of danger from men our wisest course is to fly to the LORD our HELPER. He has ways and means for delivering us which we know not of."*

Psalm 33 verse 20 says this: We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help -- he is our Ezer -- and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

You know we can pray that over our lives, over the lives of our families, thank you, Father that you are my Ezer. You are my help. You might find yourself right now in a place where you're struggling financially. I know of friends who have had to file for bankruptcy, who have lost businesses. And in those times it is tempting to let go of what we know to be true. But if there is a name that our Father has given that we can trust in, you can stake your life on that. Father, you are my Ezer. You are my help.

Well, then we move on to: *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. That is Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord, my banner.*

That can be hard to grasp. Clearly it is not that we're just invited to come to a big all-you-can-eat buffet surrounded by enemies. "You prepare a feast for me." So what

does it actually mean? What is the significance of that name?

Well, in Exodus 17 verse 15 we read this: *Moses built an altar there and named it Jehovah-Nissi (which means the Lord is my banner.)*

It will help us grasp hold of what this name of our great God means when you see the context of where that name of God was first used. For that you have to go to Exodus 17 and it tells the story of when Moses, Joshua, and the children of Israel were in a fierce battle with a hostile desert tribe. We know that the children of Israel wandered across the desert for 40 years and it might be tempting to forget that they were constantly crossing land that they did not own and they were not welcome. And they had to fight for their survival.

So in Exodus 17, verse ten we read this: *Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand the Amalekites gained the advantage. Well, Moses arm soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses holding up his hands so his hands held steady until sunset and as a result Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.*

That's where we read Moses built an altar there and named it Jehovah-Nissi, which means the Lord is my banner.

When Moses built the altar and called it, "The Lord is my banner" he was creating a place of remembrance, a place of victory and acknowledgement that the reason they won the battle was because of God. Sometimes if you're in a battle and you ask for God's help and you make it through you think, wow! I did an amazing job there. But what Moses was very careful to ask the people to remember was the only reason we won the battle was because of the Lord. He was making a declaration, one that you and I can declare today and every day, "The Lord is my banner" and we, we are the Lord's. It was a declaration,

not just of who God is and what he has done but it's also a declaration of who we are as his people. When you feel as if you're in the heat of a battle, pause, raise your arms and declare over your life, "Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord is my banner."

Well, then we come to the next part of the end of Psalm 23: *You honor me by anointing my head with oil. Jehovah-M'Kaddesh: It means the Lord who sanctifies me.*

In the Old Testament the children of Israel had 613 laws that they had to keep to be holy in God's sight. There were 365 things not to do and 248 things to do. Which interestingly enough is the number of bones in the human body and the number of days in the year. So in this way, the Jewish people were called to obey the Lord every day of the year with their entire body.

But there is a scripture that says: *So set yourselves apart to be holy for I am the Lord your God. Keep all my decrees by putting them into practice, for I am the Lord who makes you holy. That's Leviticus Chapter 20.*

That's a lot. Can you imagine waking up every day with 613 laws to keep? The amazing news for those of us who are part of the family of God is that Christ is the one who makes us holy.

We read that in: *Colossians Chapter 1 verse 22: Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result he has brought you into his own presence and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.*

That is hard to wrap your mind around; isn't it? Particularly when you feel like you've failed or made mistakes. But the truth of the gospel is we are not saved by trusting in our own goodness or our holiness. No! We are saved by Jehovah-M'Kaddesh. It's the Lord, the Lord alone who makes us holy.

The Psalm goes on to say: *My cup overflows with blessings. Which is Jehovah-Manah, the Lord is my portion.*

Over and over the writers, several writers of the Psalms will declare that, "The Lord is my portion."

In Psalm 73, verse 25 we read: *Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

I want to live like that. With that total devotion to Christ. A wonderful way to cultivate this heart is to pray the Psalms. I do it every single day. I read three or four Psalms out loud every single morning soaking my life in the truth and the strength and the healing and the help of God's word. That's how you and I can say, "My cup overflows." The more we live in God's word the richer and fuller we'll be.

Every single day the Lord is waiting to give us everything we need, *Jehovah-Manah, the Lord is my portion.*

The Psalm ends with: *Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Jehovah-Cheleq, the Lord is my inheritance.*

We find that name of God in Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verse two. When land God gave to his people was divided up among all the tribes of Israel the only tribe that received no land were the Levites. They were the one who led in worship. And this is what God said about them: *They shall have no inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the Lord is their inheritance, as he promised them.*

I love that! What a gift to those who led in worship that you don't need an inheritance, the Lord is your inheritance! And that gift is available to everyone who trusts in Christ: The

Lord is our inheritance.

Ephesians one, verse 18 says this: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people and his incomparably great power to those who believe.*

So in Psalm 23, 11 names of God:

Jehovah-Raah, the Lord is my Shepherd.

Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord is my Provider.

Jehovah-Shalom, the Lord is my Peace.

Jehovah-Raphe, the Lord is my Healer.

Jehovah-Tsidkenu, the Lord is my Righteousness.

Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is Present.

Jehovah-Ezer, the Lord is my Help.

Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord is my Banner of Victory.

Jehovah-M'Kaddesh, the Lord is my Holiness.

Jehovah-Manah, the Lord is my Portion.

Jehovah-Cheleq, the Lord is my Inheritance.

There is power in the names of the Lord. I encourage you to find strength and help and hope in these names because this is who our God is.

And now I want to bring something to you that is very, very dear to my heart. It can be a little hard to watch but I ask you if you'll hold on with me until I can explain how you and I, in the name of the Lord, can shine some light into a very dark place. Would you watch this with me?

On the mission field:

Open Captions:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.

Announcer: There is a violent plague impacting the world. It's called "sex trafficking" and like a disease, children are the most vulnerable. The number of children being held captive and abused by sex predators is beyond comprehension. It's reported to be in the millions. Sheila Walsh has talked to many young victims of sex trafficking and learned of the trauma and fear that has destroyed their childhood.

Sheila: I've seen things on this trip that are worse than anything I could imagine. I've tried to think of what I was doing when I was nine and I was still playing with Barbie dolls. And my greatest fear was would I be able to get a particular thing that I was hoping for, for Christmas.

I just spent time with a little girl who is now 11 and she's been forced to have sex with men, with strangers, sometimes four a night since she was nine years old. She is now 11, middle school, but she's already two years on the street. She is not hardened. She is just broken.

Announcer: The trail of tears and broken spirits of little ones like the young girl Sheila described has surely touched the heart of God. It has no doubt left an unforgettable mark on Sheila.

Sheila: I prayed I'll never be the same again. And I pray that we're able to help you see that we're here for a reason. There are things that we can do. We are his hands and his feet. We're his heart. The scriptures say, "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." I've seen what it looks like to be crushed in spirit. So this is our moment to be Christ in the flesh to those who are broken.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: It's hard to even know what to say. So many of the children in that piece are children that I met, children I had the privilege of praying for. Some of those children we had the joy of leading them into a relationship with Christ. But what was so clear is the darkness there and the evil.

And some of you have asked me at different times, "Well, why are they there? Why don't they just leave?" And "Where are their families?" So many of them, one of the young girls we spent time with, her dad is in prison and her mother ran off with another man and left her. She is 11 and she is the head of the family. She has two younger children underneath.

You might have seen one of the images of a girl carrying cans in a bag? That's the only way she could make a living. She didn't go to school, she doesn't know how to read or write. But if she goes out late at night and collects beer cans from all of these clubs, then she can sell, I think it's not much, but that's where they're snatched and taken.

And sometimes it even seems like a good thing they're being offered. Some of the villages where the children have never even heard of trafficking, these traffickers will come in and they'll say, "Hey, we can get you a good job in the city. You'll be able to send money home to your mom or your dad." And they'll come and then they'll sometimes give the children a meal. And the children, it looks great but they don't know it's drugged.

We talked to a young girl, I can't remember how old she was but she was no more than 12 and she woke up the next morning besides some grown man and realized what had happened to her.

But they're told, "If you try and escape, we'll remember where you live and if you escape, we're going after your younger sisters." One girl actually said to me, "I'm staying here

because I don't want this to happen to my little sister."

I mean, it just makes something inside of me rise up and I think, as long as the body of Christ is on the earth at this moment, we can't let this happen on our watch! These children are helpless unless we decide to help.

But we work with amazing partners on the ground who are able to reach, the reach part is actually we'll go into the villages and they'll educate children. They will say, "If somebody comes and says this to you, run as fast as you can. Yell out loud!"

But we also do rescue where we'll go into some of these brothels and bring these little ones out. And then restore, put them in a place where they can learn that they have a name that matters. They're not a number that's tattooed onto their leg.

So that's our whole mission, reach, rescue, and restore. It takes about \$128 for each child to be able to be placed into that rescuing formula that will give them a new life.

Now we have some amazing people who care about this as much as we do so we have a \$250,000 matching gift. Which means if you can give \$64 that will now be matched and you'll save a child. You'll begin that process. Or if you can give \$128 instead of that just reaching, rescuing or restoring one child, it will now do that for two.

So please, please will you join us in this? Will you let those young girls who think nobody cares, nobody hears their cries, will you let them know that God heard their cries and he sent us to come in his name? Please! Give the very best gift you can and will you do it right now?

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of innocence is

lost, and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$250,000 matching gift now your gift of \$128 to help reach, rescue, or restore one child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help save one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we'll send you *Natural Remedies*. This beautifully illustrated and essential book explores ancient nutrition and the health benefits found in God's creation, a valuable reference with biblical insight to help you live your best life.

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive this beautiful prayer box inscribed with the words from Philippians 4:6. This wonderful keepsake includes pencil and paper to write down prayer requests you want to give to God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children. And you may request "A Mother's Strength" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Thank you so much! Please keep calling. For any gift at all, we're going to send you this book, *Natural Remedies*: Ancient nutrition. You know God has really provided so much naturally that brings healing to our body and I think during this year, that's a

tremendous thing.

But also, for a gift of \$128 we're going to send you this prayer box. I love this! You can write your prayers, put it in here, and at the end of the year you can see how God has answered your prayers.

So please call. We love you so much. God loves you and we look forward to seeing you next time!