

Week 4

1/19/11

James: Always a thrill to welcome you to "Wednesdays with Beth." I'm James Robison. It is an exciting teaching series that Beth is doing. As a matter of fact, so effective that it became a book, "Praying God's Word". We're actually offering this to all of you who are watching the program who will simply help us drill water wells at any level that you can help. Just let's get clean water. Just like Beth is getting spiritual water to you week after week, I've said many times we're as concerned about spiritual hunger and thirst as we are people who hunger and thirst for food and for water. Our book also that has been in the bookstores now and many of you have already told us how much you were blessed by it, thank you, we will gladly send it to those of who you will simply help us literally give someone a cup of water. Well, Beth is teaching "Praying God's Word". Here is Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: My pastor says something so often. The way he approaches his lesson is that he does all the preparation just as the way the Lord would lead him and uses his commentaries but then he just sets it all before the Lord and goes, "It's water until you turn it to wine." I love that thought. So I ask the Lord, that's what we're going to ask in prayer is that he will take this preparation, we come before him, pouring out the water of this sacrifice before him and now make it into wine. Only he can pour out the anointing of the Holy Spirit on it and that's what we've got to have. When something really just seals into your heart and makes your spirit jump, that's the anointing. Man cannot do that, only God can make that happen so pray with me that that will happen this very day.

Father, we bless your name! We want so much to seek you and we know, Father, that if we seek you we will find you. You do not make yourself hard to find. We want so much for you to be glorified that no man would boast in his own flesh but that, God, that you would be poured out upon us in such a way, God, that it dramatically effects the way we do life. You mean for every single one of us to live the victorious life and, God, we can only do that through the power of your spirit. So speak to us, lord, speak to us. I thank you, father, for pulling my life from the deepest pit of darkness and defeat, God, and for setting my feet upon a rock and putting a new song of praise on my mouth! Lord, I bless you today! Thank you for everyone of these. Thank you for what she's doing on the other side of that screen to tune in, what he's doing on the

other side of that screen to tune in. thank you for these families. Thank you for that single. Thank you for that woman going through such difficulty that she does not know how she's going to make it to the other side. Would you today remind her, remind him, how loved they are in you. How it's unconditional, they could do nothing to earn it, that this is a grace gift through the power of your son. Do it, Lord, in such a way that we know that it has to be you. In the mighty and saving name of Jesus Christ, amen.

You may be seated. Turn with me if you would, please, to the second book of Corinthians, Second Corinthians chapter 10. I'm going to start reading at verse 3 in just a moment. I want to give you a little bit of background here. This was a time when the *LIFE Today* team actually requested a particular subject matter. I was so thrilled to do it because they said you know our viewers really want to hear about an anatomy of a victory. How can we live in real live practical victory where it's not just in our theology but in our reality. On the hot pavement of life how can we live in true spiritual victory? That's what we're going to talk about. I've got to tell you they knew this when they called me about it. I love this subject! I know this subject! I don't have any idea how many idea how many times I've addressed this subject because it's part of my own life message. But for the life of me I could not find any old notes on this message. I love how God does that! I have files and files and files and files of messages from 28 years of speaking, if that just gives you any idea how many old messages I have back in those files and I thought well I'm going to just check and see what I've got because I wouldn't have to write this one from scratch. The Lord never lets me get away with that! I couldn't find – I mean he hid them! He might have put them back by now but he was just going --.

[laughter]

because I thought how many times have I spoken on this? And I can't find one set of notes! Not one! So he said you go back after it and you see it with a fresh heart and a fresh anointing and that's exactly what I did and it worked! I mean it just got the fire burning inside my soul and I want so much to share it with you. I learned these lessons from absolute defeat! Now, I knew, being raised in church, that there was such a thing as a real live devil and that there were powerful forces but somehow I think I had it in my head that if you would be a good person he would leave you alone. Now, I do want you to know that I struggled with being a good person and I knew that part of why I lived the way that I lived was my own fault but I could not figure out how to make it work for the life of me. Some of you understand that. I just kept cycling in and out of the pit and you know the word of God says that we can't just stay in our sin without pause because the Holy Spirit will convict, he'll do his job. So, if you're like

me you might have had long, long bouts in the pit but you would always, because you could not bear that conviction to go on and on and you did not want your conscience to get seared. You know, we would start repenting and crawling out of that hole. But I couldn't stay out of it. I always found my way back in it and I would try so hard just to be good enough not to fall back in but something about it, I mean the more I told myself not to do something, the more I was drawn to it. That's what the King James Version calls "Law in our members" that just draws us, that you draw a line and say don't cross it and then everything in your foot just like it's a magnet to that line, that law within us. and I just lived in a constant state of defeat. The worst part of it was it got deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper. I kept cycling further and further and because I was growing older, getting into my young adolescence, then older adolescence, then young womanhood. Then the situations got more and more perilous because as you're getting older now you are making decisions that are going to effect the rest of your life. And I was a huge relational disaster. Now, I don't say this to you as my excuse, I just want you to understand a little bit about my story. We have the joy of having many in our studio audience today that have not been to tapings before. We were so thrilled to have them here and so I don't want to assume you always know my background. I want to tell it to you. From my earliest memory I fell victim to sexual abuse. It happened on and off from the time I was about this big to the time I was about this big. You talk about something that will trip you up! It's never the best scenario in an abuse situation. Never ever! It's always devastating in its affects and its ramifications. However, when your protector becomes your perpetrator you really have got yourself an issue that you will battle for the rest of your life and lose to if not for the spirit of Christ. Only Jesus is big enough to battle that one. Only Jesus can overcome that because it turns everything upside down and your boundaries are mown down so early in your life I literally could not get the word no out of my mouth. Anytime I was in a situation where I could be abused or misused in a relationship it would be like my tongue would cleave to the roof of my mouth. I just felt powerless to say no and there were times I would think I hate what I'm doing but I don't know how to stop and I pray that that's not your story. I pray maybe you cannot relate to what I'm saying but I bet you there are a whole lot of you out there that know exactly what I'm talking about, where we just seem we're just set up for defeat and that's what I lived in continually and could not imagine there would ever be a way out. Here's the thing: I had a heart for God! So you could imagine the guilt because I really did, as much as my injured, battered, wounded heart was able I really did have an affection for him. I certainly knew the difference between right and wrong but I could not get out from under that defeat and that perilous oppression for years and years and years and years. I know that many of you have seen at least two or three if not five or six of the Rocky sequels but --. And they're replayed over and over and over again and Keith and I say the same thing every single time. Many, many years ago when we were a

young couple and watching those movies one right after another we began to watch a phenomenon where, for whatever reason, Rocky would just sit there while his enemy just – his opponent beat the smitheereens out of him! Like, he would be getting hit over and over and over and the blood would just be splattering. One time we were just amazed just sitting and staring at it. That part – it's always that part. I don't care which of the movies, which sequel it is, there's always that part where he sits back and gets beaten half to death. And Keith said to me, he said you know that's the old "let 'em hit you in the face till he's tired trick" and then you're going to hit him back. You know, I thought about it so many times because we think that that's what's going to happen with the enemy. We're just going to let him just pummel us and pummel us and pummel us and pummel us and then he's going to get tired and we're going to get a chance to hit back and that's not the way it works. He's not getting tired! He is energized by your defeat! I need somebody to get that with me today. Your enemy, that's what makes his day. What fires you up in the holy realm, you put the exact opposite, the perversity and counterfeit of it, that what jazzes him up, what fills him up in his unholy soul is to see us in defeat. So he's just getting energized. When he gets weary is when we get victorious! But when we're in defeat – like he's fired up! So it's not going to work to just sit back and think in a moment or in a year he's going to move on to somebody else. No, he's got minions, he's got forces in the un-heavenly places where they're all over. We've got assignments --. I believe there are certain ones that are probably assigned to us! So they're not just moving on to the next person, you've probably got your own. Why do I think that? Because the word of God tells us that we have angels assigned to us. Well, anything God does the enemy tries to counterfeit. So, you can know that if we've got holy angels that are assigned to us we probably also have some unholy angels assigned to us and it is their job to keep us in defeat. See, once we're born again, once we're saved through the blood of the lamb there's nothing they can do to take that from us so they're job then becomes breaking down and somehow disabling the power of our testimony. Seeing what they can do to handicap the power of our spiritual lives. We've got to get over that. Let him hit you in the face till he's tired trick. We've got to also understand that we were meant to be warriors, not wimps. I want to read to you out of Second Corinthians chapter ten, verses 3 through 5.

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

I want to stop long enough to say there that we can never win a battle with the world on the world's own terms. It's too much for us. He said you got to understand you're not fighting the world on the world's terms. And this is the world as – not the people of the world but the exalted philosophies of a godless world. He said you cannot wage war as the world does.

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power –

I want everybody to say that.

Audience: Divine power.

Beth: Say it again.

Audience: Divine power.

Beth: Say they have divine power.

Audience: They have divine power.

-- to demolish strongholds.

Beth: I mean, you're not going to find a more radical word than demolish. To demolish strongholds.

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought –

I'm hoping to explain this to you today.

-- we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

I want you to pause right there. I want you to hear these words out of Eugene Peterson's translation, out of The Message. I've just read it to you in the NIV. Now listen up on this one.

3 The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair.

Anybody notice that?

But we don't live or fight our battles that way - never have and never will. 4 The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. 5 We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth, fitting every loose --

I love this part! Listen carefully!

-- fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

Every loose thought, emotion, and impulse. Let me tell you something, I'll never forget when it first occurred to me that I could have supernatural and truly spiritual, I mean holy, impulses. If you're like me, I'm an impulsive person. I mean I could be telling you in five minutes, you know what, you're my best friend! I've looked for you forever! And a month later maybe I don't remember your name. Because in that moment, I'm just like impulsive. I could just like -- if somebody says, "Would you come?" It's something that drives my staff crazy. If you ever ask me if I'll come and speak to your group I'm always going to say yes! My group goes, back in the office, you don't even have the time on your schedule. Because I'm impulsive. If you tell me a need I'm going to try to fill it right that moment. If I'm excited about something I'm going to try to act on it in that moment. I'm impulsive! But what I realized from Peter, the apostle Peter is the most impulsive of those early followers of Christ. When you see it over and over again, where his impulses, we all recognize when he impulsively denied Christ three times after he was taken for trial. Then we see the impulsiveness though, in Matthew 16, for instance. Where Christ has just said, "I'm going to be taken. I'm going to be tried. I'm going to be beaten. I'm going to be crucified." And he came and it says in the scriptures that he rebuked Christ. And in New Testament Greek, that word "rebuke" means "to rebuke."

[laughter]

He literally took him to the side and he rebuked Christ! I mean, just impulsive! Impulsive! But there's this wonderful picture at the very end of the gospel of John, where Christ has been raised from the dead. They've already seen him several times but they're just like chomping at the bit to see him again. They decide to go on fishing to do something with their time. And they get a glimpse of Christ Jesus on the shore. And it says in that moment, where John said, "I think it's the Lord!" That Peter jumps out of the boat and swims. I thought, "In that moment his impulses had been overtaken by the spirit." I want that to be me! I don't necessarily want to lose my impulsiveness. I just want it to be taken up in the spirit. I certainly don't want to lose my emotions. I'm a feeler. You know what? I want to be! If I don't feel anything I kind of feel dead. I want to be a feeler. I certainly want to be a thinker. I don't want to just be some kind of spiritual robotic. I want to have thought, to have emotion, to have impulse. But I want it overtaken by the spirit. And that's exactly what it's talking about. Can you imagine that we could be impulsive and not destroy our own lives with it? That even in our impulsiveness that what would jump out of us the most quickly would be of the spirit and not of the flesh? What kind of thought is that?

James: Well, let me just say Beth, no question that I'm impulsive and sometimes have to battle compulsion and be under the control of the spirit of God. I found out that there is an energy source which I know you recognize and that's what you're referencing that when we can be under control and not out of control, we allow the power of God and his word to carry us. I've said many times get the Word of God out of that leather binder and bind it up in your heart and then write a letter, like Paul said, he said write an epistle, a letter, in the tables of men's hearts -- testify. Well, that's how God wants us to live. One of the greatest ways that we can write the letter in people's lives is love letters. And those love letters don't simply say I care, he cares but we share because he cares and because we care. I think when you see the following scenes you're going to recognize that just a cup of water changes everything. It is so simple. Very brief. High impact. Watch.

Begin video clip:

Lisa: Unbelievable! Unbelievable!

Bruce: Oh my gosh! Look, there is a dead animal just floating down the river. This is unbelievable! To think that this is the water that people come to get their drinking water!

Jeanne: Look at that little girl! Oh, my gosh! That little girl is drinking that water.

Kathy: This is filthy, dirty water and they're drinking this stuff.

In the studio:

James: Yeah, we're anxious to send you Beth Moore's book. Any gift you make we'll gladly send you "Praying God's Word" and then "Living in Love." I really believe it will be a blessing to you. Thank you so much for watching and tell your friends about *LIFE Today*. Tell them about Beth Moore and "Wednesdays with Beth." I know it will be a blessing to them. Thanks again for giving us this opportunity.

James: We've learned to live together. We've learned to love living together and to really take joy in what makes the other person happy.

Announcer: The secrets to living in love tomorrow!