

Week 26

6/23/09

Beth: He has given me love. He has given me power. Well, in that same sentence, he has given you the right of a sound mind.

Announcer: Next, Beth Moore encourages us to renew our mind through God's word.

Beth: I've had enough of believing something about myself that is not true and I know that I can think with the fullness of Christ operating through me.

Announcer: The secret to having "A Beautiful Mind" next on LIFE Today!

Music

Beth: Welcome to LIFE Today. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And we're talking about "A Beautiful Mind." Sometimes I think we men feel like we've got dirty minds and I know a woman can sure make us feel that way sometimes. You've said, "Why do you think things like that?" I say, "I don't know! I need a beautiful mind." I pray, oh, God. Hey, I want it! With all my heart I want it! And I want to help others have it. And I want to learn this process. And Beth is going to talk about it today because she is here and she's got a book called, "Breaking Free" that we're offering; it is best seller and a classic. I want you to have it. A lot of our viewers did not know about this book because it had gone, really all over much of the world before Beth came on "Wednesdays with Beth." We want you to get the CD or DVD teaching series, we want you to get Betty's testimony, "Free to be Me" because we want to help you have "A Beautiful Mind," a mind that is reclaimed and replaced in so many ways, and renewed. Beth Moore is helping do that. Welcome Beth Moore to LIFE Today.

Beth: I'm so happy to be here, you guys! Thank you so much for having me.

James: Would you agree that when it comes to the mind that one of the worst things that can happen and something that typically happens to a lot of people is at some point they just get stuck? You know you were concerned about one of our staff being stuck.

Beth: Yes, I do remember that! We're going to let you remember it up close and personal right now. I want y'all to watch this. All of you here watch on the monitor. You at home watch this.

>> Beth?

Beth: Yes, sir? Is that the Lord? [Laughter]

>> Beth!

Beth: Yes, Lord!

>> [Sounding like Elvis.] Beth, I hear you've been talking about me.

Beth: Oh, no!

>> My ears have been burning!

Beth: No! No!

>> When you were over in Africa, I heard you were talking about me with Janice and Keith?

Beth: I was Carlton! I was!

>> Well, I decided -- it wasn't your birthday but this is for you. Go ahead and play it, man! [Laughter]

Beth: I'm just going to give you a little background to know that I found out that one of the guys that works here is an Elvis impersonator.

Well I said I needed you
You said you would always stay
It wasn't me who changed, but you
And now you've gone away

Beth: He's so good!
Don't you know that now you're gone
And I've left here on my own
Now I have to follow you
and beg you to come home
You don't have to say you love me

Just be close at hand
You don't have to stay forever
I will understand
Believe me
Believe me
I can't help but love you
But believe me, I'll never tie you down

Beth: Oh! Oh!

Left alone with just a memory
Life seems dead and so unreal
All that's left is loneliness
There's nothing left to feel

[Applause]

Beth: I have something to say! Because you see, his hair and his sideburns are like that day in and day out in his regular work here at LIFE Outreach. That's what you have to understand. I didn't know he was an Elvis impersonator. I just thought when I -- he was the nicest guy and I liked him so much. I want you to know I accepted him but I felt that he just got stuck somewhere and couldn't get past it. That's when Janice told me on the Angola trip, "No Beth, that's what he does on the side."

[Laughter]

James: Did y'all enjoy that? I hope you did. Let me just say this, lifetoday.org, if you say, "Hey, I might like Carlton Hurdle to come do an Elvis thing for us," we've had him do it for our staff, he does it for churches, and civic groups and you go to lifetoday.org and say, "How do I get that Elvis impersonator?" We'll tell you how to get him and give him a whole lot. And Carlton, I want a cut of whatever it is. I'll be a little bit of your agent.

Beth: And James, tell them how tall he is because that adds to the mystique.

James: I think he is 6' 10" and he is a great basketball player; one of the best here in the metroplex.

Beth: So he is a lot of Elvis!

James: He is the tallest Elvis you ever saw! You would agree as we said before we had the fun there and by the way, we do have fun. As believers we have fun and you can have fun in a wholesome way. But a lot of people are stuck. I mean something has happened in their life and somehow we need to get unstuck. That basically is something that lodges in our mind. Help our viewers and all of the wonderful people here in the audience, how can we get unstuck?

Beth: Something that we talk about a lot, James and Betty, is that so much of the Christian walk is a process. We are saved the instant we receive Jesus Christ as our personal savior but so much of the rest of our walk is God completing what he started in that moment in us and just learning his word and learning how to walk with him and learning his ways. That's all processing what God has started in us the moment we received his son. But I do want our viewers to know today that there is something that can happen in this moment. There is a lot that we're talking about that processes over the weeks and months to come and years to come, for the rest of our lives as God is doing that perfecting work in us. But there is something that can happen this moment, this very day and it begins with our key scripture that we've been talking about all week long, second Timothy 1:7 and it says, and I've been using the New King James for that wonderful wording tagged on to the end of it that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind! We can come to a point where we realize that the enemy has been so messing with us and that no matter where we've been and what we've been through, we have the right to reclaim the

sound mind that God has given us. And no matter what an idiot we feel like we've made of ourselves, we get to claim the rights of our sonship and our daughtership in Christ and he says it right there in his word. All of us would agree he's given me love, he's given me power. Well, in that same sentence, he has given you the right of a sound mind, and it can begin by us saying, "I've had enough of that. I've had enough of believing something about myself that is not true and I know that I can think with the fullness of Christ operating through me, that I have the ability to think whole thoughts and healthy thoughts and edifying thoughts." And it begins by making a decision and the decision is: I'm going to claim what is mine. I'm not asking for something that God has not already offered me. This is mine in Christ Jesus and I start claiming it. So that can happen today. And the relief of that and the hope of that that I don't just have to keep putting up with this, that everything starts changing today and from that point forward, we just begin walking with him. I want to tell you guys something, if anybody is really familiar with the verse, there are all sorts of different renderings of that word that the New King James uses at the end, sound mind. The N.I.V. says that he has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, and of love and of self discipline. Another one says, "sound judgment." You're thinking, which one is it? It is all coming from exactly the same original word, why all those different translations? Because innate in the whole concept of a sound mind is self discipline. That the biblical concept, this is hard for us English thinkers but to the Greek mind and the language that it was being inspired in, you could not separate the two things. To have a sound mind was to also practice a self discipline. I cannot express enough and it is something you talked about so powerfully about in our last session together; that to put forth the effort and to determine I am going to get with God every single day, I'm going to spend some time in his word. I'm going to start inviting him to do a miraculous work in me. Listen to me, I want somebody to hear this today, when you -- when we're talking about "A Beautiful Mind," you have one! You have -- you are brilliant! You are brilliant! Every single one of us created in the image of God has brilliance! We are tremendously gifted in the spirit. I want to see us just like you do, James and Betty, we want to see people operate out of that, the fullness of who they are in Christ. And in order to do that we have to put forth some discipline. To operate in self discipline the way the Word of God says to do it, we are receiving something. We're only rejecting something to receive something better. We're not leaving ourselves empty-handed. We're going to starve some of the flesh so that we can feed the spirit. Then let me tell you something, when we live out of the fruit of that, when we come to a place where we begin to get to the harvest and think, this is life? Are you kidding me? I would not go back to the other for anything in this world. Let me tell you, nobody has ever had a mind more trapped than mine has been in the past. There is just no possible way. It may have been a different kind of mental stronghold than yours but boy, was it ever there. I'm going to tell you that these days and still, all sorts of fears can rise up and all

sorts of concerns and worries but I know what to do with them and I know what to do with them quickly. But what I find so amazing, I can roll over in the bed at night and just become conscious for just a second as I'm rolling over and turning the other way on the pillow and I will realize that my spirit is in the middle of a praise song. I can't tell you the times I want to stop right there and lay my head back on the pillow and let the tears just drip on the sides of my head and think what a miracle, God, you have performed in me! That even in my sleep in the night watches my mind will give you praise after where I have been in my head and in my actions.

James: I've just got to say to all of the viewers, let me cut straight to you, we can go there. We can live there. You won't live there without ever maybe -- do you ever have a time -- by the way you can go there. Yes, you can! Where you can fill your heart with praise. Where you may not be able to sing, I can't sing but boy, I'm telling you what, I praise God. I praise him for everything. I praise him for everything -- I'm a praiser. Beth, I've got to ask you this, everybody has got to know they can go there. This is where God is inviting you. But do you ever -- now that you have these moments, do you ever have a time of heaviness?

Beth: Absolutely.

James: What do you do with that?

Beth: I know what to do now. I know what to do in the very beginning when it starts and I want to say this to all of us, we are feeding our thoughts. Whatever your thought life is like, whatever my thought life is like, James, Betty, anybody person out there on the planet, we are feeding it. So whatever we're thinking we're feeding it. In one way or another, we're meditating on it so whether we're having victory in our minds or whether we're having defeat in our minds, we're feeding our thoughts just like we feed our bodies. So we have to go back to what we're feeding it. So if I'm walking around -- let me tell you, there is a very big difference between walking around in perfection and walking around in victory. My very favorite place to find that defined is in Psalm 19 when he says, "Keep me from blatant rebellion. Keep me from willful sins. Don't let some kind of secret sin have dominion over me." We're talking about dominion sin here. We're not talking about just momentary temptation, momentary defeat, reactive defeat -- I reacted badly. We're talking about being free from willful sin and from allowing something to just live and abide in our thinking. A very big difference between perfection and victory. But if we'll begin to notice, if we can see when we have a thought process that's going to begin to be exalted in our minds, you can tell. By the time in the course of 15 minutes you're thinking about it for the third time around -- anybody know what I'm talking about? By the time something happens, whether it is a work or in a relationship, in a fight between you and your guy, you and your mate, by the time you find yourself over that next hour that you have thought it and rethought it all right, you're on your way. So right then, I'm a huge believer, this is where we're going to get into this self discipline thing, James and Betty, I could not feel

more strongly about scripture memory. I'm just going to beg somebody here today, I'm going to beg somebody. I have women tell me all of the time, you know what? I can't memorize. You know what you can do? You can meditate and it still does the same thing. You get a spiral and write you down some scriptures on it and even if you don't get it word for word, if you're working even harder because you can't get the words in a row, well, you know what? Your mind is preoccupied with the thoughts of God. We've got to get to where -- in our western culture, we are so allergic to the disciplines of the spirit that we're living in defeat. I know -- I wish I could tell you something new today but it is the same two things that are going to drive a fiery spiritual life and that's still going to be prayer and being in the word. When the two men or two people on the road saw Christ but they didn't know it was him and they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us on the way and while he opened us to the scriptures?" That is prayer and that is Bible study: Those two things, that's what gives us a fiery spirit.

James: This requires discipline. This means that we can't just go down -- I used to tell church folks, you look like a bunch of big old fat babies sitting out here waiting for a preacher to get a little plunger and [sphlpp] -- and you get a [sphlpp] a little spiritual injection. You can say, "Feed me preacher." [Sphlpp] And that's the way you go to church. Then you walk out [plbbb] full of hot air because you haven't got any -- excuse me, but its the truth. It's a big mess. That's getting pretty graphic. [Laughter] Here's -- that's better than Elvis, folks! [Laughter] Here's what I pray Beth and I've got to ask you if this isn't so, when I shared about how God drove me to his word in desperation for life, I used to go to get sermons but once I started going to get life and I meditated on it, I found the word was lodging in my heart and I would begin to say the word without having memorized the word. And I would mark where I could go back, I can usually remember where things are and I know any time somebody asks me a Bible question, I memorize the places and if you said something about a verse, I can usually go over here and find where it is and I can read it. But here's what happened to me, the word began to fill me to the point and I'm going to ask you if you've been there and you may live there, but I began to measure every sentence that came out of people's mouths, every conversation, everything was being measured in my mind by the Word of God. Did what they're saying, did that spirit, did that attitude, did those expressions, did those statements line up with the word? And in the New Testament, they were commanded to search the scriptures daily whether those things that were said were true; that was even the New Testament speakers. Search the word. Find out if this lines up with what God says. Do you find yourself, even as you're listening to me and I'm saying things, you're measuring what I'm saying by the word. Am right about that?

Beth: We will never be able to recognize a lie unless we know the truth.

James: So you can measure conversation -- and you measure your thoughts by the word and then you replace what is not of the word with the word. Is that how we take thoughts captive?

Beth: Absolutely! And if someone I love is still speaking something over me that I know God's word does not say about me, I will in that moment think to myself, I may be doing this but I'm thinking to myself, I do not receive that. That is not what my God says over me. That is not what the word says. People you love will speak lies over you.

James: They don't intend to.

Beth: No, they don't intend to. They don't even realize it. Many of them don't, I think you guys know what I'm talking about. But it is something that we encounter day in and day out, especially if we're trying to get out of a stronghold. One of the things that we were talking about earlier, James, when you said, how do we -- I wish I wanted to do all of this but what if I don't? Listen, I've shared this before on LIFE Today and it is something of my personal testimony so I will share it as long as anybody will listen. But God impressed upon my heart when I saw somebody that had a relationship with the Lord Jesus that I wanted so badly, it was my mentor many, many years ago. He had a love for scripture like I had never seen. And this big old football player and yet he would teach the scriptures and the tears would stream down his cheeks. He had such a tender heart, like you, and I thought, I want that. I want that so badly. And God began to impress upon my heart, pray for it. You pray for it. You pray for it more than you want blessing, more than you want your answered prayers, more than you want anything in this world that you can touch or you can see, you pray to have a hunger and a thirst for me. And I'm going to tell you, that's exactly what he did. My most commonly prayed prayer from a very spontaneous earnest heart throughout an entire week will be God, give me a love for you. Cause me to love you more than I love any person that I can possibly see. And I've got to be willing to let people disappoint me for that to be true. Let me have a hunger for your word. Give me a desire for you. And it is something -- the only excuse I have for it is that he has answered that prayer.

Every single morning I don't get chill bumps. I don't have that kind -- I don't have some mystical experience where I'm levitated off of the bed or wherever I'm having prayer time with him. But let me tell you what he has done, I want to tell you the miracle that he has performed in my life, I desire his personal presence in my life more than anything at all! I want him. I want the real presence of Jesus in my life. It is worth everything to me. There is no amount of carnal, fleshly pleasure in this world that is worth giving that up. Once you have tasted that, once you know he has touched you, he has been with you, that you have experienced him and that the way he stays so prominent in your vision of the unseen is that you keep it alive through him empowering you through Bible study and through prayer. Once you get a taste of that, that's what you want out of life and that is what I want out of life!

James: Awesome!

Betty: Can I just say this real quick. I've been so blessed just sitting here listening to Beth and to my husband -- copy 6/19

James: I want to pray that for everyone. Father, myself included to just long for your presence and truth. To have the discipline to set other things aside and to focus on you. God grant me grace, strength, enabling. But Lord, that I might, and every viewer, claim the strength to exercise the discipline necessary to get in your word and get your word in us. Set people free who are watching. Set them on a new journey with a beautiful mind. In Jesus' name. You want to say thanks to Beth for sharing? [Applause]

Beth: It means so much to me. Thank you for giving me this privilege.

James: I want everybody to get the series. I want everybody to have it. This is really good. This is gold tried in the fire.

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James: If you want the series on DVD I really recommend you get it in DVD. I think you'll want to invite people to sit around with you and open their Bibles and really get in the process of renewing your mind, and discipline. This is five hours, either on CD or DVD, you may want to get both. So some time you're riding you can listen, but when you can, I want to you sit down. I want you to shut out all of the other sights and sounds and get your Bible and get into the word. So we want to thank you for some of you giving an extra gift just to help us care for the children. There are 6,000 that come to our LIFE Centers every day just to get help because they don't have it where they are, the influence. And you make that possible. Beth, Betty and I love you!

Beth: I love you guys, too!

James: And I want to be more disciplined. I want to be longing every day just for the presence of God just like you talked about. Thanks for sharing! You want to say thanks to Beth again for being here? Watch Beth every Wednesday -- "Wednesdays with Beth." If you call to get "A Beautiful Mind" and get a busy, call until you get through; write the number down. Let's let God reprogram our thinking, renew our minds. Bless all of you!

Audience recruitment 1

Beth: I've not been given a spirit of P.M.S.! [Laughter].

Announcer: Claiming your right to a sound mind -- tomorrow on LIFE Today!