

Week 7

2/9/11

James: It's always a pleasure! Thank you! It's a joy! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I want you to know that Beth Moore is about to teach "Praying God's Word: Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds." I think it is critically important for you to understand that "Praying God's Word" -- Betty, as we were driving up here today, you know sometimes I tell you I'm rehearsing in my heart messages that I'm going to share. As a matter of fact, I was going over one that will be delivered a couple of weeks from now. I don't have notes but I'm preparing my mind. I'm kind of getting things together. But as I was driving the word was just going in my mind over and over. I'm thinking, well, God and I are having conversation. But the fact is what he is putting in my mind are almost verbatim scriptures, the importance of "Praying God's Word." And we will gladly send you this incredible book along with "Living in Love." Many of you have said, "James, you've talked about marriage." We'll be talking about it quite frequently. We will send you the book. The publisher has asked that we just leave it in the bookstores for you to get and we've done that and thank God so many of you have gotten it but we will gladly send it to you to bless you in your marriage and to bless others that you love. Beth is going to share with us what it is like to pray God's word. Welcome Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: What was the first one? We have four words. What was the first one?

Audience: Faith.

Beth: Okay, so I want to know all four of them.

Audience: Faith, focus, fire, and finish.

Beth: One more time. Faith, focus, fire, finish. That brings us to number two and it is the word "focus." This one may be the one you might not be expecting and it is key to the rest of them. We've got to have faith. I think all of us would understand even if

we're not doing it, that's what we're supposed to be doing, walking in faith. I think we get that one. But focus is key here. It is key. The second one is the word what?

Audience: Focus.

Beth: Look back at the scriptures when it says in verse five, we've been told in four that our weapons have divine power to demolish strongholds and it says:

That it exalts itself, I believe is the King James Version terminology. That exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Picture with me, every single stronghold in our lives has gotten to its place by sheer focus. This will be true 100% of the time. Nothing will have a stronghold on you that is not gotten focus in your life. The only reason it has taken that place and gotten highly exalted is because we focus so much on it. Now remember, all it takes to be a stronghold, all it requires to become a stronghold is that it becomes a mental obsession of sorts, it takes up a lot of mental energy. We think about it a lot. That's focus, ladies and gentlemen -- that's focus. So it got that way, is whatever it is, an addiction becomes something if you've ever had one and I've had one. You think about it every day. Every single day! Whether you give way to it that day or not, you are thinking about it that day because it has become such an area of focus. Unforgiveness becomes focus. Bitterness becomes focus. Idolatry and covetousness and greed becomes focus. Sexual strongholds have become focus. Pornography becomes a mental focus. Every single one of those strongholds, anything that has a strong hold on you has been more and more exalted into that place by additional focus. To the degree we have focused upon it, it has been raised up and exalted in our minds. Is everybody stepping in that with me? So that's how it got up there. So the only way it's going to come down is we've got to focus more on it coming down and in the power of Christ and in the divine weaponry he has given us and in what he can do. We've got to focus on it for it to come down because it is the only way -- the only way. We've got to focus on what God's word says about it instead of what we in our own nature say about it and that's what's going to topple it. But listen to me, I think we think if I will just not pay attention to it, it will go away. Well, it got there because we keep paying attention to it. We think, I don't want to have to focus on that. Oh, yes. If we've got something that's overcoming us, if we've got a stronghold of fear and intimidation and timidity for instance, we've got to attack that thing, we've got to name it what the Bible names it and we've got to begin thinking what scripture says about it over that particular thing. That's what sets it up over it and it topples down to the knowledge of Christ. Does that make any sense to anybody? It is a radical process. There is nothing passive about demolish. I beg you come up with a word that is stronger than that. It's got to take some focus. I want you to see something because you're right here by it. You may even be on the same page. Mine happens to be Second

Corinthians 11:2-3. We've been in Second Corinthians 10:3-5. Look at Second Corinthians 11:2-3. I want somebody to get a word today. The Apostle Paul says:

[Pause] You can have sincere and pure devotion to Christ and the enemy will still seduce your mind. Every single stronghold is a mental stronghold. It's got a mental capacity to it that keeps driving it. Now addictions then also become... the physical part of it drives right in there with it but that mental focus on it continually -- I have a loved one that's been in and out of rehab many, many times, and she said, "The thing about it --" because suddenly, God is working a miracle and she has gone for a length of time that is beyond anything she's gone through in 37 solid years. And she said, "The thing about it is, every other time all I could think about in rehab was getting out and getting a drink." Do you understand what I'm saying? She said, "This time, I decided to focus on what Christ said about my addiction and what Christ says about me and that's when it began to break off." Because the focus had changed. We've got to be able to name it. We've got to be able to claim God's word on it. Listen, I came to a point so interesting, I think back on it and sort of want to punish myself over it but I have to believe God is sovereign and could have done it in any order he wanted to. But in my particular strongholds, areas of bondage that I had, areas of addiction that I had, I had gone through my own process of breaking free in my relationship with God and so many of those things had lost their power over me. But I somehow had never determined what the root was from which they were all growing. It may be different for you but God taught me right before I'm about to do the defeated thing, I just want all of you to go with me there for a minute because we've all been there. So I want you to picture like you're on the edge of it, you're about to make a decision and you can feel yourself going left. I mean you are about to make that defeated decision once again. What God began to train me to think is what is the feeling you are having right before you do the wrong thing? Go to that point... go to that point. What is it that is happening in that moment before you do that habitual destructive thing? Is anybody going there with me? For me, over and over it would be insecurity. Over and over! And for some reason, something would just kind of bubble up in me and I would feel insecure about something and somehow uncertain and unsure and full of self doubt and self-loathing and boom! I would do that thing. It took me years to realize, I fought all these battles and God and I have seen so many things lose their power over me but I never have addressed insecurity by itself. I realized -- and that's when I wrote the book "So Long Insecurity" and I'm not trying to get you to buy a book. I want you to hear me for a second; I realized that what I had done is I had failed to pick out the big one that seemed to drive everything else. And do you know the Lord gave me one solid year to do nothing in my devotional life except focus on God raising his own words and his own thoughts over my own secure soul and getting that up in my head, exalted higher than my own insecurities and it was revolutionary to me. So whatever it

is; is your thing fear? Is it a substance addiction? Whatever it is, there has got to come time where you decide, I'm going to focus on this thing. I'm going to let God -- it's taken all this energy, I'm now going to let God speak to me through his word and tell me what his thoughts are about this particular thing and I'm going to see it exalted over this exalted imagination. The third one, we've got four words we're working through and maybe some people have just joined us so they need to know what they are. We've been in Second Corinthians 10:3-5. We've got four words going. What was the first one?

Audience: Faith.

Beth: See we've got an anatomy of a victory going on here and we've got four words going on and the first one is faith. The second one?

Audience: Focus!

Beth: We've got to learn to focus. We've got to get focused on the Word of God. The third one is what?

Audience: Fire.

Beth: We need us some fire. We need us some fire. I want you to write down Jeremiah 23:29. Write down the address and you can look up the verse and write it in later. This needs to be one of your memory verses. I'm a big one on scripture memory. I told a group here recently and I wondered later if I would be sorry that I had. I might be -- we've see. But I said at any given time when you run into me on the streets or out and about in an airport, you can always say to me, "What scripture are you memorizing right now?" And I said if I can't tell you, then ask me, "What's wrong?" Because for me, God has called me to such a voracious life of scripture memory, that has been my mental salvation. This has been my key to living in victory. This is what God used to take a very defeated mind and to completely rewire the hard drive of my thinking. It was through memorizing the Word of God. So at all times I got me so spirals going and I've got some scriptures that I'm memorizing. At all times you should be able to ask me, "What's your verse right now?" And I hope I can at least tell you six words of it, maybe I'm in process but I can at least tell you what the address is and part of the scripture because it is that important to me. Now God's word says in Jeremiah 23:29:

We're talking demolition here. "Is my word not like a fire?" We've got to have us some fire. We've got to have us some fire. I want you to understand something with me. A stronghold gets broken down only one way: It's got to be blown up! This is demolition

here: demolish strongholds. This is detonation and we detonate that thing with the fire of God's word. Now something that I think about a lot because I'm a very visual learner and I love to think of things in ways that kind of stick with me through the process, I think of it this way, I think of the anointing of the Holy Spirit for all of us who have received Christ Jesus as our personal savior, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. Now we can quench him or we can be filled with the Holy Spirit by yielding ourselves to the Holy Spirit. But think of that as your anointing oil and think of it as flammable oil. So I want to be filled with the spirit and when you stick the fire of God's word in it, it's going to blow up! I'm talking about some internal combustion! Anybody know what I'm talking about?

[Laughter]

I want to be filled with the spirit then I want to add the Word of God, like I go to him, I'm asking him to fill me up and then I begin to get in his word. And I want to let that fire touch that flammable oil of my anointing and I mean I just want that thing to blow sky high and we begin to detonate and demolish those mental strongholds. Listen, I was thinking the other day, I have a loved one that is -- pausing -- that just wants to cry over everything. I don't know any other way to put it. I want to say this right off, this is not my daughters because one of them would be onto it so fast. But I want to say I love this person so much but I'm telling you, she just cries over everything. I mean just cries over everything. Everything devastates her! Everything hurts her feelings. Everybody offends her. She is like -- touch her and she is like, "Oh!" She's broken! I've wanted to say the other day, "You are not as fragile as you're acting, not if Christ is your personal savior and his spirit is living in you. I say this to you with tremendous love and compassion as one who has been there, quit acting so fragile! Are you in Christ? Does the spirit of Christ dwell in you? You are not that fragile! You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you." Listen, I'm for a good cry. I'm not talking about having a good cry. I'm not talking about just like we really are hurt. I'm talking about like every day about everything! Get a stinking grip.

[Laughter]

I mean your life is going to be long, even if it is short... it is going to be long! It's going to be long for everybody around you! Do it for them! Do it for yourself. I mean just be wounded, wounded, wounded! We're just wounded about everything. I mean pull it together!

[Laughter]

But here's what God began to show me because it is talking about divine power to demolish strongholds. Here is, I'm about to tell you now the practical approach that has worked for me over and over and over again. I want you to think of the word and prayer as two pieces of dynamite that we're going to strap together. I want you think of this. This is something that the *LIFE Today* team asked me to explain. They were asking me, you know the concept that is in the book "Praying God's Word" and the reason why... I normally would not ever bring a book up but what I love about this book and again, I'm not trying to get you to get it, I want to explain to you the process in it. What I love about it is it is not my writing. It is the Word of God taken and then turned into prayer. So what practical aspect is at work here is that we take one stick of dynamite of scripture and the other stick of dynamite as prayer, strap it together and then we light the thing. When we do that we begin to demolish strongholds. Now somebody will ask and I think this is a great question, "Beth, when you pray, do you always pray using scripture?" Absolutely not. We have conversational prayer perhaps and an intimate relationship with God all day long. I never use any particular type of approach to prayer 100% of the time. But I will tell you this, one of the thing that God has taught me to do that our computers have given us access to do that our predecessors could never have dreamed, something I do in my quiet time and this is not about warfare as much as it is just intimacy with God through his word, I will go to my Bible software, I will take whatever my segment is for that particular day in the scriptures and I will cut and paste it into a word document that is my journal. Then I go into it as I'm reading God's word, perhaps he says one sentence to me and then I write back to him in the middle it in a different color. He speaks to me, I speak back to him. Are you getting that with me? Okay say for instance we've been on Second Corinthians chapter 10, maybe my reading that day is verses three through five. It says, "Though we live in the world," I might stop right there and go, "And what a world we live in Lord!" See I'm in a dialogue with him. This is the world around me right now so I begin to dialogue with him back here. It says, "Are not the weapons of this world on the contrary, they have divine power." I might stop right there and talk about divine power back to him. "Lord, I need that divine power. Lord, I've forgotten what that's like to see that enacted in my --." So I'm dialoguing back and forth with him. So I will, almost every single day use scripture as an invitation to dialogue. Does that make sense? So I put it in a different color so he and I are going back and forth and back and forth. So by the time I get to the end of my prayer time I feel like I have had a conversation with God. I even do it in whatever my devotional is, if I'm doing Surgeons' devotional I get in the middle of it and I cut and paste it and then I talk back in the middle of it. And I talk back not to Spurgeon, that would be a lost cause, but I speak back to God himself so in that way having a dialogue. But let me tell you this, and this is what "Praying God's Word" is all about. When two things happen I'm going to turn to scripture prayers every single time based on the battle being long and hard.

Some battles may be long but they're just not that big a deal. But by the time I have those two descriptions, that that situation is going on and on and it is hard, that's when I'm going to go to the scriptures and I'm going to search through the scriptures and I'm going to find what the Word of God has to say that is going to build up my soul in that situation and I'm going to start compiling scriptures into prayers. And I'm going to print it out. I'm either going to take it down with my hand or I'm going to print it out so that I can have it in my prayer time. Now let me tell you why this is so important. Because when you and I are in a long, hard situation, whatever it is, whether it is stronghold, whether it is an illness, whether it is a constant suspense of some kind, a question that we have, a need that we have, a pain that we have, when it goes on and on and on we naturally are going to lose our energy with it. We'll finally get to where, I don't know if you're like me but I'll get to where I don't even know what to say anymore. I've prayed about it, maybe it is over a child that's been living in defeat and maybe you've been going on and on with this for three solid years and you're like worn out. I have a lost loved one that I want to be in heaven with me. I love him so much and I want him to be in heaven with me. I want him to know Jesus. So after a while, I've just prayed so long, it's gone on for so long, and I'll just run out of my own energy and I'll run out of what to say. But what happens, when we pray scripture over a long hard situation, is that we shove the burden on to the scriptures instead of off on our own soul and our own ability to pray because scripture never gets tired.

James: Well, I... I don't think you can ever really add on to anything Beth says; you just say, "So be it!" I do want you to know again that the book, of course, it's been in the bookstores and is there but we will gladly send it to you "Praying God's Word" and get the key, the subheading, "Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds." That is the conclusion before we speak on encouragement, knowing the invisible enemy. When we talk about marriage relationships, there is nothing that will assault the relationship any more effectively than that hidden sinister force of deception and accusation. This is the accuser. This is his nature and he is so effective and so subtle that you won't realize that you are actually playing in harmony with the symphony he is trying to lead that is so discordant and so destructive. I pray God will help you to understand that there is a way for you to live in harmony with God and with one another. I want you to just turn your attention to scenes, Betty, that I'm really grateful to say that our viewers never turn away from. When they see the possibility of what Jesus said of giving a cup of water in his name you will not lose heaven's blessing and heaven's reward and that is so much bigger than the monetary. But I want you to look and then I would like to ask you to give a cup of water. Would you do that? Watch closely.

[Cheers & Applause]

James: I love that lady's smile. Lady, I don't know what you're saying but I heard your heart! I heard your heart! God bless you, sweetheart. Holding a cup of water, 4,000 kids a day. I don't know if you can help give 4,000 of them water but \$4800 will give a whole village a water well and it will last them the rest of their life. Where could you better put \$4800 that just keeps giving? We'll tell them about the love that inspired that gift; it is the greatest gift, God's love through Jesus. \$1200, pray for three more people to join you and we've got a well. Think about this, \$48 ten children, ten people water the rest of their life, they get a cup of water all day. They can take it back to their little hut or their little house; would you help us do that? I really think your heart is beating rapidly. I think you've got a big care in your heart but would you put, as some people say, "feet to your prayer," would you put feet to your care? Would you go over and get your bankcard. You know sometimes you use it when it really wasn't best to be used. This may be the best use you'll ever make of that bankcard, like a check. Would you give a well? Would you give part of a well and pray others join you? Would you give \$48 and help ten or \$144 and help 30 have water the rest of their life? Whatever you can do. We're going to send you the book "Living in Love." We want you to have it because we want you to live in love. By the way, you really live in love when you begin releasing the love, when you look beyond your world. God will make a difference in your world. We want to send you "Living in Love" just to say thank you and we'll also send with it Beth Moore's book "Praying God's Word," talking about breaking strongholds by the power of God's word. This is an incredible combination. For those of us who will help us share with 30 if you possibly can, make that gift over \$100, our daughter Robin after she whipped cancer walked in our home with this new life from that incredible battle with cancer and she handed me this journal. She said, "Daddy, God told me to buy this for you." I'm telling you, I carry it everywhere I go. As a matter of fact, I've gotten several more and I'll just write down when I'm out eating or when I'm sitting in my chair or when I'm praying or sitting out on the patio, just write down God thoughts, and as a result of writing them down, he just keeps talking to me. We want to send you one like our daughter gave us after she won that big battle for her life. You help us. Then we have the beautiful bronze, the heart of a father. I never had a physical father, I got one like this. This really illustrates what we want to happen. Let's share God's heart. Would you dial that number or go online at LifeToday.org? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. We need to hear from you right now. Would you do that please? Father, I pray every person who possibly can will give a well or give a cup of water; help as

many as they can, in Jesus' name. Would you right now make that call and help us share life? Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Water, without it life as you know it cannot exist. But for millions of children and families, their own available water is filled with disease and once ingested can lead to death. But one new water well can turn the most barren desert into an oasis of life! With your donation today Mission: Water For Life can drill 415 water wells this year in 15 nations! Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean uncontaminated water for 30 people for a lifetime. With your gift of any size we'll send you "Living in Love," James and Betty's new book that shares keys to an exciting and fulfilling marriage. You'll also receive Beth Moore's bestselling book, "Praying God's Word." With your gift of \$100 or more, you may also request this beautiful leather journal to record and reflect on your own personal times with God. And finally, with your gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well, be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture representing God's fatherly love for us as his children. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I want to say thank you for helping us at whatever level you can help. It saves lives. This bronze, "The Father's Heart," I never had the experience of a father like this but oh, boy, do I ever have the father. And his heart, I live to not only know his heart but fulfill his heart's desires and express his heart. I'd love to send it to you. Help us if you would to drill a well. If you can drill a well do so or join with others to make it possible. Thank you for what God has led you to share. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. Thanks for giving us this time with you.

Announcer: Tomorrow, author and relationship expert Emerson Eggerichs joins James and Betty to take questions from the studio audience about marriage.

>> I'd lost hope that I would ever find freedom.