

Week 25

6/19/07

Narrator: Coming up on LIFE Today, do you feel like you're in a pit with no way to get out?

Beth: But that's not even enough for the enemy. He wants to take us on to full-fledged destruction; from distraction to addiction to absolute destruction. Habits get us there -- very deeply ingrained habits.

Narrator: Beth Moore joins James and Betty to give us straight talk about God's deliverance and help us get out of that pit -- next on LIFE Today.

James: I am sitting her with my wife Betty and with Beth Moore. I'm James Robison welcoming you to LIFE Today. We're talking about the things that break the heart of church members and Christians and believers and confuse people. How can people who are people of faith who love their family, how can they fail? But they do, they get in a pit; a pit of defeat and despair, sometimes they're so depressed they despair of life and sadly, sometimes they take other innocent people with them. And the consequences of sin is painful, not only to the person caught in it but to everyone else they touch in some way, innocent people suffer because people who have made bad choices made those choices. We want to help people get free. I welcome you to LIFE Today. I want you to welcome Beth Moore who is our guest on LIFE Today. [Applause] Beth, I feel like the things that break the heart of people when they see someone else fail, it puts us in a sense of dismay and disheartens a lot of people. I think somehow, if we can help people understand that the greatest among us, so to speak, are totally vulnerable to stumbling, to making the worst possible choice or to being a captive, a prisoner. The enemy may have a wooden gun stuck in our ribs but we don't know it is a wooden gun. And if he has convinced us then he can so often control us. He is controlling the actions of so many people, which is why I wanted us to spend this week talking about the best-selling book that God really impressed you to write. It is the best-selling book right now among all inspirational books as we're sitting here talking because people live in a pit of defeat and hopelessness; they want to get out. And when you put "from a former pit-dweller," I don't think you're for one moment implying that you could never get back in, but for the grace of God there all of us go. I think people are getting the book because they want hope. We're sitting here talking with a broken heart because we've seen so much that breaks our heart. We have experienced it ourselves and yet we have seen hope. We don't have to live here. I mean you made a statement here in the book and I want you to pick up on this because you're saying here that a stronghold is something we have, a pit is somewhere we live. The stronghold puts us there if only for a while. We can get out of this. It can be an addiction. You make it so clear that this is not where we have to live. I want you to just elaborate on that a little bit.

Beth: Talking about an addiction, I really do believe that there is a method to the madness of the enemy. He starts with a distraction, something that just gets us off course, gets us from looking at how huge our God is in our circumstances, gets us distracted by looking at the circumstance itself or the pain itself or the difficulty itself. Then it moves from that distraction -- distraction is not enough. What the enemy wants is for it to move into an addiction and even a thought process of defeat, unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, lust, greed, all of those are addictive kind of thought processes. But that's not even enough for the enemy. He wants to take us on to full-fledged destruction -- from distraction to addiction to absolute destruction. But the thing about it is that anyone in Christ cannot be destroyed. We may be struck down but we have not been destroyed. You have never been knocked down so far you cannot get back up. It is a lie! And to think that this is it, there is never a way out of this hole --

James: Yet, if you don't get up, you're simply -- you're not dead, you're just believing a lie. You're believing I can't get up when the truth is you can get up and you have somebody that will help you get up. It is not just a matter of we're in the pit and we're knocked down. There is somebody waiting to get us out of the pit who is able to get us out of the pit and able to keep us out of the pit, and that's the thing we want you to understand. We don't have to live being trampled ground, walked over, stomped on, held down -- we don't have to live there. You may not realize it but it is a choice. You may have been thrust into the pit by circumstances and family but we don't have to live there. And Beth, somehow I pray that every person listening to us can come to understand where I am right now is not where I have to live.

Beth: That's exactly right. And that the enemy wants so much to convince us that that is the only place we'll ever live the rest of our lives. One of the things that we do in the book is define a pit as an early grave the enemy digs for us and hopes he can bury us alive. To live like the living dead, where we will be of no impact whatsoever in the kingdom of God; so that he can hide our light in that hole where nobody can see it. He can't take our salvation from us; I believe we are absolutely secure in Christ from the time we receive him as our personal savior. But he can do everything he can to keep us covered in a pit to where that light never shines before people.

James: You know what I'm thinking about right here? I see, Betty, you're ready to jump in with something in the book but let me just say something, this is what -- by the way, there is a spirit of discernment where we can hear God and we can discern needs, we can discern a situation like people out here. I wouldn't have to look at these ladies and the men in this audience long that I might not be able to detect a need, loneliness, hurt, suffering, a real pain within. You can see it. I sense as you were talking about the Christian, the believer, the person that knows God being knocked down and not knowing if I can really get up and not believing. A lot of people that are in that pit and they don't even see God, they don't even associate it to God, it is just life dealt them a harsh, hard hand, a bad deal. There is a lot of hate, anger, a lot of confusion, a lot of bewilderment, a

lot of questions and the enemy really, truly has you as his own. It isn't just a matter of he pulled you in a pit, he can really make you look like you're sitting on a throne but inside you're empty. All is not well with your soul. There is something wrong and you may have some animosity, hostility, you may be skeptical. You may have seen Christians fail because they were in the pit. But let me tell you something, God loves you, and he wants to lift you up and set you on a plain higher than anything you ever imagined or that the world could ever give. So you need to know that although we may be referring to believers, people who say they believe in God, who confess their faith in Christ, being in a pit and being defeated, God hasn't overlooked you. He wants you to know him. You say, well, I thought if I knew him it would solve all of my problems. No, the problem solver becomes a very real abiding presence and power in your life who will walk with you through all of the trials and will help us. But we've got to learn that because we're in a war. So if you think you're going to get right with God and have no more fight or struggle, well, you're mistaken. You can have the same problems but God is the deliverer. Betty, what were you going to refer to in the book because I could tell you --?

Betty: Don't you just love it when people read your book to you?

Beth: Well, I'm thinking I'm going to go back and read it again --

Betty: You might have missed something. I liked this because the enemy does take care in trying to disguise these pits. You said, "I beg you to see that your enemy has a tremendous investment, not only in digging and camouflaging a pit in your pathway but also you should tumble down and convincing you to stay there after you fall in. He knows in this pit you will feel powerless to stand up against him. There you are vulnerable to him and out of the way."

Beth: Exactly, where we won't be of any trouble to him. If I can keep you in there, you're out of my hair, you're out of my way and I don't have to worry about you.

Betty: If he convinces us we can't get out.

Beth: Yes. One of the things I find so incredibly wonderful about the way God works is that it will be his personal agenda to make sure you're miserable in that hole. You don't want to get comfortable there.

James: You're saying God will actually --

Beth: I'm saying God will do whatever he has to do to make you miserable enough in that pit to where you'll say, "I'm ready to do anything to get out!"

James: That's well stated.

Beth: You can't just stay there. You can't just sit in that place for the rest of your life.

James: It is a place of misery.

Beth: I love the words out of Job. It says, "God does all these things to a man twice, even three times to turn back his soul from the pit that the light of life may shine on him." That he will do -- he will allow things to happen that make us miserable enough in that place. I felt like there had been times he said over my own life, "How much fire do you want me to turn up in this place. How hot do you want this to get?"

James: I think that is one of the baptisms of fire. I don't think it is just Holy Spirit fire, I think it is the trials and afflictions of the bad choices we made. I think that is the baptism of fire. Is that biblical? What I'm seeing?

Beth: I absolutely believe it is.

James: I think you look at the whole Old Testament and you see these baptisms of fire where these trials because of lousy choices they get hemmed up and held captive by the enemy.

Beth: I love the picture of when Paul and Silas are in prison and it says that an earthquake -- God caused an earthquake to take place and that all their chains dropped off. I think that is so often true for us that God will allow something cataclysmic to happen in our lives. We'll just continue on if no crisis really comes, so often we will continue on in that same misery. But God allows things to happen there that are such earthquakes in life for us that the chains begin to drop off. We think, you know what? I do not have to live here. I am miserable here and I have a God echoing down into that pit, come and be free. You can be free.

James: Let me tell you something that you shared in the book and I actually called you on the telephone as I was reading your book. And I hope you don't think she just wrote this book for women because if she did then I violated the code. I read every word of it. I highlighted it, I dog-eared it. I called Beth while I was reading it. By the way, is it for everybody? Is it okay for me to read the book?

Beth: I certainly do hope so, James. I hope that the Word of God is not gender specific. But I've got to tell you, that was the sweetest morning. I'll never forget that phone call because James and Betty called me while they were each at a different place. First I sent Betty the book because she is my good, good buddy. And so then I get a call from Betty going, "James would like a copy of the book."

James: That's right! She didn't even give me a book.

Beth: I sent this one later.

James: She did, she wrote me a little note in it.

Beth: So they were reading it together at different places.

James: She said, you can be the only man on earth that reads this book. [Laughter]

Beth: Keith has read the book. Praise God, he has read the book.

James: I called, you said it meant a lot.

Beth: It was such a powerful moment on the phone because they got so excited because they had seen so many things happen that are described in my experience. They've gone through the same thing. They've known that kind of despair and that kind of feeling of hopelessness that this is all there is for me. This is where I'm going to live the rest of my life. I'm just going to cycle in and out.

James: We would read it to each other. She'd say, "Listen to this." And I'd say, "You listen to this!" "You listen to this!"

Beth: James said, "We both just sat here and cried." I got off that phone I could not believe it. I was so moved.

James: Let me tell you what I called about because you might not remember the specifics because you were so happy -- you are a woman. You were all happy. But I called -- what I called to tell you, this is the thing, I said, "Beth, I have experienced some of the most dramatic, Damascus road type encounters with God where I was instantly delivered." I mean just bang! And one of the things God did even in my call to preach and the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit, I felt like I was baptized -- I was immersed in love. It was the most amazing thing but I didn't tell people about that often because I didn't want them go out looking for a feeling. I wanted them to be full of the spirit not have love goose bumps all over them or something. But I felt like I was being baptized in love. But most of my spiritual experiences have been without feeling as far as my emotions -- just suddenly, bang. My deliverance, I never felt. I just woke up and I realized that whatever it was that had me was gone. Someone had prayed and I'd agreed and in humility and brokenness I said, "I want this claw out of my brain, I want this thing gone!" I woke up and it was gone. It was so dramatic that for 15, 20 years I had observed that that magnetic attraction, it was in the area of lust. I could look out at a woman and see beauty but there would be a magnetic, demonic connection. It was supernatural, it was awful but it was real -- it was very, very real. And suddenly it was gone. Just gone! Never again. It just wasn't there. It was so wonderful. I thought, that's what everything is like. And then Beth writes in this book that she never experienced anything like that.

Beth: Not once!

James: Not once! See, she is still hoping for that. So we all will pray for her. She said, "I have had to go through these things and it's been a process; it's taken time." And then she made this incredible statement. She said, "I found that the deliverer is more interested in us getting to know the deliverer well than the deliverance." In other words, it is the relationship that produces the fruitfulness and the life. The fruit of the spirit, not just the experience to talk about but experiencing the fullness of his abiding presence and it will be a battle. You won't always live there. This bothered me because -- I believe chocolate can talk. I believe there are things that are addictive that call -- that I have conversations with them. They tell me where they are. I can find them when they've been hidden. I'm just saying these things don't automatically go away. Some of the thoughts that come that go clear back to my childhood where I know I was hurt, those things will come at me and they didn't just -- vanish. I actually did not get disheartened when I read the truth you shared. I realize I'm on a journey. I'm in a battle. It requires putting on the whole armor of God every day, taking up the sword of the Spirit and going into war with an enemy. And I can put on a Super Bowl ring every day and a championship trophy because I can win over the enemy that I'm fighting that day. But I won't just get up in bliss and sit there and say, "Oh, I'm sleeping in ease in Zion." No way!

Beth: Here is the compliment, God says, this is what I'm interested in, I'm interested in having a relationship with you. I'm interested in you living off of me and that's what God taught me to do. We've all known people who have given testimonies and accurately told the truth of how it happened, that just instantly they were healed from perhaps an alcohol addiction, a drug addiction, an eating disorder, whatever it may have been. Sometimes we'll sit out there and listen to something like that and think, I have begged God for that. I did. Did any of you? I begged God for that. Right now and I'm going to go through the formula of everything I'm supposed to say and everything I'm supposed to do, whatever posture I need to take. And then -- lift up my head and go, did it happen? Did it happen? And before long, I realize, no, I'm still in that very same vice grip. What God began to show me, he can do it any way he wants to. I've often thought it depends on what his point is. If he is after showing us his supremacy then he'll do something instantaneously so we'll go, man, the Most High God! There is no one like the Most High God. But if he is after us seeing his sufficiency, what is his agenda? For me, he wanted me to get to where I lived off of him in such closest of relationship, as close as the breath in my lungs that I was so aware of him that I had to live, if I were to be free over the bondage I'd been in and addictive thoughts and some addictive behaviors, then I was going to literally have to live off of him from breakfast to noon, from noon to supper, and from supper to bedtime and then all through the black of night. What happened through that is that so often we've been in a pit for a long time, especially if you're a cycler, and that's what I was, I would just cycle back into it over and over. Habits get us there, very deeply ingrained habits. God was totally reformulating my habitual life, my habit life to make himself my habit, to make him what I drew life from, to make me get in such a mode of constant awareness of his presence and his power that his -- that that relationship, that living and breathing relationship with him was the most important thing in life to me. And what I came out with, yes, I have been delivered but I have a deliverer I'm head over heels in love with. I just -- I love Jesus Christ. I know him personally because of all that he and I have been through together. So instead of thinking, why doesn't he love me as much as he loves somebody else he just delivered instantaneously? They're also going to find the same thing is going to be true with them. They're going to have other times that he takes them through a long process because he wants to be sufficiency to us. Be complimented -- He wants a relationship with you. He doesn't want it to be 10:00 in the morning and you still haven't said a word to him because you didn't have to live off of him that day.

James: Let me tell you something, I'm sitting over here, I know Baptists are not supposed to have visions necessarily but I don't think I'm hallucinating, I think I'm having visions. I believe Christians can have visions. I don't care if you're Baptist, Catholic, whoever, if you know the Lord you can have visions. While you're sitting here talking, I'm seeing some things. After what I read in your book, from I believe God's book, I realize, okay, this is a process, I'm going to walk through this. And it was like the Lord said, you too are going to walk with a limp all of your life because you're not going to be able to get all puffed up

and arrogant about what a big shot somebody makes you think you are or you think you are without anybody's help. You're always going to be limping. You know what I saw while you were talking? I saw me suiting up every day. I saw myself putting on what looked like braces all over my body. God said but those aren't braces, son, that's armor. But I'm going to tell you, you can't walk anywhere any day unless you get up every day and put me on because you are not adequate, you have to have me. As surely as a crippled limb would need a strengthening brace, every day, every part of your body, you need me. Then I saw myself going under water and God saying, I have sent you into a world situation that without oxygen from above you can't live. You have got to draw your strength from above or you can't exist in this environment that you're in right now. Does that make any sense? Beth, that's why it is a process of walking through. I am totally dependent and I have to know that it's on the Lord. I won't be able to sit back and say, hah, I used to be there! I used to be there. I think that's one reason Paul said, "Why this messenger the devil that buffets me? I ask you to take it away and you said that you not be exalted beyond measure by others because of the abundance of the legitimate revelations that you've seen. You are in this battle. You will find that my grace is sufficient for you." And that grace is sufficient for you, Beth, and for me and for Betty and every woman and every man in this studio and everyone at home, that is the grace of God. We don't get an instant fix, we put that oxygen on every day, the spirit of the living God and walk in it. Does that make sense?

Beth: It makes perfect sense and it shows so much the heart of God toward us that he didn't just want to fix us instantly and then just go on to the next person --

James: Like we've arrived!

Beth: That's right! But that he continues to work on us and work on us and draw us along and show us an all surpassing power in our own jar of clay. Because I can look at somebody else and I can think, I know he can do that with Betty, I just don't think he can do that with me.

James: That's what I used to say. I told Betty, if I was good as her, I would think I was Jesus. She is so sweet. She is the sweetest girl but yet she was full of fear and insecurity.

Beth and I talked about what a mess we were in. Were you in a mess?

Betty: As far as I was concerned I was in a big mess with -- I lived all my earlier life with this fear. When God came to me one night just in my spirit and I could sense his presence around me, he told me, "Betty," I just heard this in my spirit for the first time, "I love you. I created you. And I want to show you the character that I put within you." I had so much fear that it took a process of time. I feel like that was God's mercy that it wasn't instant because I might have felt pretty puffed up to say, well, I'm rid of that! I had so much -- it may not make sense but I had so much pride with that fear. I had insecurity. I had low self-esteem. God said, "Take this walk with me and I'll show you who I created you to be. And I'm going to throw all these chains and these strongholds off of you that you've carried in such a way for so long. I'm going to show you what you can do with my spirit

in you and my power within you when you shed those things." And I let him be who he wants to be in me.

Beth: Then he makes your liberty so contagious. I think it is so important that we point out something of the process of being delivered. Unfortunately, not everyone in your sphere of family, work, friends and influence will be happy for you. Very often, one of the hardest things you'll ever deal with in really seeing a radical deliverance in your own life from the pit is that oftentimes we have a family pile-up in a pit. I know you know what I'm talking about where we're in with a whole lot of other people. And when one person says they want out, it begins to be very threatening to the rest of the group, whether that's very close friendships, whether that may be a marriage, a family, whatever it may be. I know that for several of my family members and my family of origin, it was extremely threatening and made some of them mad because it is as if to say I don't love you because I no longer want to live that in particular situation. No, I love you. I just want to love you from up here. It is very difficult because you think everybody would be happy for you but more often than not they're a little threatened by it. What I would want people to hear, Betty and James is that the best thing you'll ever do for them is let God deliver you. Love those folks that have been dwelling in that pit with you from the fresh air up here on the ground where your feet are steady on a rock -- love them from there and love them up so that we're not just down all in that pit of despair together but so that somebody can see real life flesh and blood free and in the open air.

James: That's going to be part of this process because everybody you care about is not going to get instantly out of the pit. You didn't. It is a process but we can get out of the pit. I want you to get the book, "Get Out of that Pit." I'd like to send it to you. I wrote a book that's a Bible study on spiritual warfare and winning the life you're fighting for and you really are. And Betty's entire story is in the book, "Free to be Me." This is just a beautiful mom and homemaker that was a wife to a highly visible preacher who was very defeated and yet she was very defeated. What a wonderful deliverer. What a beautiful wife -- 44 years I've lived with this beautiful girl in our marriage relationship and I'm so thankful. I don't know what relationship you're in but I know the relationship we're talking about with freedom in Christ, I know that that changes your relationship, even how you deal with broken relationships and broken hearts. I want to send you these materials. We're asking you to help us keep sharing LIFE Today, keep our mission feeding programs and our outreaches going, to keep all the projects of life going. And during the summer months, it's very important and at various times of the year we need to hear from all of our friends. You call today. We're asking you to prayerfully consider simply making a gift of \$49 or more. You may be impressed to say, look, I want to help you big time. You do what God leads you to do but ask for these books. And then if you'd like to have the DVD's, five of them, and CD's where Beth teaches on "Who Will You Trust?" and getting out of that pit is a part of that, we would love to send you those wonderful teachings too on the audio and video series, DVD or CD. We're simply asking you to pray about making

a gift of \$89 or more. Pray about that and make the call. You want someone to pray with you because you have a need in your life? -- You're tired of being in the pit? Well, they'll be so happy to agree with you but let's renew the minds. That is the reason that we want to put in your hands what you will in many ways hide in your heart, the truth of God that we're seeking to share, to benefit and bless you and bless others. I hope you'll make that call and we thank you so much for your prayers and your support. Continue to watch this week as we're going to be talking to Beth about how we can live on a very much higher plain than most have experienced. Encourage your friends to watch. Go ahead and make the call. Ask for the material. We want to send it to you.

Narrator: Ever been in a pit? Are you in one now? Is somebody you love living there? Don't think for one second God wants you there. In her new book, "Get Out of that Pit," Beth Moore shares her experience as "a former pit-dweller" who had to be delivered from a life of bone-chilling darkness. Filled with hope and real answers, "Get Out of that Pit" provides the path to get your life back on track. James' and Beth's passion is to see you break through the chains and enjoy the life God intended for you. So with your gift today of \$49 or more to make the outreaches of LIFE possible around the world, we would like to send you Beth's new book, along with James' book, "The Life You're Fighting For" and Betty Robison's "Free to be Me." For a gift of \$89 or more, in addition to receiving these life-changing books, you will also receive Beth's powerful audio and video series, "Who Will You Trust?" In this five-part series, including her teaching on "Get Out of that Pit," Beth teaches you how to move faith from your head to your heart.

Beth: Your God loves you! It's not been too long, it's not been too deep, and your God has made sure that you've heard this message today because your deliverer has come -- today!

Narrator: This dynamic collection is available this week only so please, call, write, or make your gift online today!

James: I really pray that you have enjoyed what we've shared and been sharing. We're going to be continuing this week with Beth talking about getting out of that pit. This is the number one bestseller as we're producing these television programs on the Christian booksellers list, also the secular list among religious books. I appreciate Beth being here. Would all of you like to say thanks to Beth Moore for sharing this time? Beth, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We look forward to talking to you the rest of the week. Beth Moore is going to be here all week. We're going to be talking about getting out of a pit of defeat. You don't have to live there. God bless you.

Beth: I mean he said to me before in his own language in my own heart, "I'm trying to save your scrawny neck here! Why don't you work with me?"

Narrator: Beth Moore -- tomorrow!