

Week 39

9/19/11

James: Thank you! Thank all of you and we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I have our good friend Jack Hayford with us.

Jack, I just asked him how many years ago I did the 50th anniversary for he and his wife Anna and it was six years ago, so 56 years they've been wonderfully together, such a beautiful couple. I really am excited about a book that he has written that is called *Penetrating the Darkness*.

It is amazing, as I begin reading, well, it is obvious that Jack and I've been talking to the same person and praying and hearing the same things because he is really talking about the imperative of the believer to pierce the darkness, to penetrate it, to be the light that is not covered... period! It is a bright light and it is a light where people come together. But it is also a light that is piercing darkness with an understanding of the reality of spiritual warfare and kingdom reality.

It is just amazing, Betty, it was like Jack's been writing down what I wish I could write as well about what I'm hearing. I want you to welcome Jack Hayford to *LIFE Today*.

Jack, good to see you! Always great to have you. I have been talking to our viewers on a very consistent basis about living in his presence in the present, kingdom reality. We've tried to impress upon people's minds, Robert Morris and I have talked about the reality of spiritual warfare and about the battle that truly rages and the necessity of spiritual armor. In this book you talk about the kingdom but you also talk about the power of prayer. You even deal pretty specifically with a remarkable breakdown of intercession.

I don't know which aspects of this marvelous book -- and by the way, I'm going to go ahead and put the web site up because here's what I'd like you to do. Now Jack, for so many years was pastor of Church on the Way, Van Nuys, California, I've been there many times to preach. It's all been a privilege and an honor. What a wonderful, beautiful people who just really, I feel like, represent Christ. And he also is the really, the founder of The King's University, they have a seminary that is just fabulous of study. I think that is growing.

The web site, if you'll access it, you'll only find where he is speaking but also the pastor's school that he has, several times a year -- and he'll tell us, perhaps a little bit about it -- but I want you to access it and also learn about the university because I think it would be meaningful and you could request copies of the book for your friends or church. Touch on what is on your heart, Jack.

Jack: Well, of course, what's most on my heart with reference to that, James, is extending really very much into things that we have such deep mutual feelings about presently in our world -- and I want to say something about the kingdom in just a moment because I think the clarity on that is the essence of getting the real power of prayer.

The subtitle to the book, *Penetrating the Darkness* is "Discovering the Power of the Cross Against Unseen Evil." The primary objective was to strike that balanced note that the concept is -- spiritual warfare is not trying to somehow wrestle the adversary to the ground. We do wrestle against flesh and blood but that wrestling is to enter into a triumph that has already been accomplished and is appropriated or drawn down into earth level, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth." It doesn't happen without prayer. It doesn't happen without presence of the life of Christ by his spirit in believers.

The discovery of the impact of prayer that stances itself in the face of the things that concern us all today, and I don't know of anybody who more effectively communicates the challenges we face today than you. That's not because I'm just your guest here, it's because I'm your friend for a long time, I know you well. We've had personal correspondence on that subject that I wrote you and I said I think you are the essence of what true believing patriotism is in this day. That it is not about just waving a flag, it is understanding how to be a person in the life of the kingdom of the love of God, not in a religious sense, nobody is more passionate about the Lord than you or me and hopefully not seen as especially religious, just guys that are living where the real is in the kingdom.

And in this book, James, coming to the place of recognizing when Jesus said the most prayed prayer in the world, which is probably, the last weekend was uttered by how many hundreds of millions of people around the world, we have no idea, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," they almost uniformly are thinking of something abstract or something future or the millennium. And Jesus was saying every day of your life, pray that and invoke what I can do through my power wherever I'm invited. All of us face situations that need the presence of God and that's why praying to

Penetrate the Darkness is pointing the way to the practical application of that on a daily basis. So I appreciate the chance to talk about that.

James: As I read the different references in the scripture that you referred to and pointed out trying to understand this when intercession, it seems to have not only relevance today but it seems to have a very appropriate application if you understand it.

Jack: Well, I think the thing -- when intercession became alive to me, it has to do with an incident that took place on the third Wednesday night of November in 1973 when the world was young, and at least I was younger.

James: I was just a kid!

[Laughter]

Jack: But it changed -- it changed the entire thrust and sense of our church's ministry. It didn't change it from being focused on the word into some pious permeating ad infinitum, but into a recognition of what prayer was. I won't go any further in that story. It is not essential to the point now. In that context I came to understand first a definition of intercession that works and then three things that will dramatize it as clearly and simply as possible. I think it is very possible.

The first thing is the definition. To define intercession we need to go to where the ultimate intercessor is introduced and it is the last verse of the 53rd chapter of Isaiah because there, where in that great passage that depicts Jesus as the suffering savior, the Messiah who came for us, it says that by that he made intercession for all of us. That that is not the intercession he continues, it is the intercession he achieved at the cross. The intercession he continues he wants to continue through his people but the victory was achieved at the cross.

What did he do? Intercession is to stand in the presence of God for people who either cannot or will not for themselves. That is to take their place in the presence of God and say, "Lord, this is what I'm asking for and I'm calling it into reality. Out of your kingdom, in the glory presence of the living God forever in heaven, into this world where you are looking for people who will steward the gifts that you have given us, the gospel with our witness and the power of penetrating the darkness with our prayer." It is more effectively done when we recognize the moments God gives us. We

may be watching something on TV that angers us or tempted to be angered out of self-righteousness, and appropriate moral umbrage at something we see but rather than getting ticked off, to see that as an intersection, all these words rhyme with intercession; an intersection point where the Lord says this is a reminder to you, this is a place you've intersected.

Secondly, intervene -- intervention. Take a position right now in prayer instead of irritation with what you just saw, reach toward that setting. What you see, perhaps it is the aftermath of what just happened in tornados recently or the tsunami in Japan, reach your hand out and rather than just feel oh, that's horrible! Say, "Lord, I want to invoke your presence and your power there." Intervene in that situation.

By that means from intersection to the point of intervention it becomes interception and both of us as guys that enjoy sports, we all understand what interception is, it is when the hockey puck is coming down or pass down the field and somebody comes across and reverses the flow to change the direction of the way things are going.

James: It's likely to be my guy that does the intercepting.

[Laughter]

Jack: So there is the definition of intercession. And the pragmatism of it, first the truth of it, that we're called to stand in situations where people cannot or will not put themselves. Especially when you recognize something, nobody is going to pray for them, that person that makes you so indignant with what you see of the way they are speaking in some public arena or what you read, instead of just becoming angry or irritated or saying, you know what I read today... and we spend so much time at being angry at the world instead of taking the love steps Jesus taught us.

James: We really don't change the course. You talked about the interception, it actually changes the flow and if we could see correctly the power of prayer, intercessory prayer we could actually change the flow. I have referenced it and may have even done it when I was in your church because of your proximity to Hollywood. When you're in Van Nuys, I talked about rather than condemning the entertainment community we need to really pray for them, for all that of ability and talent to be used in a different way; that in my opinion is a proper interception.

Betty: But it's all of us as children of God, we know him personally, we all have this gift and this ability to intercede for those. And in that interceding wouldn't we also be

praying, "God let them come to the point where they can pray and have that relationship with you."

Jack: Absolutely! Draw them to yourself. And he will do that and he does it best, I often say to people, so many times people will spend their time criticizing the government, making judgments about things that is our privilege as citizens to decide and take action appropriately, it is a very different thing from being angry at any given administrator, leader, whoever it may be, in city government all the way through to national government. I cannot pray for somebody I'm mad at or who I'm sitting in judgementalism on. I may evaluate things, especially in the place where I'm to take action within the stewardship of my privilege as a citizen. But I'm a citizen of more than the United States, I'm a citizen of the Kingdom of God and my citizenship there is where my greatest clout lies and it lies when I pray with an open heart for people.

Betty: When we pray for others, when we intercede for others, I know personally, I've always had things that God has done in my heart as I'm praying for others. Something really special takes place in my own heart.

Jack: Betty, you've touched probably the core of it because there is no such thing as praying without the process of change taking place in us.

James: You know when you were talking about that attitude toward the people you may disapprove, that you say where they're in political office, you and I come from two very diverse backgrounds being what I would be always referred to as a rather conservative Baptist evangelical and you being a classic Pentecostal. You and I came together years ago with a heart harmony that was truly supernatural.

The relationship we've enjoyed would have been very difficult if not strained in the least, and perhaps impossible, had either one of us perceived that the other person despised us. Had I come in displaying a despicable -- let's say having that attitude toward you that you being that way or I -- just totally wrong. We could never have had harmony. This is exactly what prevails in much of the church. We have taken a point of disagreement or seeing anything different, which you and I have come to find out that we see everything in such a similar fashion that it is like we just grew up in the same home with the same father and that is really pleasing to the Lord.

I really believe that to penetrate the darkness and to intercede we need to pray that that dividing wall come down and that attitude will be changed. Jesus started with attitude when he started the Sermon on the Mount. We need an attitude adjustment in

our nation. The church should pray for that but we should also display it. It should be on display; this is how we treat each other.

Jack: Holy Spirit empowered prayer is the key and wherever the Holy Spirit is working, he pours forth the love of God in our hearts. If there is any definition of how the power of the Holy Spirit works, it is not in some sensationalistic display, it is in the melting of our hearts toward people in the love of God and praying for them with that passion born of love, not the passion born of whatever differences are perceived in any environment.

You mentioned a moment ago, when you were with us at the church on any number of occasions and that you made an observation regarding Hollywood being just over the hill from where we were and so many of the people in our church are in the entertainment industry, which the majority of the people in the entertainment industry, nobody knows their name because they're the people making everything happen, they're not the stage personalities.

But the Lord allowed us to penetrate that arena, which is a fairly dark arena and it was because of prayer but it manifested itself in love. Prayer is a meltdown experience of our hearts before God and as that takes place, it opens up the dynamic of our prayer because of a love. So the blending of the power of God and the love of God, which really are basically one and the same thing, it is the essence of his nature. God is powerful and God is love and there it goes.

James: But it so pierces the darkness that it actually penetrates their heart, it actually opens it -- it breaks up ground that has been totally unreceptive and never fruitful. It is amazing how that incredible love is the light that pierces the darkness. I've watched it happen.

Jack, you do a beautiful job.

He's written hundreds of hymns and praise songs, "Majesty" is one of the greats that all of us have sung but he has written so many. What an incredible gift!

I don't know anyone that in my opinion has served more as an apostle to the whole church in the whole earth to really speak peace. There is no Pentecostal who makes more beautiful the reality and power of the power of Pentecost, biblical truth, of the power of the Holy Spirit that is resident in the believer becoming president, becoming the power flowing like a river. No one has in my opinion, created as he wrote years ago a passion for fullness anymore than Jack Hayford has.

This book *Penetrating the Darkness*, I was so thrilled but like I said when I started the program, I've spent more time now in prayer than any let's say particular aspect of my life in ministry. In praying, I spend more time listening than I do talking, and as you know I'm quite a talker, but in prayer, I spend more time listening. And the Lord has made it clear that he likes to talk to me because he knows how much I like to hear him.

Well, as I began to read this book, it was like Jack, you must have been sitting in the next room; you've been listening in on my conversations and what I'm hearing. No, we're just talking to the same Father. It is a great book and we'd be happy to send it to you, as a matter of fact, if you'll just help us do what God has put on our heart to do right now, that Jack and Anna, and really, Church on the Way have helped us to do for years. Why don't you just say thanks to Jack Hayford for being with us?

Jack, I just thank you. I'm going to show our viewers something that is -- you talk about interceding. As a matter of fact, I want you to look in right here. Betty and I were walking through a community, kind of a village and just on dirt roads and I saw so many children that I just said, "God, we want to bless them."

But a little girl just kind of disappeared, walked by and disappeared and I prayed, "God, I want to share your love with that little girl." Something about her, maybe her brown eyes reminded me of our daughters and our granddaughters. I want you to watch what happened when you just intercede and pray. Watch.

On the Mission Field:

James: Here's just an old worn out shoe. But here's two pretty little feet that this wouldn't work for. Maybe it would work for somebody for a while but this little girl needs shoes.

Betty: James, I look around and I see all these beautiful children and I think it is not things we're trying to give them, it is life! And shoes to put on their feet because there are so many diseases that comes from walking around in their bare feet. They pick up so many things that get in their system, in their bloodstream and just slowly destroys their little bodies. So it's a need that we're asking for. It is not just a luxury. They need our help.

James: It is not even comfort. It is a chance. And this is something I'm very excited about. It is something we can do together. We're going to get her some shoes. Get her some nice shoes. These pretty feet -- get all the dirt off of them. Man, those dirty feet.

Clean them up. Are they ticklish? They're not ticklish? [Laughing] Are they too tough to be ticklish? Huh? They are; aren't they?

You know I just hope you will do all you can to help us share life and opportunities and better future for children like this. It is so easy to talk about the love of God and about how much God loves people but it is a whole different thing to show them how much God loves them. A little girl like this just out here in the middle of a remote village in Central America, feels very comfortable in the arms of love. Thanks for helping do all you can. In the name of love, for the glory of God.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I just -- I don't even know how that moves you but I know how I prayed for that little girl when she literally disappeared into the distance. I said, "God, I wanted so much to tell her how much you love her." And a few minutes later she walked by in my direction and I just sat down in the road. This is before I had Betty come over and sit by me. I just sat down in the road and a total stranger, never been in her area before, she just walks over and gets in my lap. She crawled into the lap of love -- that's what she did! And when I told her that we wanted to put some feet on -- some shoes on some little feet, just a little bit larger than these tiny little shoes, I knew I could do it for one reason, because you who view *LIFE Today* wherever you are, you would help us put God's arms of love around those children and put shoes on their feet.

I'm asking you to help us. This is our last week that we're asking you to help us really get the resources in time to deliver these gifts, which is for the children, it is a surprise. I mean food is a surprise, fresh water is just overwhelming to them but they never ever dream that somebody would give them something like a pair of shoes. It keeps them from getting diseases from hookworms and other problems. We want to give them to the children. We want to put in the hands of the missionaries something they can put on their feet. So right now we're giving shoes and smiles.

Betty, this amount of money is so simple: \$36, ten pairs of shoes; \$72, 20 pairs of shoes for 20 children; \$144, 40 children. To do cleft palate surgery or where they have facial deformity, it averages \$500; \$1,000, two smiles! So we call it shoes and smiles for Christmas.

Betty: What an opportunity! This is an area of need that we can really make a

difference. These children can use these shoes. Why? To protect their feet. They have enough challenges in their life with other areas and needs but this can help protect their little feet from disease that they get from the cuts and the bruises and the scratches and all the things that are out there that they might step on, James, to hurt their feet. And then if you can give them a smile, oh, my goodness! You heard the laughter of that little girl. What a joy to fill a need of a child. Won't you join with us and let's make the difference in their lives?

James: Would you do it? This is the last week that we're asking for your help. We need the resources now so we can have the shoes and smiles as a gift by Christmas.

Would you simply dial the number? Take your bankcard; use it like a check, please. Would you do it now? It's so -- I know some of you are praying, God, meet the need. But can you help meet the need? Can you be the answer to someone's prayer? Can you be the answer to that need? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*. If you want to go online, LifeToday.org, you do it.

We have some gifts that we want to send you, the beautiful devotional book, the "Heart of the Father" bronze; we want to bless you as you bless others. Thank you so much for making that call. If you get a busy now, you be persistent and call until you get through.

Begin clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

LIFE Outreach International has developed a durable all-terrain shoe especially made for the harshest conditions in children of all ages. By responding today you can help life immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays!

Your gift of \$36 will help provide 10 pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift be sure to request the bestselling inspirational devotional by Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request the heart of father bronze sculpture.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I thank you so much for your help. Today, also, along with the Jesus Calling devotional study Bible, it is a devotional book, it is wonderful. We'll be glad to send you Jack Hayford's book, *Penetrating the Darkness*.

I know you appreciate Jack and we appreciate your help. Would you join us in saying thanks to Jack?

Thank you, buddy! Tell Anna and all the folks out there...

There again is the web site. You can always go on to LifeToday.org and get all the information you want, how to find everything you want to know about Jack and about the university. God bless you! We love you!

>> God, if you are speaking, I'm a C student and I need you to spell this out.

[Laughter]

Announcer: Hearing God in the midst of our everyday lives, tomorrow.