

9/02/25

Week 36: CS&S

James & Betty Robison

Unity #2

**Studio discussion:**

**JAMES:** Well, we want to welcome you to *Life Today*. James Robison and Betty, and we went back 40 years to a sermon I preached in California, Anaheim Convention Center, Full Gospel Businessmen, well over 10,000; thousands of them responded to the invitation just immediately. This message, I carried it basically all over America, this message and the truth that I shared had an impact on the church that was undeniable. Walls of division, denominationalism literally came down because we laid them no longer as a point of division, but we laid them aside, recognizing that we had differences, perhaps, but we weren't going to allow walls to stand between us and keep us from the supernatural unity that Jesus prayed for and the Father desires.

So you're going to hear the second half of the message. This is cut down quite a bit because the messages back then I would preach for a long time. But you're hearing a great part of the message that literally touched the church, and we're still seeing the positive fruit of that. I literally, Betty had to rededicate my life to the fullest and understanding of some of the things that I shared that I had just come to see clearly. So I ask you to watch very prayerfully.

Then, Betty, we're going to ask all of our viewers to change a child's life with something as simple as a pair of shoes, and the beautiful surgery that can be done on cleft palates and facial deformity. I'm telling you, Betty, when you put a smile not only on a child's face, but especially, mom and dad, and grandparents, that's a miracle. But it's not a miracle they cannot become like breathing. We can breathe out the freshness of God's love on people that never thought anybody would even notice them, much less bless them. So, I thank God that we have the opportunity together to do so many beautiful things.

I pray that you'll be blessed by this message and by sharing shoes and smiles for Christmas.

Watch prayerfully the whole message, and then let God lead you in blessing others.

**Timeless Treasure Teaching: [Finding Freedom JR clip]**

**JAMES:** Recently, God gave me a vision and he told me to share it with you. I didn't see it clearly. I saw it in a shadow. I saw Jesus giving gifts to his church -- beautiful grace gifts. They were sign gifts. They were ministry gifts. And as he gave these beautiful gifts to the church, I saw a great part of the church standing over to the side and ridiculing the gifts, mocking them, making fun of them, belittling them. And I thought, Oh, God! And then I saw what I considered an equally shocking picture. I saw other people receiving the gifts gladly. And then I saw them take the gift and put it under their arm like a little trophy, and I saw them carry their gift across the room like a little prize. Then I saw them take their gift and put it on a pedestal. And then I saw them bow down and begin to worship the gift. I looked across the room, and Jesus was weeping and weeping and weeping. And he says, "My church."

It is impossible, impossible to have a New Testament church without the receiving of and the releasing of all spiritual gifts. Do not applaud. It is impossible for a believer, and the body to move in power and wisdom and knowledge without all spiritual gifts operating in the unction of the Holy Spirit. It is also equally impossible for spiritual gifts to operate with idolatry toward those gifts. Much of the church today worships the gift of preaching. If a man can preach, the people follow him. They go after the gift. That's been one of the greatest sins of idolatry among the people I've ministered to in the circles I've ministered. They idolize preaching. Many have gone after the gift of teaching with notebooks and recorders and all paraphernalia. They go after teaching. And many have gone with equal zeal after the gift of tongues.

How many miss the anointing of the Holy Spirit, trying to get what someone else has magnified? I do not find in my Bible the command to seek gifts. Desire them? Yes. Need them? Receive them? Absolutely! Seek them? No.

Seek the Lord. Pursue love. Pursue God and he gives gifts. How many live in absolute disappointment because they've been trained to go after what someone else has, rather than what the Spirit does? Listen, folks, seek the Lord. The issue must never be what he does but

who he is or he won't do what he does. You know what he showed me? He said, It's a wicked, perverse generation that seeks after signs and wonders. He said, You follow the word, preach the word. Do the word and signs follow. Don't follow signs! Follow the word! Signs follow the word! If you follow signs, you miss the word.

Listen. When the people murmured against God and the fiery serpent, smite them. God said as a sign, "Raise up a brazen serpent on a pole." When the people look as a token, an expression of faith, they will live. God gave them the sign. Jesus said, As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. We look to him and live.

Do you know what Israel did with that gift? Do you know what they did with that sign? God gave it to him. They began to worship the snake on the pole. And so does the church. Time and again, we're drawn to say, this is what is dividing us. Listen, folks, if you really are born of the Spirit, you will recognize the things of the Spirit. I want to tell you, the merchandizing of gifts has done as much to hinder the acceptance of gifts as unbelief has. The magnification of gifts, we've got to receive them.

Do you know what I have found with people who've had these beautiful, beautiful, deep experiences of the Holy Spirit? I mean, where its God and not flesh. There is a difference. You know what I found? It is so intimate and so sacred, it's like a marriage relationship. It is precious between them and the Lord. It is so real and so sacred. They wouldn't dare exploit, merchandise. Who does this? The enemy. The enemy wants to magnify everything but Jesus. The enemy wants to bring us into captivity. The enemy wants to deceive us. The enemy wants to defeat us. The enemy wants to divide us. The enemy wants to destroy us. The enemy wants to disease your body. And I want to tell you, once the enemy gets in, you may think he's coming to entertain you, but when he's in there, he does his destructive work too.

Many of you have oftentimes invited the evil one to come and minister to your flesh, not even knowing what was happening. He ministered to you. He ministered to your flesh, and he built a campground in your life, a stronghold, a fortress. I want to tell you that for every one of you that have ever been set free, every one of you that have ever been healed, everyone here that's

ever been blessed of God, from the moment you got that freedom, from the moment you got that blessing, the enemy, the prince of the powers of the air, the ruler of this present age and world, came to take back that which God blessed you with and take you back into captivity. As surely as Pharaoh came after the people of God when he had turned them loose, he's coming after you to take away your healing, to take away your liberty, to take away your freedom, your deliverance, your life, and your spiritual power.

Do you know how he does it? He snatches away the word from your heart. He causes affliction and persecution because of the word to cause this word to be set aside. He causes the worries of the world that cares for other things, and the deceitfulness of riches to snatch the Word of God from your heart. Many of you who've come to this conference have been blessed. If you've been blessed at all, it has been because you have heard the living Word of God, and the word has ministered to you.

Now listen closely. If you're going to walk in that freedom, you're not going to live by bread alone. You're not going to live by what you see and taste and smell and sense. You're going to live by the Word of God in spite of what you see, hear, taste, and sense. You're going to let the Word of God prevail over any other symptom that comes in your life.

Now, folks, listen to me. I can't talk the Word of God into you. I can't talk faith into you. You've got to come to the place that you lay down every idol and every tradition and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. And you come after the Word of God with your whole heart, because Moses said, in truth, "This is not an idle word for you, this is your life -- this is your life!" Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are life."

I want to see you walk out of here full of the life of God. I don't want to see you go out of here pumped up because of a convention atmosphere. I want to see you go out of here with your eyes on Jesus to feed on the Word of God. I want to see you diligently, diligently pursuing the Word of God. If you don't do it, if you don't do it, you cannot. You absolutely cannot overcome the world. This word must be more thrilling and more exciting, going to it for food, going to it for life, going to it for bread, going to it for water, going to it for ministry. This word must

consume you or your flesh will be consumed. Few are the people who really live by this word, mostly by sight. I want to see you live by the word. I want to see you free. I want to see you walking in fullness. I want to see you committed to live by the word.

Now that's the commitment I believe the Lord wants you to make tonight. Lay down every idol, every tradition. Refuse ever again to follow man. Hold those anointed of God in high esteem for the work's sake. Thank God for those who labor among you with a compassion of Christ. But do not follow men. The Holy Spirit is your only teacher. Men cannot teach you. The Holy Spirit can teach you through men, but men must not be your source. Denominations, Church organizations, church buildings, church groups, prayer groups and fellowships and individuals must not be your source. The source is the Holy Spirit. He guides you to all truth. No other person can guide you to truth. You receive life and truth only -- only through the Holy Spirit.

I have preach the Word of God for 22 years. When I began preaching at age 18, I confessed and testified, and I still do to this day. I have never read biblically or historically, of what I consider to be a more dynamic and dramatic encounter with the Holy Spirit than the one I personally experienced in the power of the Holy Spirit. As an 18-year-old boy, the Holy Spirit came on me in such power, in such anointing that the only way to describe it is awesome. I was a boy so shy, so withdrawn, so afraid of everyone that I would not even stand up in front of a classroom and make a report. For ten years of school, I would carry my lunch in a sack and eat alone. I wouldn't even mingle with the kids at school. I was fearful. I was a kid that was totally rejected.

I'm an illegitimate child. My father deserted me before I was ever born. I was given away by an ad in a newspaper. I grew up feeling inferior and rejected. When I was 18 years old, God singled me out. God said, I want to use you. God said, I'm going to use you to preach to the world my truth. And I heard him, and I said, God, how? And God said, Where is your faith? And as an 18-year-old boy, I never felt a step. It was as though I were carried by God. Charles Finney described the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as waves of liquid love coming into his being, and I was saturated with love, I was saturated with boldness, I was saturated with a confidence that I long to see in every believer.

Many of you here are filled with intimidation and insecurity and inferiority. I tell you, the New Testament church was characterized by confidence. They had confidence because they had been with Jesus. They had boldness. And out of their innermost being there was released a river of life. I'm telling you that every person here is capable in Christ of releasing a personality and a power and a life and a zeal and a joy and a confidence beyond anything you've ever experienced. And it's not fleshly exaltation. It's not those of you who think it's a high-powered personality. It's not that at all. It is the power of the Holy Spirit. And God wants to free you and release that in you.

**Studio discussion:**

**JAMES:** Well, Betty, you witnessed it.

**BETTY:** I did. I still witness it to this day. The same message that God put in your heart as an 18-year-old is still there. And he -- he -- we may be older. Yes, we are. That's life. But his heart is still there to reach out and to let people know that God's truth is as important as it was 40 years ago, James, when you preached it. If we listen, we can still learn. You and I still learn. You said your heart was really touched when you watched this. Mine was too. Not only remembering of being there, but just knowing that God is still at work in our hearts if we allow him to.

**JAMES:** You would agree with me, though, that as shy as I was and timid, that that was probably one of the most indescribable miracles you or anyone has ever seen.

**BETTY:** It really was, James. I was there. I watched it from the very beginning. And even as this little church girl, I didn't know the Lord yet. I thought I did but it took you preaching a year before God grabbed my heart through your testimony and your love for him, and he changed my life forever.

**JAMES:** Well, we just want you to know that it's a joy to be able to share his truth with you.

Right now, we are in our Christmas Shoes and Smiles, and I sure would like to ask all of you to listen to John Yeatts, our mission director. He's over there right now with the little children, and he's seeing children that we're going to be able to give shoes to. He's just pointing out, and he's got a few of the little shoes he's going to use and we're going to give away. But we're also going to give them smiles with cleft palate surgery. Imagine a little child who can't stand to look at himself, and a mother and a parent that's so brokenhearted that their child can't smile, to watch them get a smile. That's what we give for Christmas, shoes and smiles.

I want you to watch prayerfully. But I want you to give with the love of God flowing through you like a river. Thank you so much.

**Transition roll-in: [Christmas Love and Joy]**

**JOHN:** Well, it's a great day here in South Sudan as we come and we get to bring Christmas shoes to these precious children who have no shoes. As you know, for years now we've been giving hundreds of thousands of pairs away, but there's still a great need, and we want to be a part of just sharing a little bit of joy and a little bit of Christmas love with children around the world. It's going to change the way they walk. It's going to help with infections on their feet. We've seen so many children as we've come through, their feet are infected, their toes are infected. They've got cuts on their ankles. So we need your help. It takes just a small amount. We'll put a pair of shoes on each one of these kids' feet.

And remember, it's not just shoes that we give at Christmas time, it's also the smiles. So around the world, kids that are in need of cleft palate surgeries, or kids that are in need of shoes will be able to have a little extra something of joy this Christmas because of your giving. So whatever you can give, maybe it's small, maybe it's great, but whatever you can do, would you please help us give Christmas shoes just as a simple way of reminding children that God sees them and that God loves them.

**Studio appeal:**

**JAMES:** Betty, we're told oftentimes, you don't look 80. You don't look old. Betty, you look so young. You want to know one reason why? We have a joy and a peace in sharing God's love with the least of these, with the most overlooked. Those who feel so unimportant and forgotten. Jesus said, If you help the least of these, those that are hungry, those that are hurting, those that are in prison, so to speak, they're defeated, they're thirsty, and you meet that need, you do it to me. And you know what he says? And you are my sheep. If you ever wonder who's saved, who really knows him, you see the least of these. You see the hurting and the suffering. And you can be a healing factor, and you do it, he says, you are my sheep doing my will, and you bless me. I think that keeps us young. And I think that alleviates a lot of stress.

**BETTY:** And, James, to give a special gift to these children, shoes of all things. I love to see my grandchildren, my great-granddaughters, they get a new pair of shoes, some of them have sparkles on them and everything. They're so proud of them. Well, these children are just as proud because they have shoes on their feet. Feet that walk every day. Everywhere they go they have to walk to get there, and their little feet step on stones, they step on all kinds of things. They cut their feet, James, and then they get infections and they get diseases from it.

This is a gift they can enjoy because it's a gift of shoes, but it's also a protection for their body. So please join with us and let's offer the shoes for Christmas for these beautiful little children.

**JAMES:** Yeah, I agree with everything you said. And then let's do this. Let's put a smile on a child's face that never believed they could smile. We've seen so many with cleft palates that when they would see themselves in our television camera, they would run, they would pull back. They hadn't seen -- a lot of them had never seen a mirror. Kids would walk up and look in the rearview mirror on the side of a truck, and they'd see themselves and they wouldn't like it.

But do you know what we can do? We can give them the miracle of a smile. I'm asking everyone right now to make the greatest gift you can. Your gift will give shoes. It's amazing that \$36 gives ten children shoes. Isn't that amazing? Please, would you do whatever you can? And then remember this. We're able to do the cleft palate surgeries because of the donation of the time of surgeons. They have to have certain equipment, and they have to pay for certain things,



but we can do it for \$500. Imagine what that means to a child and the parents, the family, the friends to that person.

Would you right now go and get your bank card? And would you make the best gift you can, please? Give the greatest gift because you're giving, truly, the greatest gift of love and the life of Christ. It is because of him that we do it. Please, if you write a check make it to LIFE. But let's give some shoes and smiles for Christmas starting right now. And we've got to do it now to deliver by Christmas. Please do it.

**CS&S Cause 2025:**

***ANNOUNCER:** Poverty is a killer, and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from lack of food and clean water, but also from a lack of things we take for granted, such as a healthy smile or a protective pair of shoes.*

*Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of painful infections, injury, and life-threatening diseases.*

*But this Christmas, you can bring hope and healing. Your gift today will help provide new shoes for 150,000 children in time for the holidays. And for some children, a beautiful new smile. Your gift of \$36 will help provide shoes for ten children, \$72 will help provide for 20, \$180 will help provide shoes for 50, and a gift of \$500 will help provide a cleft surgery, restoring a child's smile forever.*

*As a thank you for your gift of support, be sure to request the beautifully crafted yellow crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake set featuring four of LIFE's colorful crystal shoe ornaments. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective smile surgeries, and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah."*

*Please call, write, or make your gift online today.*

**Studio good-bye:**

**JAMES:** Betty, I'm praying that everybody who can help will give some shoes and some smiles. But I'm also praying that you'll encourage people to watch the message and to remember what was going on in my life and what went on in the life of the church. Because what God showed me, and did after many years of preaching, made an incredible, undeniable impact on the church. And I think we're going to see the greatest move of the Spirit we've ever witnessed in the days ahead.

Be praying for us. We love you. Thank you for helping us lift him up and put his arms around the overlooked and the least of these. Thank you so much.