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Week 16

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

Jentezen Franklin

“Powerful Prayers”

MALE ANNOUNCER: The following program is sponsored by Friends of Life Outreach International.

JENTEZEN FRANKLIN: And some of you are so worried about your children, you're so worried about your marriage, you're so worried about your future, and you keep it all kind of canned up, and it brings anxiety, it brings pressure, it brings a spirit of fear, that's when you just pray those short prayers and release that anxiety and say, God, I trust you even when I don't understand a thing you're doing in my life.

ANNOUNCER: Jentezen Franklin reminds us of the power of short prayers, next.

[music]

RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to “Life Today,” I'm so glad to have you here.

I am Randy Robinson, my co-host today is Blynda Lane. Glad to have you here as well.

BLYNDA LANE: Really happy to be here.

RANDY: And I'm excited to have our guest back today, Jentezen Franklin.

If you missed the other program with Jentezen, we would invite you to go to LifeToday.org for all of our programs. But stick around, this is going to bless you. Jentezen, welcome back, great to see you.

JENTEZEN: Thank you, it's so great to be back with you.

RANDY: This has had a big impact.

BLYNDA: Really big, on me, personally, personally on me, yes.

“The Power of Short Prayers” is the book that you have just newly released, and I got to read some of it, and truly, I think for me what was so powerful is just the mind shift of if

you're carrying something heavy, and you don't really know what to say, how to say it, just say what's on your heart.

Like, I love that freedom that God wants to just hear you from your heart, and this kind of brings freedom to that idea that we can pray the prayer that's on the heart and believe that God hears it.

JENTEZEN: And it's not just an idea, it's a Bible-based idea. It is James chapter 5 that says the effectual, fervent, the word fervent is passionate, red hot. The effectual, fervent, passionate prayer of a righteous man or woman avails much.

He didn't say the long drawn-out religious, you know, repetitive, saying the same thing over, he said pray a short prayer with the passion that you feel for that circumstance that you're praying for. And it's not how long you pray, it's how quick you believe.

I'm not against long prayer. I remember in my generation coming up and a guy named Larry Lea changed my life with a book called "Could You Not Tarry One Hour?" So the standard was one hour, and I felt like a backslider as a preacher if I didn't pray one hour every day, and that was a great thing, it established a pattern for me to pray through the Lord's prayer one hour that I still do. It's just a regular thing for me.

But you'll never pray long prayers if you don't start praying short prayers, and you can pray short prayers on your way to work, and we give, in the book, short prayers to pray.

One of the greatest, most famous prayers is a man whose name was given by his mother and father in the Bible, Jabez, and it literally, if you look at it, it translates painmaker. I mean, that's a bad deal when your mother and father say this child is gonna be nothing in life but a painmaker, but he prayed a 30-word prayer, "Oh, that you would bless me indeed, enlarge my territory."

That's bless me indeed, not normal, indeed, in the superlative. I don't wanna be average, I don't wanna be normal, I'm going to work today, bless me indeed. I invite your blessing, your favor, your provision, help me. There's something about just doing it.

Bless me indeed, enlarge my territory. Bless me indeed is good success. I'm praying for greater success. Enlarge my territory. I'm praying for greater influence. Give me greater influence, give my company greater influence, give my family greater influence so that I can shine the light of Jesus Christ.

So, greater success, greater influence, then he said, "And that your hand would be upon me." If the hand of the Lord is on you that's the power of the Lord, greater power. And then he prayed, "And that you would keep me from evil," that's greater protection.

What a prayer outline. Make me, you know, Lord, just-- well, we know Bruce Wilkinson wrote the most magnificent book, and what did Jab-- He's only found a few verses in the whole Bible, and Jabez prayed that simple 30-word prayer, and the Bible concludes that

story by saying, “And God granted him his request,” because he said, “I don't want to be a grief, I don't want to be a painmaker, I don't want to be locked into a life that comes from dysfunction because my parents said that's all I would ever be.”

And God broke him out of every limitation. There's power in short prayers that I believe is a secret to the kingdom of God, and if people will start talking to God about how you feel, he will move in your life in unprecedented ways.

RANDY: I think I'm harder on myself in this area than God is, but--for example, if I went to my wife, and I only talked to her using certain language and certain things to make sure I got what I wanted from her, we wouldn't call that a relationship, we call it manipulation, right?

And so with prayer, I think there's a freedom when we do what Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane and said, “Not my will but yours,” because if properly understood, I think that allows us to pray for things that are on our heart, our desires, and sometimes they are give me more, you know? Let me do bigger things, bless this area.

Do we need to humble ourselves at the end of our big prayers and say but not my will but yours and learn to live with that?

JENTEZEN: One hundred percent, but I do believe that the gospel is a gospel that calls us, even through our suffering, even through our setbacks, even it's not--it doesn't mean you won't go through losses and go through--but ultimately we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

The things that I've gone through with my life and ministry and family, they were not all beautiful, wonderful things, but I kept praying through them, I kept talking to God through them, I kept conversation going between me and God. It's what Job did.

Some of the--you start reading the book of Job, and he's praying his feelings. I don't feel you. I go forward, you're not there. I love the honesty of that. I love just talking to God, just like what you said, like you talk to your wife about any and everything.

God says come talk to me, quit talking to other people always and going here and going there. Come talk to me. You can be honest with me.

And some of you are so worried about your children, you're so worried about your marriage, you're so worried about your future, and you keep it all kind of canned up, and it brings anxiety, it brings pressure, it brings a spirit of fear, but when you get--and what I've learned is if I start praying these short prayers, and every one of them are based out of a story that is a balanced story.

I love what you're saying. Yes, of course, pray the will of God only. I've learned to thank him for the open doors, but I've learned, that same verse says, “And he shuts doors no man can open.”

And I tell you, I thank God for the times that, you know, somebody said, well, you know, it's wonderful when God opens the door, and when he shuts the door, he'll always open another door, but it's hell in the hallway. And when you're in that hellful hallway, that's when you just pray those short prayers and release that anxiety and say, God, I trust you even when I don't understand a thing you're doing in my life.

I don't understand this doctor's report. I don't understand it, but I'm gonna do like Hezekiah did. He got a bad report in a letter from a Sennacherib that said I'm going to destroy you. And he said wrong address, and he took that letter and took it to the temple and laid it on the altar.

Some of you've got a letter, some of you got an email, a doctor's report, a X-ray, and he said wrong address. I'm taking it to the house of the Lord, and I'm putting it on the altar, and God, I can't do this, but you're God, and you can.

RANDY: Okay, I'm glad--I gotta jump in here, because I'm so glad you brought that up. There is a principle that I have always applied to finances when I look at scripture, and it's not about ownership, wealth, you know, it's about stewardship, and, you know, growing up in the wealthiest country in the world but yet spending time in some of the poorest countries in the world, you go, okay, significant wealth imbalance here.

What's the common truth? And it's stewardship. What are you doing with what God has entrusted with you, whether it's monetarily big or small?

Here's what you do in that chapter with Hezekiah. You say our difficulties--we're talking about the things we want to be delivered from. You're saying it's not about not having problems, not having cases where we need deliverance where we have to cry to God, it's about the stewardship. What do you do with it? And when you say not my address, God, it's your address, you're saying that stuff's gonna come your way, the real response that God wants us to have is a stewardship response to say, God, I'm bringing this problem to you.

JENTEZEN: Yes.

RANDY: That's huge.

JENTEZEN: Yeah, and I don't care how bad the situation is. I believe that as long as a person is alive, it's okay to pray for healing. It's okay to ask God for miracles, and if he doesn't-- and I love the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they said our God is able, but if not, he's still God. It's not gonna change our faith, he's sovereign, he's working. We think here, now, he thinks nations and generations.

So, if he chooses not to answer my prayer like I choose like I'm asking him and thinking and hoping and praying that he will, it doesn't mean that he hasn't heard my cry. It gives me the joy of knowing I put it in God's hands.

That same man, Hezekiah, prayed, and I feel led to say this to someone watching me today, when he was given a death sentence. And the prophet came and said the Lord sent me today to tell you to set your house in order, you're going to die. Get your will and everything ready, be prepared. There's a great lesson in that. Get your house in order, you know, you never know.

But here's the power of that, he turned his face to the wall which would have been toward the window which would have been toward--they built their homes with windows toward the east. Even Jonah, when he was in the belly of the whale said he turned himself eastward, because they believed that all prayers go to Jerusalem and then go up to heaven. And that's neither here nor there, but I want you to understand there's a reason why they would turn to the--and here's the power of that prayer.

He prayed a--this is crazy, and this is in Isaiah 38, he prayed a 29-word prayer, and God gave him 15 more years. The prophet walked back in, he prayed a short prayer of repentance and saying--and he said, "God, remember what I've done for your kingdom," not that we can earn it, but I love that he was just saying--

And then he makes this statement, "The dead can't praise you, and when I go to the grave, I can't--I've helped restore the temple. I can't help and do the work of the Lord, I can't go out and feed the hungry if I'm dead. So, if you'll make an exception here, I know you've given me-- but heal me and give me more life," and God stopped the universe.

The Bible said he turned the sun dial back ten degrees. He said to the whole universe, "Stop, I'm going to show this man a sign that I'm giving him 15 more years."

And you know what? God is still God. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever, and I don't care what kind of report you've got. We thank God for doctors, we're not against them, they keep us alive. We thank God for it, but they don't have the last word. Jesus is the great physician, and he holds the keys, and we need to pray.

If you've got a baby that's sick and dying or whatever, you don't know. It is no secret what God can do, and when we pray short prayers with great passion, and I feel like that people are watching this program, and can I just--this is what I do. I'm a minister. I'm not here to sell a book. I'm here to tell people God answers prayer, and I feel like I ought to say to people watching this program that if you need--if I were in church, I'd have an altar call right now. I'd have people come forward.

I wanna give three calls. He said call on me, call, pick up and call on me, and I'll show you great and mighty things. That's a Bible verse that, you know, not a healing call. We're gonna pray a short prayer for healing. A family call, if your family's in crisis, and you need a miracle in your home, your marriage, or your family. A healing call, you need God to heal some situation. A family call, and lastly a salvation call.

If you don't know Jesus, if you've wandered and you're not sure, and you're just gone so deep, and you don't even know why you're watching, it's not a long prayer God needs. All he needs from you is, Lord, heal me. Lord, save my family. Lord, forgive me, cleanse me, wash me in your precious blood. He's doing it right now if you prayed that.

Just say it, just say, Lord, heal me, heal my family, save my family, preserve us, protect us, restore us, and God save my family, in Jesus's mighty name.

RANDY: Amen, amen, and I do want people to know that there's someone that can pray further with you. That's sufficient. Look, your short prayer is sufficient, but if you do wanna reach out, call that number or there's someone who will continue to pray with you.

Jentezen, there's one last thing, I've gotta hit this, because you tell a story. We probably don't have time for the full story, but about your grandmother, and there are a lot of grandparents that watch this show. The idea of prayer leaving a legacy is the truth that we-- I really want people to hear.

JENTEZEN: So, I never met my grandmother. She was 39 years old when she died. She and my grandfather, who I knew very well, they had 18 children.

BLYNDA: Wow.

JENTEZEN: Eighteen. And their home burned down, and my grandfather rebuilt, and he had--but the only thing he kept from the old house that burned was the outhouse. Of course, they had indoor plumbing then, so they didn't-- but they brought it, and my grandmother, Letty, turned that, because if you've got 18 children, you know this.

If you've got 18 children, you don't get any personal time. She had no time to pray, so she turned the outhouse into her prayer closet. If they ever saw her going out to the outhouse in the backyard, she was going to the prayer closet, and they knew, no, you can't go out there now, she's in the prayer closet with Jesus.

And she wrote prayers all over that outhouse for each of the children. I want to read one in closing.

RANDY: Yeah.

JENTEZEN: August 16th, 1948. Now, this is for all the grannies out there and all the grandpas out there that think you don't make a difference. August 6th, 1948, she wrote this on the outhouse as a prayer, "The baby is sick. Maybe it won't amount to much. Polio is spreading. Lord, keep her and protect her and help us to be more humble, more obedient, more bold, and more spiritual."

And here I sit on national television. I never met her. She didn't know I was gonna even be born. I wasn't born yet when she wrote that. And I'm preaching the gospel on television right now, but she prayed a prayer that was written on the outhouse.

You don't know how God is using your prayers, grandmother. You don't understand. You don't know how God is affecting generations to come, because our prayers never die. The Bible said that there's a bowl in heaven in Revelation 5 that gets full. At some point it gets full, and an angel pours out the prayers that have been collected in that golden bowl in heaven. I hope there's one that you're filling up in your family.

RANDY: That's so good.

BLYNDA: It's amazing, I was gonna end with this. You say in the book, "You are not just speaking words into the air, you are releasing the very power of heaven into situations that look impossible." I can't imagine a better way to close, that we get the privilege of opening up heaven that God can do the impossible. Pastor Jentezen, thank you for joining us.

JENTEZEN: Thank you so much.

RANDY: Absolutely, we appreciate all of you guys out there watching. We have an opportunity right now to partner with some people. We want your prayers, we want your action if God leads you to it.

And you talk about generational blessings. We have seen, I've seen it in my lifetime. We are seeing it where we are reaching out with God's love in word and in deed, and it's impacting generations. I won't get to see the end of it, but that's okay, I can write it on the outhouse wall and know that it's in God's hands, but I wanna invite you into this, it's such a beautiful opportunity. Watch this and see how you can partner with us to impact generations.

JOSH KORN: For children that have disabilities, life is very hard. They're a lot of times rejected by their society, by their community, or even their own family, and it's just a very lonely existence, and your future prospects are to continue to be rejected and to continue to be by yourself.

GRACE MANGWENDE: Sometimes we think the damage outside is greater than the one inside, so it's important that they not only get physical healing but spiritual and emotional healing.

[speaking foreign language]

GRACE: Edmercy, when she first came to the hospital, through her own testimony she expressed the anger that was inside of her, the pain that was inside of her.

[speaking foreign language]

GRACE: So what CURE does, it's a miracle, especially for a nation like Zimbabwe, where anything to do with medical is just out of reach. When people come to CURE, they see the practicality of the gospel. They see not just scripture written on paper, but they see scripture become alive. And so when they come to CURE, they experience Christ in reality.

JOHN YEATTS: It is wonderful seeing children walk and run and play with smiles and laughter in ways they never could before. Life Outreach's medical partners are restoring dignity and transforming lives of precious children through these reconstructive surgeries. I invite you to join us in supporting Life's medical missions outreach with your prayers, your love, and your financial support so that even more children can experience healing, hope, and lasting change.

RANDY: Such an opportunity. You know, Blynda, I couldn't help but notice that our mission partner, that her name was Grace.

BLYNDA: Grace, beautiful.

RANDY: And it really is such grace to go in and help these children, and the outcome, I mean, from outcast to just a transformed, from a curse to a blessing. To me, that's just the heart of God in action.

BLYNDA: It is, and I think sometimes we forget to think that along with this physical pain that they carry comes some emotional pain, comes some spiritual pain, and what Grace even said is that what they're gifted at doing is not just helping the physical pain, which is a miracle that that can happen, but they also really pray with these kids, and they make sure that their emotional state and their spiritual state is also tended to, which is so beautiful.

RANDY: Absolutely, I mean it's the grace of God all the way through, top to bottom in word and in deed, and that's what I'm asking you to do. Will you partner with us right now to share God's grace with people that desperately need it? It's life-changing grace both physically and spiritually.

And to me, it's just, I don't know, it's our mission here at Life Outreach, God's love and word in deed. And you heard the Word today, you heard words of truth and encouragement, and we wanna keep bringing that to you because we care about you, the audience, the partner. But we also want you to turn around and extend that grace to others, and we ask right now that you would help us expand this particular Children's hospital in Zimbabwe.

And I love, most of you probably don't know much about the geography, but I've been to Zimbabwe, and the way it sits in Southern Africa, it's really a hub. It's a landlocked country, but it's a place where other people can come from different countries, and they are because the need is great, the line is long.

The beautiful part is that the doctors are there, our mission partners like Grace are there. They're just waiting on us to say yes, we will commit to this \$600,000 project to expand the operating rooms, to renovate the recovery areas, to accommodate more children, to create more stories, to extend more of God's grace.

We are asking you to be a part of this beautiful outreach, because we need you, we need to hear from you today. Will you go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can?

You know, my dad likes to say if you're not able to make a gift today, but you plan to, call us and tell us what you're going to do, and I understand that, because it does take a commitment on our part, it takes a little bit of a sacrifice on our part, but wow, what God can do with that little bit of grace when he steps into it.

So Blynda, I'm hoping that everyone who feels God moving will do something today, and I know that it will make a difference.

BLYNDA: It will, because every gift they give is how we can provide these at no cost to the families, so their gift actually matters.

RANDY: Yeah, let's extend some grace. Go online, again, go to the phone, make the best gift you can right now.

ANNOUNCER: Many children in Africa are born with severe deformities or suffer life-altering injuries, conditions like club feet, windswept legs, and untreated fractures force them to live in pain because help is out of reach. But you can offer healing today.

Our mission partner in Zimbabwe runs a children's hospital now at capacity and in urgent need of renovation and expansion. With a \$600,000 goal and only a short period of time to raise the necessary funds, your best gift today helps children receive the surgical care they need at no cost to the families. Together we can heal precious lives and reveal the love of Jesus.

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you the "Global Impact of Life" Journal, featuring inspiring photos from Life's outreaches. This beautiful journal is a reminder that your prayers and partnership are making a global difference.

With your gift of \$126 or more, you may request "A Life of Compassion" coffee table book, capturing Life Outreach's heart for the world. Each page pairs timeless Bible verses with vivid mission field photography, making God's Word visible in action.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,026 to help with the expansion of operating rooms so children are no longer turned away and request Life's beautiful bronze sculpture, The Good Shepherd. This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

JOHN YEATTS: When you're a child born with severe disabilities in a country like Zimbabwe, and your family makes on average less than a dollar or two a day, it seems impossible for you to ever receive the help that you need.

Today, through Life Outreach's Medical Mission's Outreach Hope for Children Project, we have the ability to expand the surgical center with our mission partners to increase the ability to reach these children with such severe disabilities at no cost to their family. With

your gift, we're going to be able to expand the operating facilities, the recovery facilities, and everything that supports it.

The number on your screen is a lifeline for children who are desperately waiting for corrective surgery. Thank you and God bless you for being a part of this miracle of hope.

RANDY: I do hope you'll go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can. And today if you want the power of short prayers just to bless you, you request that with your gift. We'd love to get it in your hands.

But most of all, we'd love for you to join us in prayer and in deed as we reach out with God's love. Pastor Jentezen, thank you so much.

JENTEZEN: Well, thank you, thank you for what you do for so many. And this ministry has integrity, it's done it for generations, for years, and it's just an honor to be here today. I appreciate you and all that you're doing for the kingdom of God and the needy.

RANDY: Thank you so much. I appreciate you guys out there watching. Come back for more next time on "Life Today."

[music]

RANDY: This is the last week to reach that \$600,000 goal, which will complete the renovation of that children's hospital in Zimbabwe, more operating rooms, more recovery rooms, more surgeries to children that desperately need our help. I hope we will hear from you today.

MATT CHANDLER: I kind of bought into this lie, this deep lie that I'm useful, but not necessarily loveable.

ANNOUNCER: Matt Chandler, next week.

MALE ANNOUNCER: "Life Today" is made possible by the supporters of Life Outreach International. Your gift will be used exclusively for the exempt purposes of Life. The ministry features specific outreaches as examples of the programs it supports and conducts. Gifts are considered to be without restriction as to use unless explicitly stipulated by the donor. The ministry is a member of the ECFA.