

6/9/2026

Week 24

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

Jason Crabb

“Through The Fire”

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

ANNOUNCER: Coming up, Grammy Award-winning artist Jason Crabb describes what the song, "Through the Fire," means to him.

JASON CRABB: My wife and I went through two miscarriages back to back when that song came out, and I said, "God's got perfect timing. We'll figure this out," you know, and I'm full of questions.

♪ And He will take you through the fire again. ♪

♪ And He will take you through the fire again. ♪

♪♪♪

RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to "Life Today," I'm Randy Robison. Blynda Lane is with me, and we have another wonderful guest. Blynda, yeah, everybody knows our guest today, do we not?

BLYNDA LANE: I mean, if you have any history of listening to music, especially Christian or gospel, you would have to know.

RANDY: Absolutely, the Crabb Family, Gaither Vocal Band, is that the right, because he's got a lot of Gaither--

JASON: He's got a lot.

RANDY: Jason Crabb.

BLYNDA: Welcome, Jason.

JASON: Thank y'all for having me. Thank you for letting me be on.

BLYNDA: We're so glad that you're here because you have some really cool things to talk about, but also just look at that hat. I mean, we're just glad you're here because that--

JASON: Where are we at? I mean, when you come to Texas, right? You gotta have a hat, right?

RANDY: I guess so. I don't own one.

JASON: You don't have a hat?

RANDY: No, I don't have a cowboy hat.

JASON: You know, I wear mine all the time and sometimes I'll be at festivals. I wear this hat and I get some comments. One of them said, "He's a cowboy wannabe," and I said, "D'you know what? You're absolutely right."

I said, "I am. I would love to have some chickens and some cows and, you know, horses and all that kind of stuff," and I said, "and if I ever get it, I'm dressed for the occasion."

BLYNDA: Ready for it. There's probably a spiritual principle in there somewhere. Just--

RANDY: I can't find it, but that's okay. Here's the thing though, I will say this, though, Jason. People would look at you and go, "Oh man, that guy's have been successful. You look good. You sound great," but your album, your new album coming out, it's got kind of an older song that people know called, "Through the Fire." What is that song about, because that's, you know, a tough one.

JASON: Well, that song has been a staple for my family through the years. My family traveled and that's where I started. I started out with my siblings, and we all jumped out on the road with our parents and so we took off and had a wonderful time.

My dad wrote this song and it touched a lot of people's lives. I didn't know when I recorded it in the studio that it was gonna do and mean so much to a lot of different people. Had no clue it was going to be really hitting me and my wife.

My wife and I went through two miscarriages back to back when that song came out. I'm up on stage singing this song. People are coming up and telling me this is what, you know, this is what I need. I remember many a nights going to the bus and my wife, I'd go to the bus and she'd be crying she'd go--just going, "I don't understand it."

And I said, "God's got perfect timing. We'll figure this out, you know," and I'm full of questions. Then we had our first child and I remember the moment that I got to hand Ashley to her mother. It was the most heavenly moment that I've ever experienced on earth.

Now I still sing that song, night after night. I know what it's like singing it, going through the fire. But I also know what it's like to stand on stage and sing it now with my victory.

RANDY: Why do you think in retrospect, having been through the fire personally, you know, why do you think we have to go through these things? There's a lot of people, obviously people hear the song and tell you how much it means to them or meant to them, they've been through it or they're in it.

And I mean, do you wrestle with that question of why, why do good people, why do Christians, God-loving people, go through such tough things?

JASON: I think we're not kept from those things. Sometimes I think--I tell people I don't believe that that's what God intended for us. I think he turns them and helps, and I was just talking backstage just a little bit ago, you know, I feel like for the first time in my life I'm at a spot in life to be able to minister and to speak in such an honest place and I think it's because of, you know, wounds that were not self-inflicted, also self-inflicted wounds, which those are the hardest ones to get over but through life situations, bad, disappointments, you know, just a lot of things.

But I think the Lord takes those things and molds them and helps you help others, so we are overcomers by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. I think it's a piece of our testimony.

BLYNDA: I think in John when it says: "In this world you will have trouble but take heart I have overcome the world," I think sometimes believers get a little disillusioned that, you know, they might be checking all the boxes, doing everything right and yet part of life feels like it's falling apart and I think that can sometimes kind of put them on their back, like, I don't understand why this would be happening to me because I'm following the Lord.

And you, I mean, that's a little bit of how you--your faith probably became very real to you, not in the middle of it, but when you saw God take you through it. How did it change how you saw your relationship with the Lord and how you walked out your faith because you said it's much more honest now?

JASON: It is, and I think you said the key thing, "through." Nowhere does it say he's just gonna pluck you out of that situation, but he said he'd be with you and he'd walk with you and he'd be a friend that sticks closer than a brother. He'll give you the strength.

His mercies are made new each and every morning. I think that that's the deal. He's going to give you the strength to get through and he's more than enough. And you just hold on, as the song says, "Hold on." Our Lord's gonna show up. He'll take you through.

RANDY: Yeah, and I think the hold on, it--that's a key point because I think you and I both know people that have hit that fire, they've hit that hard time, that disappointment, that

loss, and they've said, "I'm out. Like, God must not be real or I don't wanna--" whatever. And that's tough because you're right. If you will just hold on, God will see you through.

JASON: My spiritual hero was my grandmother, my spiritual hero. She--one day I was just on the bus. I was frustrated. I was just at the end of it. I really--and I couldn't make sense of it. I felt like everybody was against me. Nothing was working.

I'm like--so I had my phone and I'm going through it and I'm going, "Who am I gonna--I need to talk to somebody." And I didn't know who I could trust, you know? And I'm just going, "I just need to hear--" And I saw my grandmother and I hit that, and she goes--and she's just this big old long country draw, "Jase?" You know, that's exactly what she said, like, she goes, "That you?"

And I said, "Yes, it's me." She goes, "What's wrong?" And I said, "Well," I said, "I just need to talk to you." She goes, "Let me tell you," she said, "when you get to the end of your rope," she said, "honey, you just tie a great big old knot in it and hold on with all your might," she said. "But while you're holding on, you gotta know he's got a hold of you."

BLYNDA: That's amazing.

JASON: While you're holding on, because we need something to do, right, right? While we're holding on, just know he's got a hold of you. When she said that, she prayed for me. It was real simple. She goes, "Lord, I don't even know what I need to pray for him, but you know," and then, you know what I mean? And that was kind of her honest prayer. That's what I'm talking about, that honesty.

BLYNDA: I think I'd love those honest prayers.

JASON: And so when we hung up, I said, "D'you know," I said, "that helped. I, you know what, it's just-- it was an honest answer." And then I realized it wasn't everybody else around me. It was me, so.

BLYNDA: Wow, that's really powerful. I wanna ask you about a line in a song because I think sometimes when people are going through a fire, I think one of the things that's hard about that is they don't know how long they're going to be in that season and in the lyric from the song says, "He never offered our victories without fighting, but he said help would always come in time."

Talk about that time piece because I know for me, like, any time I've been in a season that's been hard, I'm like, "God, I trust you but how long do I have to wait for your answer?"

JASON: You have to know this that God will not allow you to stay in something longer than you can handle. He said in his Word, he sits as a refiner. You remember that scripture? He says he sits as a refiner, a silversmith, sits in front of a fire, refiner's fire.

There was a lady that was reading that, actually a ladies group that was reading it, and I heard the story. She said, I wanted to find out what the silversmith had to go through, and she said the silversmith would take a raw piece of silver and put it in the hottest part of the fire, and he's explaining this to her. And she goes, "Well, how long do you know it's supposed to be there? Is it the same time?" He goes, "Oh no, every piece of raw silver is different," and this is the thing.

She goes, "Well, how do you know when it's done?" He said, "That's the easy part. When I look at it and see my reflection in it, I know that it's at its purest place." So God will not allow you to go further than you can handle. But after you have been through it, I think that that's, you know, when you can be that testimony: we're overcomers, you know?

BLYNDA: And isn't that true? I mean, every--everything that we're here on earth to do is to be more of a reflection of our Father, the good and the bad, that gets us there.

RANDY: Okay, all right, well, there's probably some people that are going through some fires right now. Maybe you've been, I don't know where you're at, but you could use a little encouragement. That's what this man's here for. We'd love to hear that song one more time.

JASON: Man, I'd love to sing it one more time.

RANDY: Well, let's go hear you sing that and then we'll come back and I wanna ask you about the album that's coming out soon.

JASON: Sure.

♪ So many times I've questioned. ♪

♪ Certain circumstances. ♪

♪ Things I could not understand. ♪

♪ Many times in trials. ♪

♪ Weakness blurs my vision. ♪

♪ It's when my frustration gets so out of hand. ♪

♪ But it's then I am reminded. ♪

♪ I have never been forsaken. ♪

♪ Never had to stand one test alone. ♪

♪ So when I look at all the victories. ♪
♪ I'm reminded all God has done for me. ♪
♪ And it's through the fire. ♪
♪ My weakness is made strong. ♪
♪ He never promised. ♪
♪ The cross would not get heavy. ♪
♪ The hill would not be hard to climb. ♪
♪ He never offered. ♪
♪ Victories without fighting. ♪
♪ He said help would always come right on time. ♪
♪ Just remember when you're standing. ♪
♪ In the valley of decision. ♪
♪ The adversary says give in. ♪
♪ Just hold on, our Lord will show up. ♪
♪ And He will take you through the fire again. ♪
♪ I know within myself. ♪
♪ That I would surely perish. ♪
♪ But if I trust the hand of God. ♪
♪ He'll shield the flames again, again and again. ♪
♪ No, He never promised. ♪
♪ The cross would not get heavy. ♪
♪ The hill would not be hard to climb, oh no. ♪
♪ He never offered. ♪

♪ Our victories without fighting. ♪

♪ He said help would always come right on time. ♪

♪ Just remember when you're standing. ♪

♪ In the valley of decision. ♪

♪ The adversary says give in, oh no. ♪

♪ Just hold on, our Lord will show up. ♪

♪ He will take you through the fire again. ♪

♪ Just hold on, our Lord will show up. ♪

♪ And He will take you through the fire again. ♪♪

RANDY: So good.

BLYNDA: Amazing. What a voice. What a gift.

RANDY: So for somebody who may be watching now and they're struggling and they hear that song and they're just--they're just trying to hold on, what would you maybe say to them to encourage them today?

JASON: Well, I'm just gonna say this. I--the Lord loves you, number one, you gotta know that. And number two is your situation, no matter how big or small, here's what I would love for you to know and to realize is that no matter what, he cares and it's wonderful to have someone in your life that cares about what you're going through, no matter how big or small that that is, your concern, your heart, your anxiety towards that situation, whatever that it may be.

I want you to know Jesus cares and he hears your prayers, he hears everything that you were saying. And I promise you he will get you through this. Do not throw in the towel. Pull--hey, look. Pull the rock and do whatever you gotta do. Listen, hang in there, just hold on, right? Because he is on his way and he will always be there. He's a just and he's an amazing and-- amazing God and he loves you. He loves you.

RANDY: Yeah, that's so good, so good. So by the way, if you're watching right now and you want someone to pray with you, call that telephone number. We got people standing by. I'd love to just walk with you through your fire just for a moment, but just remind you that what Jason's telling you is true.

God will--he'll bring you through. Keep holding on. So if we can be that friend to you, we'd love to talk to you today. Such a blessing. I--

BLYNDA: Truly a blessing. And, okay, so this is an album that is being released soon. Is that--

JASON: So excited about this record, I'm--I really am. So, my family and I, we traveled many years, 15 years on the road. First time ever being, here in-- was with my family.

So, I wanted to go back and redo some songs of my family because we don't--we don't tour together anymore and they're all just, you know, people go, "Are y'all gonna get back together?" It's like there's-- it's so hard. They're like herding feral cats, you know, to get them all together. They have their own ministries and doing whatever, so I just went back and wanted to recut some of these songs.

My daughter did this one with me. I had some special guests. I did "Still Holding On." Vince Gill sang on the record with me along with Joseph Habedank. I had--I did "Baptism" with Jesse Taylor. You might remember that song. The Gaither Vocal Band did that. So, I've got some fun, fun songs that is just a joy, and I'm so thankful.

RANDY: Now, that's great. Anybody, any gospel music fan out there is gonna love that, obviously, but more importantly, I think, Jason, your music is not just good music, which is-- well, okay, it's great music, but it's encouraging music. It's music that brings people back to the heart of God. I'm excited for it.

BLYNDA: Yeah, and it's clear that your heart is for that, is for people to experience him, not just to listen to a great gift.

JASON: No, that's it, man. I'm gonna tell you what. I've been around the world. I've seen a lot of things. I've been backstage at a lot of places, and I'm just gonna tell you. This message that we're singing about, that's what everybody's looking for, whether they know what they're looking for or not. I'm telling you it's the joy, it's the peace, it's the happiness, it's Jesus. It's Jesus that--it's the message of Jesus, I promise.

RANDY: I love that. I love that you love to share that and, you know, we love to share that as well and, in fact, we're gonna give you an opportunity to be a part of sharing that message, the love of Jesus, in people's lives today with some people who, frankly, have gone through some fires and are still going through them, but you can reach out in a beautiful opportunity around the world to help those that need to feel his love and to hear it, see it, in a practical way. Watch this and pray about being a part of this outreach that we call Mission Feeding.

ANNOUNCER: Across Africa, millions of families wake up each morning unsure if there will be anything to eat today.

[speaking foreign language]

ANNOUNCER: When food is scarce, children are the first to suffer, and for a mother, there is no greater pain than watching her child waste away, knowing that what they need most is simply food.

ANNOUNCER: Without timely intervention, malnutrition will remain the silent killer, taking the lives of young children. But if we can provide Mission Feeding to villages in crisis, mothers like Tereza and Rosa will never again worry about losing another child because of the lack of food.

RANDY: You know, the beauty of Mission Feeding is that it is a remembrance of people, people who are praying, people who have said, "Lord, send us some help," somewhere and I just, Blynda, I think that we're the answer to their prayers.

BLYNDA: I know we are. I mean, when you hear a mother's cry and she's not even just crying for her children, she's saying, "I may not even exist, like, the village may not exist," it's just so heartbreaking.

And yet, when she has that cry, I mean, there's--in our humanity, you can't hear someone cry and not want to answer the cry for help, and it's within our range that we can do that.

RANDY: Yeah, it's within our-- well, I mean, the scripture literally tells us when you have the means to do good, you know, don't hold back.

BLYNDA: Don't hold back.

RANDY: Right? And so that's really what Mission Feeding is about. It's about saying, "We have the ability to help," and it's so economically feasible.

BLYNDA: Well, I was going to say though with that, Randy, do you think maybe if somebody is not sure if they should or could, is it because they don't think their little is enough?

RANDY: Oftentimes, and it will, okay, so let me hit the numbers real quick just to give you an idea. \$30 will help feed 3 children for several months, and you go, "How do you do that?" Well, we've been on the ground there with our mission partners for decades now. We have everything in place to do that. We have--the power of the dollar can't be overstated in these third world countries where they have such a desperate need.

But you know, you asked another question, Blynda, off camera, and it's a very common question. You talk about why would people even stay where they're at, you know? Well, you saw the two pieces of, I think it was corn, just standard corn, right, that had dried up.

BLYNDA: So crops have been good there before?

RANDY: Yes, and the people work hard. Something happens in the process of providing the food, whether it's a flood or a failed crop, a drought, something like that, and that's where we go. Mission Feeding is emergency food, a program, essentially. We often do it in

schools, because when a child is focused on their next meal, they can't really get an education.

When the children are having to work constantly in the fields to provide, help provide the next meal, makes it hard to get an education. It makes it hard to get out of that cycle. Mission Feeding gets children, villages, families out of the cycle of poverty and starvation and hunger. That's what you're giving.

When you give \$50, for example, to help feed 5 children for the next several months or \$100 to help feed 10 children, you're not just giving them food in a bowl. Yes, you are helping to provide that because that's what the immediate need is, but you're also giving them a hope and a future through an education. You're also giving them the gospel because the gospel is embedded in everything that we do.

So as we wrap up this television campaign, I want you--to let you know that the Mission Feeding will continue with your support. We need to hear from you. This isn't the last week we'll be talking about it on the air during this campaign.

Some of you could perhaps give \$1000 to help feed 100 children, maybe even more. I'm telling you right now, we will make a difference with your help. It's worked in the past. It's working. We want it to continue working in the future.

Will you join us today? Will you go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can? Be the hands and feet of Jesus to reach out to those who have an immediate and desperate need and say, "You know what? We're gonna share the love of God with you and this is how we're gonna show it." So please, again, go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can.

ANNOUNCER: Right now, across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves critically depleted and many areas experiencing devastating famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us every single day.

Through Life's Mission Feeding outreach, your gift of love can be an answer to a prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for 3, 5, or 10 children for 3 full months.

With your gift, we'll send you "The Father's Heart" devotional. Drawing from scripture and his past, James Robison takes you on a 90-day journey to help you experience a deeper, more personal relationship with God as your loving Father.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you will receive "The Father's Heart" bundle. This stationary set paired with the devotional is a thoughtfully designed collection created to help you share encouragement, prayer, and the love of our heavenly Father with those you care about.

Finally, with your gift of \$1000 or more, which will help feed 100 children in desperate need, request Life's beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd." This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

RANDY: You know, this is the last week you'll see this on the air, but boy, we need to hear from you because those beautiful kids. Let's keep doing what we've been doing, and we need you to be a part of it. Call, go online to give the best gift you can.

And don't forget Jason Crabb's new album.

BLYNDA: I mean, it's gonna be so great to, I mean, the songs are amazing. Tell us where people can find you and what's next for you.

JASON: Well, there's a lot. You know, we've just kind of done a new thing. We've got the new record coming out. We're touring this record. You can find all of our tour dates on our website, JasonCrabb.com, nice and simple.

RANDY: I appreciate that, and I know it's gonna bless people, and man, thanks for stopping by with us.

JASON: Oh, thank you for having me, letting me bring my hat and my guitar.

RANDY: Come back anytime.

JASON: Hopefully I'll have a horse next time I show up.

RANDY: I don't know about that. I don't know, but that would be an interesting one, but we hope that you come back again. We'll see you again next time here on "Life Today."

♪♪♪

♪Oh, you can hear me cry. ♪

♪See my dreams all die. ♪

♪From where you're standing. ♪

♪On your own. ♪

♪It's so quiet. ♪♪

TASHA CALVERT: I think the biggest--

ANNOUNCER: Author and podcast host Tasha Calvert breaks down what holiness truly means, tomorrow on "Life Today."

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