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Week 44

Randy Robison & Betty Robison

Faith Eury Cho

"Holy Spirit Power"

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

FAITH EURY CHO: And I think it's the mystery and the journey that tends to turn us away from wanting to live in full dependence on the Holy Spirit. Like, why doesn't he answer certain prayers?

Like, why do I have to learn God's provision through lack? And I think in those moments, it's easy to interpret the mystery of those seasons as if God has abandoned us, but actually it's an invitation for us to know even better who the Holy Spirit is.

RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to "Life Today", I'm Randy Robison. My mother Betty is with me, how are you?

BETTY ROBISON: I'm doing well, good to have all of you watching today. Thank you so much for joining us.

RANDY: It is, when you started doing television, did you feel maybe you're a little unlikely?

BETTY: Just--a lot unlikely.

RANDY: But I think our audience would agree that you are anointed for it.

BETTY: Well, I probably didn't agree with that.

RANDY: I get it, and you know, we don't always feel that way. And actually, that's the title of a book that we'll be discussing a little bit today called "Unlikely and Anointed".

And it is written by our guest, Faith Eury Cho, who comes to us from New Jersey, Mosaic Covenant Church, her and her husband pastor up there. Faith, welcome back to "Life Today", it's great to see you.

FAITH: Thanks for having me again, I'm so glad to be here.

RANDY: You know, the title of the book, explain to us that pairing, because those two words don't often go together.

FAITH: Right, and if you look throughout biblical history, God has a pattern of always choosing to anoint the most unlikely, and I feel that it's extremely important for us today to acknowledge that in order for us to really live a life dependent on the Holy Spirit, or else we're all gonna be out here using our faith journey to try to be enough, do enough, and accomplish great things by our own strength. But the purpose of our faith journey is to know the Holy Spirit and to follow Jesus.

BETTY: Well, I could probably honestly say that growing up, I grew up in the church, I mean, I was there every time the doors were open, you know, we were very active in it, my family. But I always had the attitude, "I just gotta obey him. If I don't do anything bad, he won't get me," you know? And I didn't feel very likely to succeed in anything, because I didn't have self-confidence in myself, you know, and so I could probably-- this title would fit me very well, you know, and like you said, most people that God used, they didn't feel qualified, they didn't feel likely to be chosen to do anything of purpose.

FAITH: Absolutely, our weakness draws his power. If you remember Apostle Paul, he pled multiple times to God, "Take away this thorn," and what did God say? He didn't make Paul better, stronger, more self-sufficient.

He just said, "My grace is sufficient for you," right, "my power is made perfect in your weakness." And so there's something about our weakness that we're always trying to hide, cover, and compensate for, but actually weakness is something that we are to embrace in order to genuinely know the power of the Holy Spirit.

RANDY: Yeah, and that doesn't seem natural. I mean, really, we think, "Okay, I've got to go to school to get qualified, I've got to get some experience in this field," and all those things are great, they can be valuable, but at the end of the day, if we think we're doing it on our own, that leads typically towards pride, which is one of the worst things in Scripture.

But when you talk about weakness, you're not just talking about an inability or lack of experience. For you, the weakness was physical.

FAITH: Yes!

RANDY: Explain what you've been through, because that's very difficult.

FAITH: Right, when I first started writing this book, and I mean opening up my computer, putting the first couple words on the document, I got struck with multiple illnesses within the next few weeks. Like, I was just bedridden, I had brain fog, and later I found out that I had Lyme, I had hypothyroidism, I had mold intoxication, I had adrenal gland fatigue, I had - just, yeah, that and then some. And you know, when all that is happening and you just feel just incapable of really putting a sentence together or even getting out of bed, I felt extremely disqualified to write a book, a whole book, about the sheer power of God, right?

And so I remember praying to the Lord, "Are you just giving me the signal to bow out here and should I take a pause, should I--" because I also believe we gotta honor the limitations that God has placed in us. I also believe that we are to enter in seasons where we need to rest, slow down, so all that is still true, but I remember asking the Holy Spirit, "Is my inability a sign that I am now disqualified? And does this mean that right now I'm not supposed to be writing this book?" And I just felt so strongly Jesus impressing upon my heart, "Right now, Faith, you are very aware of your weaknesses, but I'm bringing you into a season where you're gonna know more intimately what my power looks like, what my power is."

And that's what I did, and power, for me, for the next couple of months, looked like faithfulness, it looked like obedience, it looked like going where he asked me to go and saying what he asked me to say. And about a year later, I was at a prayer meeting, and a couple of my friends got around me and they put their hands on me and they prayed in the name of Jesus that my body will be healed, and all my blood tests came clear after that.

RANDY: Why do you think God did that for you when he wouldn't do it for Paul?

FAITH: Jesus heals, let me tell you, Jesus heals. And you know, I think sometimes our theology can be so formed by what we didn't experience, right, and what we don't have and what we didn't receive, that we lower our expectation of who God is, and we thereby try to live this very self-sufficient life. And to that I would encourage everyone, if your life can be lived without the power or the divine help of Jesus, then I would perhaps suggest that maybe your life doesn't require his power, doesn't need his power, and actually is not dependent on the Holy Spirit.

But for me, it required every ounce of power from heaven for me to get out of bed, for me to pastor my church, to mother my children, to support my husband, and do all the things,

and even write a whole book on the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And then later, power also looked like a healing encounter, where my whole body was healed.

BETTY: Well, our life is about the journey, isn't it? And God has so many things to teach us on our journey that if he told us all of them, it might frighten us, but we've got to trust him and to just walk as he leads us. And through the sicknesses and everything, he took you on quite a journey.

FAITH: He did, yeah.

BETTY: Just to learn, and he taught you many things.

FAITH: Absolutely, and I think it's the mystery in the journey that tends to turn us away from wanting to live in full dependence on the Holy Spirit. Like, why doesn't he answer certain prayers, right? Why doesn't he make things easier?

Why do I have to learn faith through loss? Like, why do I have to learn God's provision through lack? And I think in those moments, it's easy to interpret the mystery of those seasons as if God has abandoned us, but actually it's an invitation for us to know even better who the Holy Spirit is.

RANDY: No, I think, okay, so that word "invitation", I think is very powerful when someone is going through a season of weakness, a season of confusion, not knowing, am I supposed to rest or am I supposed to fight against this thing, you know, because we can go to Scripture and kind of create an argument for whatever we want, but to be dependent to hear God's voice and then to be obedient to it even when we don't feel like it, that's a whole different dynamic. So what would you say to the person who thinks, you know, "Okay, that's great for you, Faith, but you don't know where I am right now. Right now is a tough season, right now," whatever. Does God really want to utilize us where we're at right now?

FAITH: A thousand percent, because when I think about the Israelites, those 40 years of just wandering through the desert, one would argue they weren't doing great, right?

BETTY: Forty years is a long time.

FAITH: Right, like you would just glance through Scripture and you see every failure, every weakness, just every aspect of which the Israelites have fallen short. And yet, when Joshua rolls around, the book of Joshua, and the spies cross, and what do they hear?

It's the people in the Promised Land saying, "We heard the rumors of this God that protects his people, provides for his people, parts the sea, feeds them," and all of that was

happening as they were failing, as they were walking through the wilderness. I think some of us feel that we are only usable when we are successful.

BETTY: Strong, healthy.

FAITH: Strong, healthy.

FAITH: But let me tell you, you can be anointed while you are in hospice. You can be anointed while you are retired or an intern somewhere.

The Lord can anoint a 12-year-old as much as he can anoint a 101-year-old. The Lord can anoint you--what he wants is not your greatness, but just your yieldedness, and that is good news for us.

BETTY: Well, I think a lot of times we stop our own progress with the Lord because we say, "I can't do that," you know, "it's not in me, that's not who I am." And then we have to say-- God says "Let me show you who you are." When he begins to show us what he has put in us-- we forget about the gifts that he's given us.

And a lot of times they don't come to fruition until later on in life, you know. As I've shared many times recently, I just lost my husband less than a year ago, and I was always his sidekick, so to speak, you know, right there beside him, and yet at this point in my life, now that he's gone on to be with Jesus, and I feel like God said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, but watch me as I use your wife." I had no idea what God wanted to do, and I'm still blindly letting him lead me, in a way, you know.

He shows me moment by moment, second by second, his presence and his power in my life. And I think that's what you're talking about, not getting ahead of God, but walking right close behind him.

FAITH: Yes, and it's your yieldedness that qualified you to be a vessel of God's power. I mean, we are sitting next to a miracle right now. Her yieldedness is now demonstrating what God can do.

And I think sometimes when we think of Bible characters we think, oh, Moses, the great prophet, the general that led his people from slavery to freedom. And we think of David, the great king, and we think, "Oh, these are just great admirable people, and we cannot be like that," but let us remind ourselves that Moses was only usable to God when he went from a royal palace to a shepherd, right? David had to go from being this soldier, being able to serve right under the king, into the wilderness, multiple times, right?

And it's not that God wants to constantly lower us in order to use us. It's, if anything, when all the scaffolding that we've created to make ourselves feel stronger and greater in this life, when it breaks down, it's not that God is lowering us, he's revealing us. He's revealing how weak we actually are.

So I think sometimes people resent the idea of, "Oh, I need to be humbled in order to be used by God." No, we need to be awake to who we really are to be used by God.

RANDY: And you know, the purpose, I think, of exposing our weakness is not to just make us feel bad or unusable, right, but to show his power, his strength, right? So you talk about, you know, power a lot in the book. I've seen, I think, a pattern, and you tell me if you've seen this, where we wait for the power to show up before we step out in obedience, and that never happens.

You have to step out in obedience, and it just sometimes feels like, man, you're just like walking on that tightrope, you know, without the bar or whatever, but you step out first, and then the power comes. Is that scriptural?

FAITH: Absolutely, when you look at the Israelites crossing the Jordan to go into the Promised Land, the priests actually had to step into this torrential river before the river actually started to part for them, you know? And I think sometimes we want to feel powerful in order to believe that God's power is in us, when actually, it's so funny how we'll always do anything and everything possible to bypass the actual process of faith, you know? Like, we wanna use our feelings so badly that we'll make this excuse, like, "Well, I don't think I've received it, I don't think I feel it, and I don't have the clarity."

Let me tell you, I coach leaders. So often they say, "I'm waiting for clarity, I'm waiting for clarity." Now, that is not bad.

I think clarity and wisdom do come from the Holy Spirit. Clarity is good, but sometimes we use those words to basically say, "I just need to be sure. I just need to be sure, and I need God to make it so obvious for me that I minimize the chances of failure," right, when actually, like I said before, you cannot separate your journey with the Holy Spirit with the mystery of walking with Jesus.

BETTY: Walking by faith.

FAITH: Walking by faith. Sometimes you will not see. Sometimes you will not hear, you will not feel, but may that not stop you from actually obeying God.

RANDY: You have a lot of things I wanna--I don't know if I'd get a chance to ask this, because I'm reading through the chapters of your book and the last section is called "Like Christ", and you talk about turning water into wine, feeding thousands, walking on water, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead. Like, I don't think I've ever done any of those. I mean, arguably we've fed thousands through our mission outreaches, but not miraculously, like, here's this and now it feeds all these people.

How do we do greater things, as Jesus said, if we don't do the literal things in some bigger kind of way? Like, what is the power really for?

FAITH: The power is to point people to the gospel, is to magnify Jesus, magnify God, and to bring light into every place of darkness, and we can't do that if we're always waiting for the church to schedule a revival service, right? You know, we can't do that unless we're always waiting for the guest speaker to arrive. We have to expect that the Holy Spirit, who is with us always because of the blood of Jesus, is the determining factor of whether there can be heaven on earth.

So whether we are in the car looking for a parking spot at Costco, which is holy and hard ground, right, or whether we are caretaking a relative with special needs, all you need is the Holy Spirit. You don't need a special worship team to back you up. You don't need a special speaker to invite someone to the altar.

Now, those people are all anointed specially for what they do, you know, so it's not to say they're not important, but it is also to say that all you need for the breakthrough is not what you think that you lack. All you need is the Holy Spirit, because Jesus demonstrated to us what a life fully yielded and submitted to the Holy Spirit looks like, and we ourselves are meant to walk like Jesus walked.

RANDY: Yeah, I gotta say, as much as I've been around television, and of course my dad, I grew up in the big coliseums and crusades and that kind of thing, and those are all great, I don't discount those, I don't belittle them. Jesus spoke to big crowds, so it's definitely scriptural, right? But some of the unlikeliest moments, encounters that I just don't talk about, you know, where, one on one usually, of encouragement, of showing someone grace, love, of just the prompting, the very still, quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit saying, "You know what, why don't you say this or do this or just be there for somebody?"

Sometimes you just don't say anything, the ministry of presence, a friend of mine calls it. How important do you think those unlikely moments of just listening to the Spirit and sharing God's love with someone-- I don't know, you think heaven notices those?

FAITH: A thousand percent, those are the purest of moments, you know, because it's God that determines our legacy. It's God that determines our impact. I am sure Mary did not know we will be singing songs about her every Christmas on whether she knew or not.

"Mary, did you know?" I think she knew, you know? Like, I don't think she imagined the impact of her life, because what did she do on a day-to-day?

She took care of her children, she served her family, she loved God. She didn't have a podcast. She didn't speak on a stage.

She just lived, yielded to God, and God determined, "That life? I'm gonna let that life have this ripple effect for the rest of eternity." So I think when we think, "Oh, this is not a big deal," me putting in a tithe out of faith at the church is not a big deal.

Me praying for my enemies is not a big deal. God will determine what the impact of that offering will be.

RANDY: Absolutely, and that's where I think the phrase "everyday believers" in your book really becomes important, because you know, it's one thing to applaud those who do the great things, it's another one to be the person that does something that is great in God's eyes, because that's the true measure. So if you would like Faith Eury Cho's book "Unlikely and Anointed", we would love to send it to you today because we want to invite you to do something that we believe is great, impacting one life at a time and making a huge change.

We know because we've done it, and now we're asking you to do it again. Watch this, and you'll see how.

ANNOUNCER: Since the launch of Rescue Life, the friends of Life Outreach and its partners have rescued 16,000 human trafficking survivors. And currently we are restoring and caring for, on average, 2000 women and children in our Life Centers.

CLAYTON BUTLER: Our rescue team was rescuing so many girls that we'd run out of places for them to stay. And they didn't just need a place to stay, they needed a home where they can understand their value in Christ. We were experiencing a miracle, but it was a real challenge as well.

And so we started to pray, we said, "God, we believe this miracle's from you that girls are being rescued, but we also need another miracle. We need another home so that these girls can experience their value in Christ." And that's where Life Outreach International stepped in, saying, "We wanna be part of answering this prayer."

And I'm sitting in this Life Center right now. I can hear laughter in the background, I can hear staff preparing meals for girls to have tonight, and none of that would exist without you.

ANNOUNCER: The Life Centers around the world stand as a sanctuary of healing, hope, and new beginnings for trafficked survivors. Their journey of restoration will be filled with Christ's love, as well as compassion from dedicated team members that ensure every resident has their physical and emotional needs met. The challenge now is to reach, rescue, and restore women and children who are still being held captive and are waiting for someone to rescue them.

CLAYTON: Sometimes people will say to us and our staff, "You guys are heroes," but we are praying for heroes as well, and the heroes that stepped in were you. This miracle, we couldn't have done it without you, and we just personally want to say thank you for seeing this need and saying, "We can do something about it." Thank you, from the bottom of our heart.

RANDY: What an honor to be able to say, "We've come to set the captives free." And in their case it's literal, but it's also emotional and it's spiritual, because we know the ultimate freedom only comes in Christ. So when you join with us right now to reach, rescue, and restore these precious children, you are demonstrating the gospel, you are preaching it as loud as any missionary in the field.

So I would like you to go to the phone or go online and make the best gift you can. \$128 will help reach, rescue, or restore one child. \$1280 would do that for 10 children. But whatever you can do, know that you are expressing the gospel through your sacrifice today, an expression of love that will reach around the world and change a life. And you know, we would like to send you my dad's final book as a thank-you.

It's called "A Life Proclaiming Freedom", and you know, Mom, I love the title of this. This was Dad's message, and I am honored that we are able to continue sharing that message both in word and in deed.

BETTY: Well, you know, this book is really about reach, rescue, and restoring people's lives to know Jesus in a personal way. But as I watched those little children running toward-- what were they running toward? They were running toward life.

They knew they had been reached, rescued, and now they were being restored. What a joy, what greater joy to give to something than that, to know that you have reached, rescued, and restored, Randy, a life for these children?

RANDY: That has been happening only because of viewers like you, and it will continue because of viewers just like you. This is the last week we'll be on the air during this campaign, so please go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can.

FEMALE ANNOUNCER: Every day, innocent children are being trapped in the wicked web of human trafficking. Instead of dreaming about a future, they are sold into a nightmare of sexual slavery. But you can join the fight against this evil.

Through Mission Rescue Life, you can reach at-risk children before traffickers do, rescue those already enslaved, and restore young lives with hope for the future. A gift today of \$128 will reach, rescue, or restore a precious child and change their life forever. Gifts of \$64 or \$32 will be combined with support from others to help deliver one more child from the shame and pain of sex trafficking.

With a gift of any amount, we will send you James Robison's final book, "A Life Proclaiming Freedom", as a thank-you for your support. Discover James's personal journey from bondage to freedom, share in his calling to bind up the brokenhearted, and learn how to experience your personal freedom so that you can bring healing to the hurting world around you. With your gift of \$128 or more, you will receive the "Life Proclaiming Freedom" bundle, which includes James's book, a special edition collection of the Gospels, and the beautiful Life planner.

Finally, your gift of \$1280 can help save 10 children from the horrors of human trafficking. With this special gift, you may request the inspiring bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd".

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

CHRIST CAIN: Hi, I'm Chris Cain, founder of the A21 campaign. I wanna thank everyone at Life Outreach International for your partnership with us. Do you know, together we are making a difference as we reach, rescue, restore children all over the world who are the victims of human trafficking?

The fastest growing crime worldwide is the trafficking of human beings, not the trafficking of drugs or the trafficking of armaments, but the trafficking of human beings, the only thing created in the image of God, and that is not okay. Because of your giving, we have seen more children rescued in the last year.

I wanna encourage you to keep sowing, to keep giving. Your giving is making a difference, and together we will abolish slavery everywhere, forever.

RANDY: We do need to hear from you, it's the last week we'll be on the air talking about this, so please, do the best you can. You will be making such a huge difference in a life today.

I wanna thank our guest, Faith Eury Cho, for being here with us, and by the way, if you want the book, be sure you ask for it. What's the website where people can just follow up with the things that you're doing?

FAITH: www.faitheurycho.com.

RANDY: Nice and simple, thanks so much for being here.

FAITH: Thanks for having me.

RANDY: Appreciate all of you being with us as well. Please come back, we'll see you again next time on "Life Today".

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MALE ANNOUNCER: Academy Award nominee Gary Sinise opens up about his son's cancer diagnosis and the strength he showed in his final days, tomorrow.

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