



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Changing the World Through Prayer – Part 2

Guest(s): Dick Eastman

Air Date: March 19, 2024

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- Dr. James Dobson: Welcome everyone to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.
- Dr. Dick Eastman: The Lord said to me, and this was the lesson of the purple pig, "If you will give me everything you have, I will give you everything I have." And I thought that's a good deal.
- Roger Marsh: Oh, my. Such a beautiful story. And that was Dr. Dick Eastman, our guest today here on Family Talk, here to remind us that God is always faithful in answering our prayers even down to the smallest detail. Welcome back to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh. Prayer is so important for us in maintaining our relationship with God. I'm reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5:16, 17, and 18. He writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Now, you may have heard those words before, but I pray that you have the courage and endurance to put that into practice each and every day throughout all the ups and downs that might come your way.
- Now our guest today here on the broadcast is Dr. Dick Eastman. He is the chief prayer officer of Every Home for Christ, a global prayer and evangelism ministry, which literally takes the gospel door to door all around the world. From early on, Dr. Eastman has been a true prayer warrior, and today he and Dr. Dobson will be sharing even more amazing stories about answered prayers. They'll also look at some practical tips that will help enrich your prayer life as well. So let's join Dr. James Dobson and his special guest, Dr. Dick Eastman for part two of this classic conversation right here on Family Talk.
- Dr. Dick Eastman: When the Scripture tells us in Romans that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word, I honestly think that the more you're in the Word, and you turn that into your prayers, it comes to a point where there is a trust that you know God so well in your heart that you know He knows what's best. So you don't really doubt. I don't even think of that. It's something else that is related to this as people will sometimes say, do you ever lose your joy, because the joy of the Lord is your strength. And in some of the most trying of the things we've faced

in family and circumstances, I can't remember ever losing my joy. You can get discouraged and really discouraged, and then really disappointed in people, but even more so in yourself sometimes. But I do think that the more one in just a plain discipline meets with the Lord day by day at a set time, I mean that's one of the greatest doubt killers that I can think of. Somehow it just strengthens your faith. And then of course you see answers to prayer.

And I don't have these spectacular answers every three days. I've taught someone recently when I was doing some mentoring that when you've been in the battle for 50 years, all you need is a couple of good things happen in a year-

Dr. James Dobson: I'll take them.

Dr. Dick Eastman: ... and then you have 100 stories.

Dr. James Dobson: My favorite story about my parents and my father then I've shared it before, but some will not have heard it. My father was a soft touch. If you had a need, he would give you what he had. And as a result, he never had a whole lot, but he was so generous and he was an evangelist. The evangelist don't really have a lot of money because they have to drive in those days, ride the train to some small church usually and then preach for 10 days and then on the last night, my dad would have noticed that the pastor and his family didn't have anything. So the last night he would give whatever money they had given him to a request for funds to buy clothes for the children of the pastor or something like that. And then he would come home and my dad would've been gone for two weeks. And I remember him coming in and my mother greeting him warmly and her arms were around him. And wasn't very long before she got around to asking, "How much did they pay you?" Because women think about those things.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Sure.

Dr. James Dobson: And he smiled, he always smiled. And she said, "I know you gave it all away, didn't you?" And he said, "Well, as pastor, this winter's coming. They have four kids. They didn't have coats. So I took up an offering for the pastor and I gave back what they'd given me." And my mother would always say, I've heard her say it. "If that's what God told you to do, He'll take care of us." And very shortly after we would run out of money. It always happened. And then we would go into my bedroom. I don't know why in my bedroom, and I don't know why they closed the door, but they did. And my dad would pray and he'd say, "Lord, You told us if we would be faithful with You in our good times, You'd take care of us. And we're out of money now, would You take care of us?" I'm telling you, that was on a Thursday or Friday. I was just a little kid.

And the next Monday when the mail came and there was \$1200 in there, which was half a year salary. I saw the Lord being faithful in that way through those childhood years and my faith was growing by leaps and bounds and I saw that

generosity pleases the Lord and it touches the lives of other people. And then He comes back and He's done that throughout your whole life, hasn't He?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Oh, He has. I remember one time we had a need in the Prayer Corps for \$500 and really urgent, and someone answered the front door. And I didn't know this was happening and came into me and said, "Dick's, there was an African American man, dressed all in white, and he handed me this and it was like five \$100 bills." And we rushed back the front and looked up and down the street to thank him.

Dr. James Dobson: Nobody there.

Dr. Dick Eastman: I couldn't see him. And I can't say that that was an angel carrying U.S. dollars or not, but there are those memories you have that carry you through those occasions when it's like an exact amount. It's just amazing.

Dr. James Dobson: We're talking to people who don't believe this. They don't believe God answers prayer in that way. I'm telling you He does. And I believe it. And you obviously do.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Yeah. And one thing I'd say too about these amazing answers to prayer. Over the years I've learned if you keep on praying, you'll have more amazing answers to prayer. I tell people that nine out of 10 of my prayer times are the dullest prayer times anyone has seen on the face of the earth and I always say to people, except for you, because I know you're going to tell me no, I hold the record. But I don't go into prayer because I'm going to feel the brush of angel's wings or anything but because I know the Lord is there and I'm just going to do that every day. I'm going to take my Bible, I'm going to listen to what He says through His word and then bring before Him the people I pray for the needs. And that's the lesson I learned is that you're just there.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, the story you told is now reminded me of one that's precious to me. And I promise you this is exactly what happened. When we built the campus of Focus on the Family, we had not enough money really to do the whole job, and yet we made it and we finished that first phase of the campus. Debt free. We hadn't borrowed a cent. But we had nothing left. Nothing left. And then when you know we had a financial shortfall of people are generous at certain times of the year, it was October and we were really in need because I had nearly 1,000 employees at that time. So Shirley and I came home discouraged one day and we went to bed and we were both real tired, but before we got in bed, we got down on our knees. We prayed an uninspired prayer. Have you ever done that?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Oh, yeah.

Dr. James Dobson: A prayer that was born of discouragement and you didn't really believe it yourself, and yet you said, "Lord, we have a need here." And Dick, so help me I named a person that I knew had money and I had never asked him for anything

and I didn't then. I don't ask people for money. But I called his name to the Lord. I said, "Lord, he could help us. And I'm not going to talk to him. You talk to him." And it was a short prayer like that. That was it. One week later that man sent us \$1 million through the mail.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Oh my. Wow.

Dr. James Dobson: And I don't think he's done it since. But tell me the Lord wasn't listening. When you get down to pray and you feel like your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling, He hears you. He's there. He's in that room with you, in that prayer closet.

Dr. Dick Eastman: That's right.

Dr. James Dobson: That was my dad's life. He was a prayer warrior too. And he prayed sometimes three or four hours in a day. I don't even know what I would say to the Lord in four hours. I mean, maybe you do that Dick. I have not had that discipline. I have enjoyed a wonderful prayer life with the Lord, but this deep concerted prayer and the Lord talked to my dad, when those times happen.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Sometimes I ask the question because I've written on prayer and it's been so much a part of my life of what's the most significant thing the Lord's ever... You feel the Lord's ever really spoken to you and I instantly, I'll say, "Oh, it's Jeremiah 29:13 and 14-

Dr. James Dobson: I know the plans I have for you.

Dr. Dick Eastman: That's the verses just before that. "I know the plans I have for you that are good and not for evil." But then He says, "And you will seek me." And here's what happened. I was in prayer one day, and I had my Bible open, was reading my Bible, and I came to that verse and I read, and you shall seek me. And I felt the Lord say, circle me. So I circled me. And find me, circled me again. When you search for me, circled it again with all your heart. And the Lord then spoke to me and said, "You've just circled. And I really heard this in my spirit. You've just circled the three most important words on the subject of prayer in the entire Bible. The essence of prayer is not how many answers you get, but how much of me you seek because I am your answer. Now, that doesn't mean I don't pray for things, very specifically, but when I go into prayer, it's to be with the Lord.

Roger Marsh: I'm Roger Marsh, just jumping in here for a brief moment to remind you that we're listening to Dr. James Dobson's classic conversation with Dr. Dick Eastman about how prayer has changed each of their lives. Prayer plays a vital role in our lives as parents, especially as we are raising our young children. And here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we've created a special free resource for you to help you do just that. To share Jesus with your children, that's the name of a brand new PDF download available from the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. Learn more when you go to drjamesdobson.org/sharing-jesus-with-your-children. And now let's rejoin today's program for the conclusion of the

conversation featuring Dr. James Dobson and Dr. Dick Eastman right now on Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: You were telling me in my office before you came in about three homes that Every Home for Christ has purchased. Tell us about those homes and what for.

Dr. Dick Eastman: We have historically done campaigns all over the world saying, we're not going to do one in the United States because there's too many churches. They should be doing it. And then the Lord spoke to us a couple of years ago that it was time to begin a campaign to reach every home in America. And through a very interesting set of circumstances, the Lord led us to Washington, D.C. In fact, I can tell you when it was, it was, I felt we should go back and get a team to pray circles around the Supreme Court during the Hobby Lobby case.

Dr. James Dobson: Oh, yeah.

Dr. Dick Eastman: So we did that. And I was looking for a place to pray and someone said to meet near the Supreme Court and someone said, "Well, you need to go to this place where there's a man named Dick Simmons who's had a condo there for a number of years, and they pray." So I called him and said, "Can we meet there?" And he said, "Sure." Well, then I found out that this building had five condos in it. And when I came home, I shared it with our leadership, I shared it with our board, and I said, "I believe God wants us to buy one of those condos and to have a beachhead of prayer in our nation's capital." Here's an interesting thing. The condos are right across the street from the Supreme Court and physically attached to the ACLJ, the American Center for Law & Justice with Jay Sekulow. He's our neighbor.

And when I saw the ACLJ instantly, I mean it was instantly, the Lord dropped the acronym into my mind, ACPR, CPR is when you bring something back to life and words just came American Center for Prayer and Revival. So we've already started now, day and night prayer. One of these condos, by the way, we're getting ready to furnish it for senators and congressmen to come and pray together because we're literally like two minutes from the Hart building and then right beyond that's the Rayburn Building, and-

Dr. James Dobson: You're right at the center of government.

Dr. Dick Eastman: And one of the things that's developed is we've printed a map for Washington D.C. of all the landmarks for people to do prayer circles around all these landmarks. And we've printed a guide and making an app now with passages of Scripture for every landmark. So we're going to be inviting youth groups to come. And they come to do tours and see all the sites, but why not do a prayer tour?

Dr. James Dobson: I know that you're concerned about this nation. Dick, how do you see where we are and what's happening in America?

Dr. Dick Eastman: It's a very troubling time, very definitely because it doesn't... We use the expression a no-brainer for a believer that has any sensitivity they can see things happening in our culture. At the same time, just in my Bible reading, I try to pray through the Bible a few chapters each day to get from Genesis to Revelation in the year. And I was just passing through Abraham and the issue of Sodom and Gomorrah and well, Lord, if you could just find 10, if you could just or 20 at first, and then he gets down and keeps going down. And I thank God, first of all for things like the National Day of Prayer. I thank God for the people who are praying. And I can tell you that right now I have hope. I have my Bible open and I'm a Bible marker and I shade basis.

Dr. James Dobson: I wish everybody could see that Bible. That's been around the block a couple of times.

Dr. Dick Eastman: And did I pray for you and Shirley on a regular basis actually every day, and I could show you this a little closer later but, this was a word the Lord gave to me for you so I could pray it-

Dr. James Dobson: For Shirley and me?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Yeah. It was actually August 9th, 2005 because it's written right there, and it's from the message Bible and the Lord said, this is for Jim Dobson. And I began to read, it's verse 18 of Jeremiah chapter one of The Message and it says, "Stand at attention while I prepare you for your work. I'm making you an impregnable as a castle, immovable as a steel post, solid as a concrete block wall." Listen to this, "you're a one man defense system against this culture. Against Judah's kings and princes against the priests and local leaders. They'll fight you, but they won't even scratch you. I'll back you up every inch of the way, God's decree." And there's that-

Dr. James Dobson: That just got our name in it. Oh my goodness.

Dr. Dick Eastman: I just handed them the Bible to show them and-

Dr. James Dobson: Brings tears to my eyes.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Family Talk and the battle that we're all in that came back to me and I'm glad I had my Bible with me here.

Dr. James Dobson: I know that you said you pray for us every day. It is an incredible gift for you to be praying for us.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Well, thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: You pray for so many others. You said earlier today that your list of people to pray for just keeps getting longer and longer and you're going to have to edit it, but you haven't.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Yeah. I have jokingly said you have to die to get off my prayer list. But it doesn't mean your times of prayer extend. And I obviously can't pray for every key leader that I ever would think about, but when you mentioned earlier we were in that small group. There are about five of us that just met from month to month, and it was that occasion where you get to know someone and then you feel like they're in a battle and I'm going to be a part of those who pray.

Dr. James Dobson: Yeah. Those were very meaningful times for me and those who are listening to us, and maybe your faith is a little bit weak and you need a little help in fulfilling the prayer life we've been talking about here today. Getting together with other people who are also reaching out to the Lord, that's a wonderful thing to do, isn't it?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Oh, absolutely. That's why we have our staff come together every morning to pray, because we know even as a ministry, we can talk about it and encourage others, but we need to do it ourselves, and it's always such an encouragement. I don't think there's a single time where you wouldn't feel lifted up and that you're carrying each other's burdens.

Dr. James Dobson: Shirley and I were having our morning prayer like that, and we were sitting at the dinette table and we were reading the Scripture, and it just occurred to me that Christ is here in this room, and I welcomed Him and I began praying to Him as though He was sitting in the chair next to me.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Amen.

Dr. James Dobson: And I just said, "Lord, thank You for taking the time to hear us and to be here today, and You show us, You tell us what You want of us and we will do our best to fulfill it." That's a great prayer to pray, isn't it? Dr. Dick Eastman, my great friend and brother, the Lord is pleased with you. I can feel His power in your life and you're not done yet, are you?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Thank you. Well, no. Thankfully our bylaws don't say that they need to replace the leader when he turns 65. And then the huge project for us is we're starting in every home campaign in America with the goal of mobilizing 60,000 churches to be involved because putting the country into zones, mapping out, we're working now on mapping out, of course, every zip code, some 43,000 of those, and then every neighborhood to be prayed over.

Dr. James Dobson: Dick, it's been so good having you here.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: I feel refreshed talking to you. You're a godly man and the Lord has used you dramatically in millions and millions of hearts and lives and mine.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: Will you come back and see us again?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Oh, I sure will.

Dr. James Dobson: Will you give Dee our love?

Dr. Dick Eastman: Well, I will.

Dr. James Dobson: Would you bring her with you next time?

Dr. Dick Eastman: I absolutely will, and she can correct my stories.

Dr. James Dobson: You know what, if you'll bring Dee, I'll bring Shirley and we'll have a prayer time together. Thanks for being here.

Dr. Dick Eastman: Thank you.

Roger Marsh: Every believer is called to a life of prayer. And now more than ever, we need to commit to praying for our nation and the world as well. The Bible says if we will pray and seek the Lord's face and turn away from our wicked ways, God will hear our prayers and heal our land. You've been listening to part two of a two-part conversation featuring Dr. Dick Eastman and our own Dr. James Dobson here on Family Talk. Remember, if you missed any part of this two-day program, you can listen again in its entirety when you go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. You can easily share this program with a friend or a family member as well, and while you're there you can also learn more about Dr. Dick Eastman and the ministry of Every Home for Christ. Again, our website is drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

Well, we've heard a lot about prayer over the past couple of days and how crucial it is in our relationship with the Lord. If you're a parent, grandparent, or caregiver of children, teaching them about the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most important things you can do for them. And prayer plays a vital role in that relationship. By creating a spiritual climate in your home, prayer really helps nurture your child's faith, which is so significant to their spiritual development. Take a moment and consider what your legacy might be on behalf of those you love. Have you helped to build a foundation of faith for them that will sustain them through the trials of life and take them into the better world beyond? Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we've created a downloadable resource for you with helpful tips about how to share Jesus with your children. That's the title, "Sharing Jesus with Your Children." And you can download it absolutely free when you visit drjamesdobson.org/sharing-jesus-with-your-children. You can download it absolutely free. Again, that's drjamesdobson.org/sharing-jesus-with-your-children.

And remember, if you enjoy the wisdom of Dr. Dobson here in this long form broadcast format, we've also got a brand new resource that takes the

transforming truths of Dr. Dobson and puts them into 60 second audio messages that are easy to listen to and to share. The brand new Dr. Dobson Minute provides young families with practical insights that will strengthen marriages and help build better parenting skills. To learn more about this new resource, just go to drdobsonminute.org. Check it out today. That's drdobsonminute.org. Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for joining us today here on Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love. Be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.

Roger Marsh: Hey everyone, Roger Marsh here for Family Talk. Where can you go to receive support and advice for you and your family? Family Talk interacts with millions of people every day with inspiring advice and tips from Dr. James Dobson on what matters to you the most. Whether it's marriage or parenting, you can be sure our Facebook page will keep you updated with how your family can succeed. Join us each day for the latest broadcast, resources and inspiration. Nowhere else can you hear a thought of the day from Dr. Dobson, as well as a special message before you say goodnight. Now you can be sure that every post on our page is created with you and your family in mind, so please take the time to visit us and become part of our online community at facebook.com/drjamesdobsonsfamilytalk. That's facebook.com/drjamesdobsonsfamilytalk.