



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Falling in Love with America Again – Part 2

Guest(s): The Hon. Jim DeMint

Air Date: July 4, 2025

Dr. James Dobson: Hello, everyone. You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and thank you for joining us for this program.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, wishing you a happy Independence Day. You know, many people wonder what does it mean to truly love our country? Well, today here on Family Talk, we are continuing Dr. James Dobson's compelling conversation with former Senator and Congressman Jim DeMint about his book called *Falling in Love with America Again*. The Honorable Mr. DeMint served South Carolina both in the House and Senate before leading the Heritage Foundation for a five-year period. His insights reveal how government has grown too big and too powerful, while institutions Americans actually trust, you know, like small businesses, churches, local police, well, they remain smaller and much closer to home. So let's get into this special edition, part two of Dr. Dobson's conversation with Senator Jim DeMint on today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Senator, I thoroughly enjoyed talking to you yesterday and again, I am enamored with this book, *Falling in Love with America Again*.

Jim DeMint: The way I look at it, Dr. Dobson, is I think God has given this beautiful garden that we call America. We're stewards of that garden and we don't really have the option to leave the governance or the care taking of that garden to somebody else. It's our job, we the people, and that's what I'm encouraging people to do.

Dr. James Dobson: Well at the end of the program last time we talked about the concept of the "Big" or the "Bigs". I think in the NBA they call it the "Bigs". These are the really tall guys that stand under the basket. You're talking about the institutions of this nation that have become "too big to love." What do you mean by that?

Jim DeMint: In the book, we use some data about what institutions American people actually trust. On the political side of whether it be the presidency or the congress, it's well below 50% of the people trust it. But what people do trust are the smaller institutions of churches and small businesses, local police forces and even little platoons, part of a larger military, people trust these institutions for a number of reasons. Generally, they know them, they're closer to them, they know the

people. But these institutions also have to serve and provide value in order to exist.

A lot of the larger institutions, particularly the government and those that are propped up by the government, no longer have to really provide a service that we like in order to continue to exist. And if you've tried to call your cable company or your cell phone company and work with someone over the phone, you know exactly what I mean.

Dr. James Dobson: On page 35 of your book, this jumped out at me. You said of 16 institutions asked about in the poll, only three enjoyed the confidence of a majority of Americans. The military, small business, the police, and a fourth, organized religion, that had the confidence of 48 percent. Let me share the statistics from a Gallup poll, this was 2013, that you have charted here.

Confidence, having a great deal of confidence or quite a lot of confidence in the institution, the presidency was 36%. The medical system was 35, and I would guess that's dropping rapidly, not because of the medical people involved, but because of the interference of the government. The U.S. Supreme Court, 34. The public schools, 32. The criminal justice system, 28. Banks, 26. Television news, 23. I would have been down around 3% on that one. Newspapers, 23. Big business, 22. Organized labor, 20. HMO's, health maintenance organizations, 19. And last on this list is the U.S. Congress with 10.

You've been there. You said on the next page that you're only surprised that the Congress managed to get 10% of the country that has confidence.

Jim DeMint: That must have been K Street lobbyists or something. I don't think I've ever talked to anyone who did. I mean, we laugh, but we really can't have a government that's trusted by only 10% of the people. Even the justice system, when you get down to 20 or so percent of people who don't think they can get justice. The problem is a lot is just too big, is just trying to do too much. And when things get big, they get wasteful, they corrupt. Power always corrupts. And we keep throwing more and more things at Washington and what concerns me is people continue to vote for those who make these false promises that somehow we're going to help the middle class by raising minimum wage. They know that's not true. That doesn't help the little guy, it hurts the little guy.

So, if we can just get Americans to wake up. Forget the political parties, vote for themselves. Vote for those things that work. We can show people what works and we're just showing here that they don't trust the Bigs and there's a reason that seven out of ten of the richest counties in America are in Washington, D.C. And they don't produce anything up here that most of us want. But it's because "Big" concentrates wealth in the "Bigs."

And when the doors close and the legislation's written here ... for instance, for Obamacare, it's not for the little guy to get health insurance. It's for the big

insurance companies who are salivating over forcing every American to buy their product. And it just doesn't work like Americans hope it does and we need to move power and money, decision making, out of Washington and get states to compete. And when they do, we're all better off.

Dr. James Dobson: You wrote that Washington is the mother of Bigs. And you said on page 11, "Special interest groups across the political spectrum are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on political campaigns hoping to win a 51% majority so they can gain control of the federal structure and force their ideas and policies on the other 49%." People can see why I like this book and the things that you've said. That's exactly what's happened, isn't it?

Jim DeMint: It is. And the point I'm trying to make in this book is while I know that there's certain values and moralities that are going to make life better for people. The way America works is that we can be very diverse, we can live next to each other when people disagree on a lot of things, but if the government starts coercing people to believe in something or to participate in something that violates their conscience, their religious faith, that's when you get a rebellious and resentful nation that's very divided.

If we can respect those differences, we can live together as a very diverse country, but not if Washington is trying to force everyone to follow the same idea.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, I wish... It's my prayer that the American people would rise up and say to big government and the rest of the power brokers, get off my back. Turn loose this great engine of prosperity known as democracy. Let it go and see what would happen. That's how we became the most prosperous and successful country on earth. And what has happened here in the United States is absolutely remarkable. How we came from this little fledgling country to the most powerful nation on earth and it was because the people were free. And freedom is not the natural state of governments. It is the influence of power brokers. Talk again about who the other Bigs are.

Jim DeMint: You make a really good point that if we could just let this go, but the left has been telling the poor, the middle class for years that if the federal government doesn't do it, there'll be no safety nets, that you're on your own and the Bigs will take advantage of you. A lot of what I have in this book is evidence to the contrary. That there's always a safety net coming up from the ground that works so much better for this. And we do want a safety net in our country, but the federal government cannot be that safety net.

Washington traps people in dependency. It traps them in broken families. And we've got all the evidence in the world to say forget the politics folks. If you want Washington to do it, it's going to hurt the little guy. If you want Washington to do it, then wealth is going to concentrate on Wall Street and big unions and big corporations who are up here writing the legislation and the regulations.

And the relationships I describe in the book here, you've got the regulators who one day want to work for the lobbyist, so they're giving them a pass on things and you've got big corporations carving out something in regulations or legislation that gives them an advantage so they don't have to serve their customers the same way the little guy does.

I'm convinced that this country, it can be greater than it's ever been and it would not take long to rebuild it if we just move these ideas out of Washington. I think it's starting to happen with education with the choices that are blooming in every state and now states are competing for the best system. But if we can elect people who will say get off our backs, let America work, America will be better than it's ever been.

Dr. James Dobson: This may offend you, but I think not. There are times when it looks to me like both Democrats and Republicans are more interested in staying in power than they are in doing what's best for the country. Is that just the perception of a person who's never been there or is there validity to that idea?

Jim DeMint: No, that's the perception of a very perceptive person. You've worked with a lot of politicians. And it's true. And it seems to ... that's why I believe in term limits. It's almost inevitable. There are very few people that are here over 10 years that are really still fighting for something because this becomes your life, your sound chamber, everything you hear is coming from inside the beltway in Washington. But that's what people do. They do things and they justify in their own minds that this is for their constituents when, in fact, it's to protect their own power base.

That's why things like earmarks are so attractive. It makes you look good back home. You take back all this money. And it's hurting the country. So anyway, I could preach about term limits a long time and I hope someday that more and more states will do it and eventually the federal government will do it.

Dr. James Dobson: Expecting them to limit their own power though, that seems like a long shot to me.

Jim DeMint: It is. It is a long shot unless states do it first. If you get 15, 20 states with term limits on their legislatures, then you'll get people elected up here who want to do that, I think.

Dr. James Dobson: Yeah. We need to lock them in or they'll change their minds at the last minute. I have written about the moral decline which is the issue that, as I said yesterday, bothers me the most. And I listed eight examples of this moral slide that almost feels like we're going into the sewer. That's a gross term, but it feels that way to me. And then I came after these eight examples of what's taking place, I wrote this. I don't usually read on the air, but maybe it's appropriate here.

"And the question is, what do we do about it? Would a more conservative political party be able to turn the country around? Probably not. Although I would support one as a private individual. Could a man or woman of character set us on a right path? Possibly. But the change would be superficial and temporary unless the people rise up to demand it. My father always said, 'Democracy is the worst form of government if the citizens want evil because there'll be no stopping them.'"

That's kind of the way I feel about it. Comment on that.

Jim DeMint:

Well you said the right thing, actually. It's all in the hands of the people. The thing that encourages me, Dr. Dobson, is trying to remember the Scripture that reminds us that we're salt and light. You know, salt and light are not big. One little candle in a dark room can shed a lot of light and one little grain of salt can change the flavor of a piece of food. And so, we have to remember that God's never done this with large numbers. Whether you think of Gideon or whoever, He's shown that He can take a few pieces of bread, a few fish, and multiply it.

But it has to start with us. What we have to do is certainly we have to try to keep holding Washington accountable, but we've got to have almost a revival among the people. Not only in a spiritual sense, but in a sense that, "I won't be intimidated. That I'm going to stand up for what I believe in not because I want to push my ideas down the throat of someone else, but that I want to be free to believe and live the way I think that God's leading me to lead."

If we can get the people, we don't need a majority. I'm convinced if we could get 20, 30% of the people who want to make a change, it would change in a hurry because you've got the broad middle that are going to follow the people with courage and inspiration. That's what we need right now is people, pastors, business people.

It's not going to come from big corporations. Big corporations are pushing the wrong way. It's going to be small businesses, churches, individuals and small platoons at the local level of all kinds. But we don't need many because I try to show in the book that in communities all over this country, if you just have a few people who are trying to do something to help the drug addicted, to help the unwed moms, that they can make a huge difference. So let's don't give up and remember the salt and light idea and I have a feeling it will get brighter and brighter if the people will decide to take their country back.

Dr. James Dobson:

Well, everything has a spiritual dimension and what you just said comes right out of Scripture. Describe what you mean by federalism. I know that many of our listeners will know the answer to that, but you speak very highly of it. Explain what it is and why it's so important.

Jim DeMint:

Well, it's actually a word that a lot of people don't understand because it sounds like you want more federal government when, in fact, it's the opposite. It's the

original idea of the Constitution that the federal government would have a limited role primarily in defense and making sure that there is justice throughout the land. The rest, for the most part, was left to the states and to the people.

Federalism is 50 states competing for the best education system, the best health care system, the best energy development system, the best way to protect families, protecting marriage, ideas like that. And that's what we need to encourage, is we're all better off if the states on all sides of us are trying to do something better, whether it be lower taxes or just more freedom in protecting people of faith.

So, federalism is moving power and decisions and money back to the states, where it belongs. Not that states are going to do it perfectly, but we're finding if states have to compete that they get better and better when, in fact, the federal government doesn't have to compete and it seems to get worse and worse and more wasteful and spending more. And actually now it's beginning to drive our morality and our culture into the ground. The states can change that and that's what federalism is.

Dr. James Dobson: It feels to me like the states are fighting for their place in the sun. I mean, Washington has come in and told them what they can do and their laws are not respected. I have many friends in Texas who are pro-life and to have the Justice System, the Supreme Court, force that moral issue down their throats is deeply resented.

You know this, but there are a lot of people in Texas who would like to secede, would like to be a separate country because they're so irritated by the lack of federalism. And that is the goal of government is to consolidate power, isn't it? It's not to give power to 50 individual states.

Jim DeMint: You're right. There are folks that just want to make us like every other country in the world, forgetting that what made America so exceptional and prosperous and compassionate was this concept of ground up federalism. And we've got states ... I've worked some with Rick Perry and we're trying to organize governors and legislators around the country who are helping to push back against the federal government to take back more control.

Unfortunately, the federal government's been handing out money like candy. "And so okay, you take common core, we'll give you all this money." I want to be a part of helping pull these states together and get leaders at the state level to push back because that's where the courage is. That's where the innovation is. The less we can do in Washington, the better off we are as a nation.

Dr. James Dobson: You mentioned common core yesterday and today. A lot of people don't know what that is. Explain it. You're against it. I'm against it too. Explain why.

Jim DeMint: Well, a lot of people don't know what it is because it was really a very subversive move by the education department and moving it out to states. I've been in states that the legislature didn't pass anything. Their board of education might have accepted it.

It was an idea that sounded good as far as it being voluntary and money would come with it, but like every federal program, once you get past the first page and they start writing the regulations, you realize the curriculum they're putting together for this would be a national curriculum, and a lot of moms who've seen the homework that comes home, the questions that are being asked, it's completely ridiculous. So now, more and more, people are-

Dr. James Dobson: Can you give us an example of that?

Jim DeMint: Well, I'll give you one example. I saw an actual question of a fifth grader that said what's nine plus 16? I think those are the numbers. It could be different numbers. But, and discuss your answer. And this fifth grader just so you could see, he scribbled down nine plus 16 is 25, but in the answer he said, "I asked my brain and I agreed with the answer my brain had."

I mean, it's like he had to explain something that was very obvious that math is about numbers and doing calculations, but where this came from is you had a governor who was successful at setting standards or several of them did and they think, "Oh, it would be nice to set those same standards for the whole nation." That doesn't work. What you need is states competing for a better and better system, not some standard that basically dumbs down everything over a period of time.

But we don't need a common set of standards for the whole nation other than justice and equality and making sure that every child has a chance. But what we need is a lot of different choices of school that match the different learning styles and interests and aptitudes of students so that everyone can succeed, but they're not going to all succeed at the same thing.

Dr. James Dobson: And the goal is to please parents. Those kids don't belong to the federal government or to the nation. They belong to individual families. And we really need to listen to what they feel is best for their kids.

Jim DeMint: You're exactly right. Unfortunately, and it's almost astounding, there are people in Washington actually challenging the notion that children belong to parents. So, if folks think that redefining marriage is the last step in this thing, they're going to redefine every institution if we allow them to do it. And it's complete nonsense because if you want a better life for children, the best place to put them is in a home with a mom and dad. That's not always going to work out as in my own case, but mom and dad making decisions about schools gets them more involved in those schools and the children are certainly more active in their studies. And we need to follow the course of what's working.

But the resistance is not coming from people who want the best for students. The resistance is coming from the Bigs. The big teachers' unions whose biggest fear is 50 states doing their own thing. They're going to fight it to the end and they've got their allies in Congress. They're going to fight it. And basically they control a lot of the political spectrum in the country today. We have to push back, but we've got the majority of parents now who want better choices for their children.

Dr. James Dobson: The title of the book is *Falling in Love with America Again* and the answer to that statement there, following the how do you do that? That is my last question to you. Can we change the course that we're on and save our country?

Jim DeMint: We not only can, people are doing it all over the country today. We just need to get the federal government out of the way and let America bloom again. It's happening all over the country and what made us great is still working today.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, it's a pleasure talking to you. We've been talking to Senator Jim DeMint. *Falling in Love with America Again*. I want to fall in love with my country again. I'm tired of being angry, upset, disillusioned, discouraged about the things that are taking place. And it is possible to turn it around. It will probably have to be done at the ballot box because it's not going to happen in Washington, D.C. which the senator calls "the mother of Bigs." And that's not a good term.

Thank you, Senator. I appreciate it. I love your book and you and I've been friends a long time. Let's stay in touch.

Jim DeMint: Thank you so much, Dr. Dobson.

Roger Marsh: America's greatness isn't measured by the size of its government, but actually by the strength of its people and communities. You've been listening to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, and a conversation Dr. Dobson had with former Senator and Congressman, Jim DeMint. Now if you missed any part of today's broadcast, you'll find it at drjamesdobson.org. Click on the Family Talk tab when you land on our homepage. There you'll also find the complete program along with information about Senator DeMint's book called *Falling in Love with America Again*. That's all available to you at drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we are committed to defending the principles that make America exceptional. And speaking of our founders, today, being the Fourth of July, a perfect time to rediscover the faith that shaped our nation. Sign up for our free Faith of Our Founders email series when you go to drjamesdobson.org. You'll learn how God's hand guided America from the very beginning. You'll also discover why our Judeo-Christian heritage remains essential to our future. Again, for the free Faith of Our Founder's email series, go to drjamesdobson.org. And thank you for remembering the mission of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. It centers on preserving biblical values,

promoting strong families, and protecting the freedoms our founders envisioned. The broadcasts that you hear each day are made possible through friends like you who believe America's best days are still ahead of us. Your financial support helps us continue sharing truth and hope with families all across the country. You can make a secure donation online when you go to drjamesdobson.org. You can also send your tax-deductible donation through the U.S. Postal Service. Our ministry mailing address is Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code, 80949.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh and on behalf of Dr. James Dobson and all of us here at the JDFI, thanks so much for listening today. Have a safe and blessed Fourth of July holiday, and be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust, for the family you love.

Announcer:

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