



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** Winning the Invisible War – Part 2

**Guest(s):** Dr. Michael Youssef

**Air Date:** May 22, 2026

Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you can still trust for the family you love. I'm Roger Marsh and our guest today, Dr. Michael Youssef, talking about his brand-new book, *Winning the Invisible War: How to Recognize Lies, Resist Temptation, and Be Victorious in Spiritual Warfare*. We have a link for the book up at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net) and Dr. Michael Youssef, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Roger Marsh: It's amazing how when it comes to spiritual warfare as you write about in your new book, there are so many Christians who you, and you use this term I think very graciously when you talk about how clueless many Christians are, whether it's parents or new believers or even people who've been walking with the Lord for 40, 50 years, but really haven't engaged in the Scriptures. How do we use a resource like this or just have conversations with people who think, "Oh yeah, I'm a baptized believer. I'm in church every Sunday. I tithe 10%. I'm doing all those things." And yet when the heat gets to be too much, they just kind of shift into neutral and say, "I'm good." How do we get them engaged, in gear?

Dr. Michael Youssef: Honestly, I can tell you that only the Holy Spirit can do that.

Roger Marsh: True.

Dr. Michael Youssef: My own testimony is that through my life in three continents, I have faced many a dark times, times that could have persuaded me to turn my back on the gospel, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, we must always seek the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, but also ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in abundance.

And just think, every member, if they really are seeing themselves as soldiers for Christ and the impact they would have in their workplace and their neighborhoods and we could turn this country upside down for Jesus if people stop being pew warmers, we have so many pew warmers on Sunday and become soldiers and that is what we call to be soldiers. And in fact, that's what

Paul tells Timothy to be. He said, "Do the work of a soldier, do the work of an evangelist."

Roger Marsh: Amen. Concluding our last conversation with Dr. Michael Youssef, we were discussing the cultural issues that kind of drive people into either thinking wokenly or we kind of lose all of our common sense. And one of the biggest areas is the sanctity of human life where there are so many people who are fighting for the killing of the unborn child in the womb without even realizing that this is a human being we're talking about. And I know that that's a part of the American culture, a worldwide culture too, but especially in America that is very pertinent to you and very germane to you, Dr. Youssef, because of the fact that it describes the battle for your soul even before you were born. Can you give us just a little 35,000 foot view of what it was like with Michael Youssef being what doctors recommending to your parents, "Hey, we're not so sure if this baby should be here."

Dr. Michael Youssef: Yeah, absolutely. It's sort of a milestone in my life that always I'm reminding myself of that. My mother was a godly woman. She really loved the Lord. She comes from a godly family. Her father was one of the great prayer warriors I've ever known in my life. So they had that heritage of godliness, but she had 11 but three of those kind of were miscarried, but there were already six living siblings. In fact, my oldest sibling in the family was 20 years older than me.

Roger Marsh: Oh my.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Yes, so for her when she fell pregnant and her health was really in a poor state, three doctors, not just one who said, "You cannot take another pregnancy. You can't go through another pregnancy, so you need to terminate this one." And so she really said, "Okay, I want to serve my other six children." And so she and my father had this appointment to go and have the procedure and of course in a Muslim culture where Christian subculture abortion is not even frowned upon. But thank God the pastor of our church is very similar to Dr. Dobson's church, a wonderful pastor and he came up early in the morning. He said, "I know this is a huge responsibility, but I have been disturbed all night about this and I'm going to appeal to you to trust God and go through with the pregnancy." Now she and my dad agreed and said, "We're going to trust God." And my mother said, "Look, if I die, I die." But she went through with the pregnancy and entrusting God, believing God. Now all my older siblings are all bankers and economists and professor of economics and all of that. My father was a businessman and so we have no one in ministry in our family.

Roger Marsh: Wow. How interesting.

Dr. Michael Youssef: That is not even a thought. And so when she trusted God and she took that step of faith knowing that she could lose her life, God was so gracious to her and He spared her for 16 years because I was 16 when she went to glory and the whole time her health was not really in good shape at all, but through it all, she trusted God and had me. And then when I went through my rebellious stage as a

teenager, because I looked at my siblings and I looked at their successes and I'm going to do what? And so I thought if I rebel and I become a damaged goods, God can't use me. But then she would literally pray to the Lord and said, "Lord, I risked my life to have this boy." And I remember her saying to me when I gave my life to Christ on March 4th, 64, she went to glory 07/07/64.

Roger Marsh: Wow. Wow.

Dr. Michael Youssef: So she lived three months, four months to see that I'm working with the Lord. And last thing she said to me, she said, "Even if you are successful as your siblings." I mean, my brother was a bank manager at 27 and so they were all successful. So she said, "Even if you be as successful as they are, that is not what I risked my life for."

And so that stayed with me and I began to pray and God supernaturally intervened and literally got me to escape death itself from my home country and I escaped in '69 to Australia then the United States in '77 and I followed through in the call of God on my life and I have never, never, never, never been more thankful to the Lord for His hand and for His interference because I've had the most amazing journey and whatever's left in the journey, I'll just have as much fun as I did the last 53 years in the ordained ministry now.

Roger Marsh: Wow, that's incredible. What a great testimony from Dr. Michael Youssef today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk and I could just see Doctor smiling and hearing you share that story and saying, "Yes, that's why we went to Washington, D.C. That's why we went on the airwaves and told people about the sanctity of human life." And what a great risk that your mother took for her faith by saying, "Okay, we're going to trust that this Christian doctor is telling us even though my health could be in jeopardy, I'm to carry this child to term." And think of the millions of lives impacted because of a mother's faithfulness. And I praise God for you, Dr. Michael Youssef. You continue to inspire so many people personally, I'm very selfish. I love having time with you just because your testimony is so powerful. You have described in your new book *Winning the Invisible War*, one of the things that I think has kind of befallen the American church, and that is the fact that we love intellect, we love knowledge, if you will, but we're kind of in short supply on wisdom.

And I think that you described the enemy that way in this book. Talk about how easy it is, has become, I should say, for the American church in particular to become deceived we get lulled into the whole knowledge trap and the whole intellect trap and we don't see the real wisdom and that's the cunning aspect of spiritual warfare, isn't it?

Dr. Michael Youssef: Sure, absolutely. I am not against knowledge and I'm not anti-knowledge and I'm not anti-science and I am all for that, but without wisdom...Don't forget that the top henchmen of Hitler were Ph.D.'s.

Roger Marsh: Right. Right.

Dr. Michael Youssef: They all had higher education, have knowledge. I went and did a Ph.D. at Emory University back in the early 80s just to show that there's nothing wrong with knowledge, but cry to God for wisdom because what wisdom does take that knowledge, especially biblical knowledge and applies it to the circumstances of life. So without the wisdom taking that knowledge and applying it to life, we will really be basically abusing knowledge. Look what happened to COVID. I mean, that was a science lab and escaped virus that came and killed so many millions of people.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Dr. Michael Youssef: So without wisdom, we are really up the creek without a pedal. So we need to cry to God for wisdom of how to use knowledge, utilize knowledge for the glory of God and not for our own glory. And so I couldn't agree more with you.

Roger Marsh: It's so important that we understand this because as Dr. Michael Youssef has written about in his brand new book, *Winning the Invisible War*, there are so many lies, there's so much deception. At one part you even described in the book how the enemy will imitate the voice of God to make it... talk about how many people are getting duped by that in this AI world where we can, like I can look at you on the screen right now and you know it's you and you know it's me, but it's becoming so much more difficult and yet it's vital that we begin to distinguish between what's the Holy Spirit saying, what is the enemy saying sounding like the Holy Spirit?

Dr. Michael Youssef: Absolutely, absolutely. First of all, it has to be consistent with the Scripture because God is not a changeable God. He's yesterday, today, and forever. So it has to be consistent with the Scripture. So you hear a voice that says, "It's okay. Everybody's doing it, you do it and that's fine. It's not that deadly sin, it's not this, it's not that. After all, God really wants you to make you happy." And I say, "Wait a minute, devil, God does not want to make me happy. He wants me to make me holy." And so you can recognize the lie of the devil right away and then you go back to the Scripture and you follow the Scripture. It's very important. We have an AI expert here at Leading the Way and I'm so grateful for his expertise. As a matter of fact, now we have something called [myfaithassistant.com](http://myfaithassistant.com) where we have our own redeeming AI where you go and ask any questions about the faith about anything and it will give you biblical answers based on the Scripture and 1,500 sermons that I've preached through the years, 57 books.

And so you can go directly to it, [myfaithassistant.com](http://myfaithassistant.com) and ask any question. So we've got to stay ahead of that. Instead of cursing the darkness, I often say, "Let's light the candle." And then when God gave us this man, this dear brother in Christ here with that knowledge, so we all need to be alert. We need to be discerning. And look what Peter said, he said, "Basically be on your guard, be awake, be alert because he's roaming around like a lion trying to look for places

in which he can attack us and look for soft spots in which he can tempt us and that kind of thing. So that's a cry for me personally. I want to finish strong and that's my own prayer for myself and for my family and for all my beloved friends.

Roger Marsh: I love that. Dr. Michael Youssef's book, *Winning the Invisible War* is up at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net). And as a parent or a grandparent, as you are helping the next generation and the generation after that navigate these issues of faith, this is such an important resource to have on hand. I love the fact that you really go after lukewarm Christianity in this situation here. I mean, there are so many people who would look through Revelation, they'd see the Laodicean church, they would come up with some kind of explanation. Well, you see the water came from here to there and sometimes it was warm and sometimes ... And so that's why I'm lukewarm. But you're saying half-heartedness is really becoming an epidemic in the church in America right now. Talk about that, if you would.

Dr. Michael Youssef: It really is because that is where Satan does his worst work or I say for him will be his best work, his worst for us. And that is to begin to bring that kind of doubt, slight doubt. I mean, he didn't come to Eve and say, God lied to you. He told you this, but that's not really true. Listen to me. No, no, no, no. He just said, did you really understand Him correctly? Did you hear Him right? Did you really? And this is what some of the liberal preachers are saying. Is the Bible really relevant for our day? The Bible is true. Yes, it's the Word of God and it was written for those people and those times, but is it for today, for our scientific time? The Bible didn't have no computer back then and the Bible didn't do that and just bring a little doubt and what do you do once you become a lukewarm Christian, you're putting one foot in the world, one foot with Christ and in the end, as somebody said, some churches make Jesus rejoice, some churches make Him angry, but there's some churches that make Him sick. And the reason the Laodicean water, he takes something relevant. I wrote a book actually on the seven letters of the churches called *God's Final Call* and he takes something relevant to that city, to that town.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Dr. Michael Youasef: And then applies it spiritually and because they had lukewarm water and he says, "You are like that water of yours. Makes me nauseous every time I look at you." And my goodness, I always cry to God. I said, "Lord, I'd rather go home to glory before I can make You sick because that is the worst thing that could happen to any believer."

Roger Marsh: Right. It's amazing when you see the number of people who are getting to the point where they're looking for, I hear Christians cite this passage a lot, I've even shared it where Jesus says, "My yoke is easy, My burden is light." Okay, that means it's a perfect fit. If you're walking a God's will, He makes the yoke of obedience, you're going to have to follow it, but it's going to be a good fit." But sometimes when challenged, we'll see the discomfort coming and say, "Well, wait a minute, 'my yoke is easy.' I don't want to be challenged. I want to be

comfortable." And your image now I will never forget of someone trying to put on a helmet and go into war in their pajamas, it's not going to happen. But this is something I think as parents with young children coming up, the world is so crazy where we have Supreme Court hearings to define the definition of male and female, which God made very clear in the Garden of Eden, this is the world we live in. So we have to be ready. It is warfare everywhere we turn.

Dr. Michael Youssef: It is a warfare and we need to be aware. There are a lot of bad things happen with COVID, but the good thing that came out of that bad thing is that parents for the first time were able to see what their kids are learning in school and as a result of that, some parents really woke up all of a sudden realize that the school system, the government school system has been hijacked now by ... And listen to this, Qatar spent \$6.6 billion on schools and universities in the United States.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Dr. Michael Youssef: I mean, just think about it. They don't do it because of our blue eyes, but they do it because they want to influence us for evil, which is Islamism. There are a lot of other organizations from Soros to money flowing around in order to indoctrinate our children and we got to be protective of them. I used to tell people, I said, "I brainwashed my kids and I say it unashamedly when they were growing up and I'm constantly, constantly, constantly basically speaking to them because I know they've been influenced hearing the stuff from school, even though they were in private schools, but they were not Christian schools." And so I always told other young fathers, "Don't apologize for brainwashing your children." The communists did not apologize for brainwashing kids for communism and we as Christians should not be ashamed of brainwashing our kids for good and for God and for their good and for His glory.

Roger Marsh: Amen. I think of Dr. Dobson describing puberty and the first few years of childhood even and saying, "Brainwashing is a natural part of it. If you're a boy, your brain gets washed with testosterone." It makes you who you are. And so in the culture that we're in right now, Dr. Michael Youssef, you are issuing a clarion call to parents and grandparents to say, "Look, make sure your kids are washed in the Word mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically, because the enemy is a roaring lion." And you mentioned this verse earlier, "seeking whom he may devour" because he's not looking to just say, "Hey, I just don't want you to be effective for God, but you just keep living your life." He wants to kill us.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Absolutely. That is his ultimate aim is our destruction. The Scripture said he came to steal and kill so that is his ultimate aim. Even though he might come across as your friend, as he did the serpent in the garden with Eve, he tried to convince her that he's really looking out for her good. And that's how he would say, God wants you to be happy, but if you're not happy and not satisfied and not fulfilled, of course, you're not really following God. So do this and you'll be happy. By that time we're already caught in his trap and that's what he sets up traps.

Roger Marsh: Yes, that's just it. I mean, He's a deceiver, he's an accuser. He doesn't bring anything good and yet it's amazing how many Christians are following the example of Lot instead of following the example of Jesus when it comes to living our lives. *Winning the Invisible War, How to Recognize Lies, Resist Temptation, and Be Victorious in Spiritual Warfare* is the newest book from Dr. Michael Youssef. And we've got a link for it up at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net). We do have a couple minutes left, Dr. Youssef. I know you've got another book that's called *An Unholy Alliance*. Can you give us a preview of that? We'll have you back on again to talk about that, but I'd love to conclude our time together with a minute or two about what that book's about.

Dr. Michael Youssef: I wrote similar kind of book 10 years ago. Most people said, "What are you talking about? "Thank God they're not saying that now because you look at England where a Christian preacher can be arrested in the streets or a senior woman gets arrested for posting anti-Islamic or anti-homosexuality on social media. But then Muslims in the thousands can block Oxford Street and supposedly praying and nobody can say anything. They basically terrified the police and you take that and you multiply it in Canada and in Australia and some other parts of the Western world and was coming here until God gave us a little bit of a reprieve, but that Islamization did not come overnight to the West. It was invited by so-called progressive liberalism or left-wing Marxism and both philosophies believe that you got to destroy what you have in order to build your utopia.

And in the end, those two groups really hate each other. They would kill each other when they get the chance, but for now they are forming an unholy alliance because their aim, common aim is the destruction of Western civilization, which was built on the reformation and the Word of God and the freedoms we have, they did not come from Marxism, they didn't come from any idea. They come from God and from going back to the Scripture. And so I think the time is coming and you look what the Muslims are doing in Deerfield, Michigan, in Minneapolis, in Patterson, New Jersey, in San Diego, in Texas, as we were talking about.

Roger Marsh: Dallas. Dallas area, yes.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Dallas and Houston too. And they just literally believe their Allah is superior and therefore he has to win. And their greatest victory is when they can buy a church that is not being attended and people selling it and turn it into a mosque.

That is their ultimate and the height of victory for them. And that's why I think now I'm seeing people waking up and that is why I wrote that book to give them tools to understand, do not be afraid because fear is their tool just like the devil's tool. And once they make police afraid, makes us afraid, we're going to kind of go back into our little halls. But no, the one thing that we must do is take the gospel to the Muslims. And I've done this, as you know, for many years in the Muslim world and we're seeing terrorists literally coming to Christ. And so the gospel is strong, the Holy Spirit is powerful and all we need to do be

obedient to take it to every corner of the globe, but certainly in the places right here in the United States.

Roger Marsh: Well, that unholy alliance is coming and what's the church going to do to respond? That's one of the reasons why you need Dr. Michael Youssef's newest book. And then his most recent one that we've been talking about today here on Family Talk, *Winning the Invisible War: How to Recognize Lies, Resist Temptation, and Be Victorious in Spiritual Warfare*, to resist that type of attack when it comes. It's all part of an amazing cycle and Dr. Michael Youssef's ministry continues to thrive now that he is not only the founder of Leading the Way, but also, I understand the chief volunteer at Leading the Way as well. Amen. I love that ministry focus. Dr. Michael Youssef, you're a treasure.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Thank you.

Roger Marsh: We appreciate you so much. Thanks for being with us today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Thank you, Roger Marsh. God bless you, brother. Appreciate being with you.

Roger Marsh: Well, the gospel is strong. The Holy Spirit is powerful. And all we need to do is be obedient. You're listening to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, where we featured part two of my conversation with Dr. Michael Youssef about navigating the spiritual battle in our culture, our churches, and especially in our homes. This brand-new book is called *Winning the Invisible War: How to Recognize Lies, Resist Temptation, and Be Victorious in Spiritual Warfare*. It's available now, and we have a link for it up at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net). And if you missed any part of today's broadcast, or if you'd like to go back to listen to part one along with part two as well, you'll be able to do that there. That's [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net).

The Dr. James Dobson Family Institute exists to introduce as many people as possible to the gospel of Jesus Christ, to stand for the sanctity of human life, and to defend religious freedom while promoting the biblical principles on which strong marriages and families are built. Your gift today will carry that mission forward, and you can give a gift securely online at [JDFI.net](http://JDFI.net). That's [JDFI.net](http://JDFI.net), or if you prefer, [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org). You can also call a member of our constituent care team. They'll be happy to take your request at 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for joining us today. 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.

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

With today's Dr. Dobson Minute, here's Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. James Dobson: The year was 1962, and General Douglas MacArthur was by then an old man. MacArthur had returned to his beloved West Point with these reflective thoughts. "But in the evening of my memory, I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: duty, honor, country. Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps and the Corps and the Corps." General Douglas MacArthur died less than two years later on April 5th, 1964. And it seems fitting that we who enjoy the sweet benefits of freedom pause as we celebrate Memorial Day to honor him and all those soldiers, sailors, and airmen who died in the defense of duty, honor, country.

Roger Marsh: For more information, visit [drdobsonminute.org](http://drdobsonminute.org).