



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Love Like You've Never Been Hurt: Hope, Healing and the Power of an Open Heart – Part 1

Guest(s): Pastor Jentezen Franklin

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Jentezen Franklin: I'm Jentezen Franklin and you're listening to Family Talk, a radio ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute.

Roger Marsh: Well, greetings and welcome to Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh, and today on the broadcast we're going to share Dr. Dobson's 2018 conversation with Pastor Jentezen Franklin.

Jentezen Franklin is the senior pastor of Free Chapel in Gainesville, Georgia. His program, Kingdom Connection, is a weekly broadcast that airs on numerous Christian television networks all over the world.

Jentezen Franklin is a *New York Times* best-selling author. He has written 10 books, including *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt* and *The Fearless Life*. Jentezen and his wife, Cherise, have five children and four grandchildren. In 2018, Pastor Franklin visited the Family Talk Studios to discuss his book *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt*. He and Dr. Dobson had met for the first time earlier that year when they traveled to Israel together with a group of evangelical leaders.

Today, you'll hear Jentezen Franklin and Dr. Dobson recall their memories of that momentous trip. He will also share some of his personal testimony as well, so let's listen in right now.

Dr. James Dobson: I'm absolutely delighted to have a guest here today who is already known by millions of people around the world. He hosts a weekly TV broadcast called Kingdom Connection, that's on in nearly 250 countries around the world. He is also a senior pastor at Free Chapel in Atlanta, Georgia, where 13,000 people worship each week. He speaks, I think, three or four times every Sunday morning. This man is working hard, and the Lord is using everything he's doing. I'm speaking of Jentezen Franklin, let me just say that he flew across country to be with us today, for which I am very appreciative.

Jentezen, I really am pleased that you came. You're a busy man. People already know who you are. I'm just getting acquainted with you, and you're one of those people whom I feel like I've known for a lifetime, even though we've really

only known each other since June. Do you remember where it was that we got acquainted?

Jentezen Franklin: I do.

First of all, I've known you a whole lot longer than you've known me, because I was listening to you. I remember one of my fondest memories of you, quite frankly, is when I was going to college. I used to drive about an hour to the campus where I went to school, and I was pursuing music, I was a music major, I was on full scholarship. I play saxophone and play jazz, and I would listen on my radio to your radio ministry and that's where I met you. It was my daily routine, every day. It just so happened when I was traveling, I was listening to you, and I sure do honor you, and I'm sure honored to be here.

Dr. James Dobson: Isn't it interesting how radio can put you in touch with people? I didn't meet you for a long, long time, but you knew me.

Jentezen Franklin: I felt like I knew you like a father. There were times when sometimes I'd be laughing at some of the things and some of the guests, and then other times I'd be wiping tears while I was driving that car, because of the... You've always had that ability to touch people's hearts with truth, and it comes right through that radio. It's amazing what God has done.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, it's really a pleasure to get better acquainted with you. As a matter of fact, we had an opportunity to be together for 10 or 12 hours on the way to Israel. We didn't choose to sit together, but the Lord chose it, and that was a very meaningful time together. I was in tears during part of that conversation, and I think you were, too.

Jentezen Franklin: I just never dreamed that I would have that opportunity to have James Dobson pinned in on the inside seat, and to get the wisdom that you sow. I didn't want to be like a stalker and bother you, but you are such a kind person, and what people hear on the radio is who you really are. I began to just probe and ask a couple questions that I had to ask, and I don't know, I think I hit the gold vein or something, because you began to pour out wisdom in those few hours that... And then I let you go to sleep eventually, but I tell you, I'll never forget those conversations, the stories that you shared, and the wisdom, the incredible wisdom.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, you're very kind.

We were on our way to Israel, as I said, that was one of the finest trips that I've ever been on.

Jentezen Franklin: It was unbelievable.

Dr. James Dobson: How'd you feel about it?

Jentezen Franklin: Unbelievable. We went there as guests of the Israeli government, and we met with the Prime Minister. We met with many other dignitaries.

Dr. James Dobson: The mayor of Jerusalem.

Jentezen Franklin: The mayor of Jerusalem, and to see what is happening and to know that our administration was willing to move that embassy to Jerusalem and make Jerusalem the capital, recognized for the first time in history by America, was just unreal.

Dr. James Dobson: They gave us eight helicopters. There were 29 in our group.

Jentezen Franklin: One of the things that still stand out to me that people just don't get unless you go there is when they took us in those helicopters to the border, were Syria, and the Russians are there, and Syria is there and ISIS is there. And they showed us, we could see the flag of ISIS from a distance and people don't realize the enemies that are on the border at the door of that tiny nation of Israel, and how critical it is that we have a government that stands with Israel.

Dr. James Dobson: I was deeply touched spiritually during that time. You remember when one of those helicopters stopped just south outside the ruins of the synagogue where Mary Magdalene worshiped, wasn't that incredible?

Jentezen Franklin: It was.

Dr. James Dobson: And the pathway in front of where that synagogue was leads right down to the Galilee, and Jesus had to have walked right past there, and no doubt attended that synagogue.

All eight of the helicopters took us into the Golan Heights, and into the place where Israel had one of its major battles against Syria. I think that may have been the Six-Day war. I'm not sure.

Jentezen Franklin: You're correct.

Dr. James Dobson: And the general, the commanding general for that battle, was with us up on the hill, looking down on what took place. And the Syrians had as many as 10 times as many tanks as the Israelis did, and that general stood there, commander, told us, "I moved here and I moved there" and he was able to describe that entire battle, and of course Israel not only won it, but he drove off the remaining tanks that were there. That was deeply emotional for me.

Jentezen Franklin: And we were standing there, and they even had some of the tanks still out there that had been blown up, Russian tanks that were out there, and to realize that God defends Israel, that He said, "No weapon formed against you were prosper and that I'll bless those that bless Israel, and I'll fight those that fight it."

Dr. James Dobson: It would not be there today if the Lord's hand had not been on them, because...

Jentezen Franklin: No doubt.

Dr. James Dobson: They were outgunned outnumbered. They had Russian military equipment and everything and the Lord simply intervened.

Jentezen Franklin: A thousand tanks, if I remember right.

Dr. James Dobson: Yes.

Jentezen Franklin: They were fighting against the thousand tanks and they only had maybe a hundred.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, we don't have time to review the entire trip, but it was unbelievable. I would like to make reference to the fact that I had been there 25 years before, I haven't been back since 1993. And while our group was going through Hezekiah's Tunnel, I have a little claustrophobia, so I went and met with the chief rabbi at that time.

Jentezen Franklin: Wow.

Dr. James Dobson: And Rabbi Lau, and he turns out to be the same chief rabbi that we met with in Jerusalem. And it's absolutely amazing, because he stood up there and talked about some of those wonderful events that have taken place to make them the nation that they are today.

But anyway, you, and I, and I think 27 other people were able to spend those seven days. It wore me out. Did it you? I came home exhausted and caught pneumonia when I got home.

Jentezen Franklin: I didn't know that. I'm sorry to hear that. It was exhausting, but it was unforgettable and I'm just thrilled at what's going on in Israel.

Dr. James Dobson: Jentezen, I'm thrilled by what God is doing in your life. Don't you look around every now and then and say, "What in the world is God doing here?" You're all over the place, 250 countries and running back and forth across the United States and the Lord has poured out His blessings on you.

Jentezen Franklin: He has. I'm from eastern North Carolina. I lived in a cornfield, my parents lived there for a while. My granddad had 28 children. My mother has 27 brothers and sisters.

Dr. James Dobson: You're kidding.

Jentezen Franklin: No, sir. And so he was a very blessed man. He was a prayerful man. Reminds me a lot when I hear the stories of your father, my grandfather, was that he was a

businessman, very astute businessman, and he had a sawmill and he owned a lot of real estate. He had thousands and thousands of acres, and he sent every one of those 28 children through college, many of them CPAs, teachers, and business people.

And the bottom line on it is he started a faith blessing on my family, my grandfather. I can remember going home for Christmas, and he built a beautiful home there. Of course, when you have that many children, it's a large estate. And he honored God, he was a tither, he was a man of prayer, he went to church religiously on Sunday and honored God, and that got passed down, I believe, in those generational blessings and I think a lot of the things that I walk in today, the blessings, the favor that God has given me, I don't even earn it or deserve it, it's just probably granddaddy and daddy and some of those people, my mother, have stored up prayers.

Dr. James Dobson: See, my family goes, the Christian faith, goes back to my great-grandfather who was a minister, and so was my grandfather, and my grandmother, and my father, and I'm the first one in four generations that haven't been specifically called into the ministry. But as we sit here talking about the Lord, I somehow think maybe the Lord is smiling at me, or at least my grandfather is.

Jentezen Franklin: If you're not in the ministry, I don't want to be in the ministry trying. If you, honestly...

Dr. James Dobson: Your father was a minister.

Jentezen Franklin: Yes, yes he was. And being from Eastern North Carolina, just little bitty towns and to go all over the world and preach, I tell people I'm as country as cornbread, that's all I've ever known, but I truly am amazed at God's ability to raise us up. And He looks for the heart, He looks for a heart that God blesses where His reputation is safe, and we're doing our best to do it right and learn from people just like you, who have done it right for many years.

Roger Marsh: Well, you're listening to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh. Just jumping in for a brief moment here.

First, I want to thank you so much for tuning in. Today we are listening to a classic episode featuring Dr. Dobson and his conversation with Pastor Jentezen Franklin of Free Chapel in Gainesville, Georgia. Dr. Dobson and Pastor Franklin first met in 2018 on a trip they took with other evangelical leaders to the Holy Land. That trip had a profound impact on both of these men and they spent the first half of today's program reminiscing about what they experienced.

In this next half, pastor Franklin will share his story about his early years and how he came to be a Christian. So now let's rejoin Dr. James Dobson and his guest pastor Jentezen Franklin right now on Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Tell me about your salvation experience. How old were you and how did it happen?

Jentezen Franklin: When I really feel like I just turned everything over to the Lord, I was 16, and I went through a little time being a pastor's kid, a preacher's kid. I wanted to see what was on the other side. I wanted to taste and see my senior year, and so I wanted to try this and try that, and I did a little bit of that. I was not a very successful sinner, because I think my parents put so much prayer on me. My friends would do things and they wouldn't get caught. I'd do any little thing and everybody and their brother would know about it, and my mom would get a call before I could get home.

So it really stacked against me, but that's a real lesson to people listening is keep praying for your family. Keep holding them up. I told somebody one time, I said, "My friends would get high, and they would see pink elephants and psychedelic colors. I would get high, and I'd see Moses and Elijah." I felt like it. I was always terrified that Jesus was going to come back in the middle of my party or something.

Dr. James Dobson: So where did the deeper walk come?

Jentezen Franklin: It happened one Friday night in a revival. A missionary was speaking at dad's church from Trinidad, I'll never forget it. His name was Ramkison, Pastor Ramkison and he was a missionary from Trinidad. And I was sitting in the back row, still in a rebellious state, but something he said just touched my heart. I don't even remember what it was. It was the spirit and the heart of the man that reached me, and I couldn't stand it anymore, and he gave an invitation, and I went down to the altar. I was gloriously saved. I never looked back. I never turned back.

I decided if I'm going to live for the Lord, I'm going to go all the way. Then I started really my second year of college. I felt this dissatisfaction about... I love music, still do, but I knew there was more. I felt a call to preach, and I began fasting about it. I just began to fast. I don't know why I started fasting. I didn't know that much about it.

Dr. James Dobson: As a new Christian, you were fasting?

Jentezen Franklin: I read it in the Bible after three days of fasting, I just knew that I knew that I knew God had called me to preach and I went back and told my dad and he said, "If, you can do anything else, and do it, and feel like you can go to Heaven, you should do that, but if you can't, then you're truly called and you need to obey God, son." And so I knew that was what I was supposed to do and I haven't ever looked back.

Dr. James Dobson: Where did you start?

Jentezen Franklin: I preached a revival. My brother was an evangelist, he was a preacher, and he had graduated from college, and he asked me to travel with him one summer I played piano, too, and I would do music for him before he would preach. He let me preach my first sermon in his revival, and boy, it was pitiful.

Dr. James Dobson: What'd you preach on?

Jentezen Franklin: I preached from Philippians chapter three, "Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching for what is ahead." My big point in it was sometimes you don't just need a good memory, you need a good forgettery, and the Lord wants you to forget some things and reach for some new things.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you ever look around again and just say, "Lord, what are you doing here?"

Jentezen Franklin: About four weeks ago we had an annual conference we do called Forward Conference there in Atlanta at the Infinite Arena. It's about 14,000 teenagers, Millennials, there. And the place was packed. It was sold out, they'd come from all over the nation and I was about to go out to preach, and it just moved me to tears. I found myself very emotional, and I'm glad I pulled it together to know that God just uses ordinary people sometimes we think we've got to be sensational, and got to be spectacular, but God told Moses "What's in your hand?" "It's just an ordinary stick."

When he relinquished it and gave it to God, He made it into something supernatural. But the greatest part of that story to me, Dr. Dobson, is when he picked that thing up that God had used so supernaturally, that stick, it went from being a snake back to a stick. And one time I preached a message that the greatest miracle is not that God can take you, and use you in a phenomenal way, but can you go back to being a stick? Can you go back to being ordinary, and normal, and humble after the Lord uses you in a miraculous way?

Dr. James Dobson: And raises you up?

Jentezen Franklin: That's it.

Dr. James Dobson: See, you said very nice things about me a few minutes ago, and I'm always a little uncomfortable with that, because I remember my humble beginnings. My dad was a minister, and you don't have a whole lot to live on when that occurs. And Shirley and I got married, both of us teaching school, and we see ourselves the way we were then. We see ourselves as just Jim and Shirley, a little couple that fell in love, and got married, and the Lord blessed their relationship.

And I don't feel that anything that's happened to me, and some of it has been breathtaking, had a lot to do with me. I think it was really a product of my dad's prayer life, because the Lord made promises to him about his son, me. And so I just say, "Lord, I don't want to mess it up."

Billy Graham was interviewed, I think, by the Los Angeles Times when he first broke in as an evangelist, and everybody was talking about him and they asked him, I read this, I never forgot it. They asked him, "What is your greatest fear?"

And he said, "My greatest fear is that the Lord will raise me up, and make me visible, and influential, and I will do something to disappoint the Lord, and hurt the kingdom."

Jentezen Franklin: That's powerful.

Dr. James Dobson: And that has stuck with me. This was really early, and I feel that way today. I could still mess it up.

Jentezen Franklin: Me, too. And I think the most dangerous time in a person's life is when they have nothing and when they have everything. Particularly I think the greater test is when God does raise you up and bless you.

And for me, one time when I was fasting, I felt like the Lord was impressing upon my heart that is dangerous to have a growing ministry and a shrinking passion for God. It really is, because...

Dr. James Dobson: He'll bring you down.

Jentezen Franklin: We are not created to handle that. We have to constantly go back to our source and why He trusted us in the first place.

Dr. James Dobson: I think of Hezekiah, and you remember he had pleased the Lord in his whole life. There's no record of anything that he did that was not in keeping with God's will, until he came time to die, and he was lying on his bed, and he was crying, and he was looking at the wall and you were saying, "Lord, I don't want to die. Give me more time." And the Lord gave him 15 years more, and in that 15 years he angered the Lord.

There he was. He should have been dead, he should have died. He was set to die, and the Lord's going to let him die, and then he begged for more time, and he got 15 more years and during that 15 years, he opened his treasury, and he showed the Egyptians his gold.

Jentezen Franklin: Wow.

Dr. James Dobson: He didn't have any right to even be there, and he's bragging about it, and God will not tolerate pride, man. He will... I don't care who you are.

Jentezen Franklin: That's right.

Dr. James Dobson: You think you're big stuff. He will cut the legs out from under. You start doing that.

Jentezen Franklin: That is so good and such a lesson that everybody that has experienced any kind of success in their life need to hear over, and over, and over again to be careful, to give God the glory and to need Him as much as you needed Him when you started. I think that's why fasting is a powerful thing to me, because when I feel myself becoming mechanical, when I feel myself just walking in...

Dr. James Dobson: Going through the motion.

Jentezen Franklin: Going through the motions, if I'll fast from sunup to sundown, or even a half a day or skip lunch, it's amazing how quick your sensitivity back to God, your heart, back to God and His spirit, it's just quickened, and we always have to guard that.

Dr. James Dobson: Well we're talking to Reverend, Jentezen Franklin, and we had intended to talk about your book, and if you'll stay with us, we'll talk about that next time.

Jentezen Franklin: I'd love to.

Dr. James Dobson: The title of the book is *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt*. Boy, that's a really interesting title, because it's got a story within it, the occasions when you really love someone, you're most vulnerable to them, and that's what you're talking about, isn't it?

Jentezen Franklin: That's it.

Dr. James Dobson: *Love like You've Never Been Hurt*. We'll talk about that next time. Thank you for coming to be with us. You're going to stay for another broadcast, and I'm delighted that you're here. Give your wife and your family my regards. Shirley gives hers to you. God's blessings to you, Jentezen.

Jentezen Franklin: Love you. Bless you.

Dr. James Dobson: And may He continue to bless you and we'll talk together next time.

Roger Marsh: Pastor Jentezen Franklin and Dr. James Dobson have reminded us that God honors the humble and causes the proud to fall, and we all would be wise to remember and meditate on that truth. It's also important to honor God with everything we do for Him to receive His glory. If you enjoyed today's program and I sure hope you have, be sure to join us again tomorrow for the conclusion of Dr. Dobson's conversation with Pastor Jentezen Franklin here on Family Talk.

Now, if you'd like to learn more about Pastor Jentezen Franklin, his books and his ministry, visit our broadcast page at drjamesdobbson.org/familytalk or simply visit the Family Talk app. Remember, you can also give us a call. Our number is 877-732-6825.

Election Day is almost upon us, and as each day passes, the future of our nation becomes more and more uncertain. You might be listening right now and you've got your vote packet all filled out and ready to pop in the mail, or perhaps you're voting soon and you'll be taking advantage of early voting where you live, and many of our listeners still prefer to go to the polls on November 5th, and that's a good way to vote as well. If you have yet to vote, please prayerfully consider biblical values and principles when making your choice, and here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we've done a lot of that work for you. You can check out our voting resources at drjamesdobbson.org/countdown-to-decision-2024. You can sign up to download our free voter guide, you can watch episodes of our Countdown to Decision 2024 podcast.

The latest installment, by the way, features Allie Beth Stuckey, and previous guests include Kirk Cameron, Eric Metaxas, Riley Gaines, and others. Again, for more information on how to watch the episodes of the Countdown to Decision 2024 podcast or to sign up to download our free voter guide, go to drjamesdobbson.org/countdown-to-decision-2024.

I'm Roger Marsh and you've been listening to Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love. Be sure to join us again next time when Dr. Dobson continues his conversation with Pastor Jentezen Franklin talking about his book called *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt: Hope, Healing, and the Power of An Open Heart*, that's coming up next time right here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer:

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