



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: The Warfighters Mission – Part 3

Guest(s): Brandon Cabalar

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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.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome friends to another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love. I'm Roger Marsh. Welcome to the special edition of the program, part three of our new three-part series featuring Dr. James Dobson's conversation with Brandon Cabalar. Now, if you missed the first two broadcasts in this series, you can go back to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and find them there.

Brandon plays a key role here at the ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. He's an integral part of what happens behind the scenes here at the JDFI, but prior to joining our ministry, he also played a vital role in defending and serving our country. First as a member of the United States Air Force and then as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. After over a decade of active duty, Brandon now continues to serve our country, but this time his tour of duty is a calling to help veterans who need to heal from the emotional, physical, and even spiritual wounds these servicemen and women sustained during their time of combat. Brandon Cabalar is the founder and director of a brand new ministry called The Warfighters Mission. You'll find a link for thewarfightersmission.com up at our website, drjamesdobson.org. And we're going to learn more about this organization even more today as a matter of fact.

Brandon and his wife Tanya have been married nearly 20 years and they are the parents of seven daughters. That's right, seven beautiful little girls. They make their home here in the Colorado Springs area and we are so grateful to have Brandon here to talk about this vital issue, this vital aspect of ministry. Of course, Dr. Dobson has a very special war story of his own. If you go to drjamesdobson.org and search our archives, you can hear me reading a very special letter he wrote about when he had been drafted into the army and when he was given leave at Christmastime and tried to make his way home. It's a very, very powerful and poignant story you won't want to miss. You'll find that at drjamesdobson.org as well. And now let's get into part three of Dr. James Dobson's conversation with Brandon Cabalar talking about The Warfighters Mission right here on Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: An interesting way, I've come a different path that you have and I have not been through what you've been through. I certainly have not. I was in the army, but I didn't go through what you've gone through and yet that is what motivated me with Focus on the Family and Family Talk because I wanted to save those guys too and women too. And I wanted to provide an answer because there is one and his name is Jesus.

Brandon Cabalar: He is, and that's why we're just so happy-

Dr. James Dobson: That's why I started radio, to introduce people to Christ, to help them save their families, keep them from committing suicide or whatever it is they're chasing. And I have the same passion that you have because those answers are there. And I think of these poor guys that are out there. I knew them in the army too. I saw them all around. They're lost. Their greatest passion in life was to get a leave of absence or go on a weekend and get drunk and get in a good night fight or something that's just stupid, absolutely stupid. Come back and wet all over the couch and the bed in front of you. Do stupid things of that nature. And I looked at it and I just said, "Man, there's something wrong here." And there's really only one answer, only one.

Brandon Cabalar: Indeed.

Dr. James Dobson: The Lord wanted you, Brandon. He wanted you before you wanted Him and He spoke to you and you accepted it and your life has been totally different. You've got a sweet wife, you've got seven beautiful girls, maybe more to come.

Brandon Cabalar: Lord willing.

Dr. James Dobson: How many suicides have come out of your personal friends?

Brandon Cabalar: Doctor, I can't even count anymore. I can't count it on one hand. I can't count it on two hands. I can't count it on my hands and my feet. That's how much. It's been hard and I'm not going to lie to you because there's points when... Just a couple months ago I just heard of another one and this is why I do what I do because the Lord saved my life. He saved me to the point where I got tired and fed up with these guys doing it and I don't want to see this happen anymore. The struggle every day is real for these guys and they don't understand that they have one person, one thing that can save them to help them. That's our Lord. I wish they could just understand that. And the other thing is their families are suffering because of that. I saw my family... The Lord showed me that if I did this, my family would've suffered just as much as theirs and I didn't want that.

Dr. James Dobson: That's where you were headed.

Brandon Cabalar: I was headed for that and He saved me from that. And I see my friends, I see their wives and I see their kids. I can just see them suffering and living their lives

without their dad, living their lives without their husband, living their lives without their sons because they chose that route instead of trusting in the Lord.

Dr. James Dobson: Some of them listen to you.

Brandon Cabalar: I do talk to one-

Dr. James Dobson: You talk to people, then you say to them, "I've been there and I've done that. I know exactly how you feel. There's a better way."

Brandon Cabalar: There is. And they do listen. I maintain contact with a lot of my battle buddies, that it surprised me sometimes because I'll look on Facebook and I'll see, "Hey, I turned my life to Christ. I turned my life to Christ because of this. I did this." And that just is such the greatest joy seeing that. And maybe it's from me, maybe it's not. Either way, I don't care as long as they're turning their lives.

Dr. James Dobson: Brandon, I am thinking as you're speaking of people who this is touching out there, there's a lot of somebodies who are going through something similar to what you went through and they're thinking, if the Lord can help you, maybe He can also help me. How do I find Him or better yet for now, how do I find you? Would you help me?

Brandon Cabalar: Of course, you can find us right now on thewarfightersmission.com. You can also find us on Facebook, just search The Warfighters Mission. And that's where our two big platforms are. We are based in Colorado as of right now, but that's not stopping us from expanding everything else. My ministry is open to everybody. It's not just people that are in Colorado. We're trying to do ministry online as well and trying to reach others because that's just... I don't stop at anybody. If somebody needs me, my phone's going to be on 24/7, but just contacting us on either the website or Facebook and I'll reach out. It's never going to stop-

Dr. James Dobson: I'm thinking of that young person who is wounded and we talked about him. Will you reject me or will you find that you can work in my life? Are you willing to do that? Because I'm a piece of work.

Brandon Cabalar: I will not reject anybody. I don't care. God has put this on my heart that I'm in the season of loving everyone, like I said, and you repeated before, doctor, I wasn't always the nicest person. I never really loved on anybody, and now I'm in this point of my life where I don't care who you are, I don't care what you think, I'm going to love on you and I'm going to accept you. I'm going to take you in under my wing just to talk, that needs to know that they're not alone. Obviously God is the reason why we're doing this and God has put me in that position to take it. I mean, I've gotten to the point where I'm actually becoming a pastor myself because of this, because I want people to understand that you're not alone. You're going to be under my wing and I'm going to take care of you.

Dr. James Dobson: You made reference to being healed from something. It was a wound heal. It was a leg wound, I think. Explain what you were talking about. There's a miracle there and I want to hear it.

Brandon Cabalar: There is. So from 2014 I was in a wheelchair due to all the nerve damage that I was going through.

Dr. James Dobson: How did they get injured?

Brandon Cabalar: Being multiple tours, being blown up multiple times, being training and falling, different things just kind of broke my nerves to the point where they started compressing up in my spine and I couldn't feel the bottom of my feet. I couldn't feel my legs. I couldn't feel anything other than pressure at points. And so I was in a wheelchair. The VA couldn't figure out what was going on. I started kind of walking in 2018, so that's four years. I started-

Dr. James Dobson: You were in a wheelchair for four years?

Brandon Cabalar: Four years I was in a wheelchair. 2018, I started kind of walking. I still couldn't feel the bottoms of my feet. I still couldn't feel parts of my legs except for pressure. I started walking with a cane and a walker at points. I mean, I've stepped on things that my feet were bleeding and I didn't even know it. And then in 2019, 2020, my body started breaking down again to the point where I got back in the wheelchair and I still couldn't feel anything. It got to the point where I just couldn't feel anything, period from the waist down. It was just really, really hard.

In 2022-ish, we were going to our friend's church and he was like, "Hey, you mind if we try something? We would like to pray over you and anoint you with oil and pray for the sick like they do in the Bible and what Jesus taught." And I said, "Well, the VA can't figure it out. It doesn't hurt with Jesus. If He can figure it out, that'd be awesome. If not, I'm not going to hold it against anybody else, so why not?" And so they prayed for a good 20 minutes I want to say, but they laid hands on me. At first, I didn't know what that meant. I thought they wanted to fight.

Apparently that's not what laying hands in the church means, but they laid hands on me, on my legs, on my body, on my head. They were praying for me for 20 minutes, and I kid you not doctor, as soon as they were done, it was like I felt this heat in my body, in my legs that I'd never felt before. And for the first time since 2014, I was feeling my legs again. I started feeling things in my legs and the next morning I swung my feet out like I wasn't ever in a wheelchair.

Dr. James Dobson: Unbelievable.

Brandon Cabalar: That is the power of God. And this is why I say, how can you not believe that God exists? How can you not believe in miracles when I mean I'm running?

Dr. James Dobson: What a miracle.

Brandon Cabalar: It is.

Dr. James Dobson: Were you injured in a...

Brandon Cabalar: It was multiple injuries.

Dr. James Dobson: What damaged you? Was it the explosion?

Brandon Cabalar: Explosions. I mean, there was one where I fell out of a tower, climbing up a tower to go check on some guys, and tower got hit and I fell right off the tower and hurt my back, had a bad concussion.

Dr. James Dobson: Didn't I read that you have had maybe 14 explosions?

Brandon Cabalar: More than that.

Dr. James Dobson: More than that?

Brandon Cabalar: Yeah. But that's a part of who we are as infantry, as combat arms. That's what we go out and do. I'm not better than anybody else. It's just I was in the wrong places at the wrong times or maybe it was the wrong places in God's times, but I'm still here. The miracle is that I'm alive, I'm still breathing and God clearly did that for me.

Dr. James Dobson: And you still have seven little girls.

Brandon Cabalar: I still have seven little girls, and if God wills it, we'll have more.

Dr. James Dobson: And you can pick them up and carry them.

Brandon Cabalar: I can. That is like the greatest feeling in the world is being able to actually go to the park, go do things with them and not have to be constrained to a wheelchair and watch them.

Dr. James Dobson: That's the real miracle.

Brandon Cabalar: I mean, being able to just play with our little ones. We actually went out and did, it's called a trunk or treat, but you walk around and the kids go to the trunks of cars and they get candy and stuff, and being able to actually just do that is truly amazing. I mean, even my mind has been a lot better. Three years ago, even the sound of just fireworks was hard for me, and now I get to enjoy it and stand outside and pop fireworks and stuff for celebrating our country. I get to do that and I get to stand out there and see the kids being happy and not even worry about it. That I think has been the biggest joy for me, is just being able to spend time with my kids that enjoy what they like.

Dr. James Dobson: That's what I saw when I first became acquainted with you. I saw something that had happened to you and I didn't know where you'd been, but I know where you are now and I'm grateful for it.

Brandon Cabalar: I'm grateful as well. I mean, I keep thinking about the first question. One of the first questions you asked me is, "Well, if our house was on fire, can you pick both of us up?" And I said, "Without a doubt, I could put both of you on my back and we'll run with it."

Dr. James Dobson: I wasn't planning on that happening, by the way.

Brandon Cabalar: No, no. We are not planning. But that is just my dedication to you as well, doctor. I'll be here until either the Lord calls me to say, "Hey, it's time for you to move on."

Dr. James Dobson: What if I have to carry you?

Brandon Cabalar: Well then I think we got problems at that point, but I'll always stand with you, doctor, and I'll pick you up whenever you need me to.

Dr. James Dobson: The Lord's got a plan for you. Let's ask our listeners to pray that He will help you fulfill that vision you've got now to reach out to these guys that are so lost, their wives are lost, their children are lost, and if you can save one of them, you've done more than you would've accomplished in the rest of your life. Can you right now ask the Lord to help you reach those people that you feel burdened for and ask our listeners to join you in that?

Brandon Cabalar: Absolutely. Father God, I just come before you today and I just say thank you. Thank you for giving me a second chance, a third chance, a fourth chance, how many chances you ever gave me, Lord, I just thank you. I thank you for saving my life and putting my family in there because they have been such a great part of mine. We ask that you just continue to find those lost sheep and help them and guide them, Lord, like you did with me. Just continue to try to help find them and use me, Lord, use me as your vessel to help these veterans that are struggling, use me to guide them as that shepherd was looking for that sheep, Lord, and I just need one, and even if you give me one, I'll continue to ask for another one and another and another until the kingdom is full and these guys are no longer doing this to themselves.

Lord, we just pray that you continue to be with us and be with this mission. We know that this is your plan, Lord, that you're the one that put this in motion. You are working on this from the beginning and you're continuing to just continue to work on this. And so we just ask Lord that you bring these guys peace, you bring these service members comfort and more importantly, bring them to somebody that will bring them closer to you, Lord. And we just want to grow your kingdom with these folks and we just pray all these things that you can only do, Lord. PTSD is a strong effect on all of us, especially us combat

veterans that deal with all this, Lord. You're the great physician, Lord. You can heal that. Only you can do that. Nobody else, not the VA, not anybody. You can heal it, Lord. And so we're just asking that you reach out to them and you put your hands on them and you be with them and again, be with us as we continue to do your mission. In Jesus' name we pray.

Dr. James Dobson: And Heavenly Father, I want to pray for a particular person out there that you have laid upon my heart. I don't know him or her, but it's probably her. It's probably a mother or a wife who has lost husband or son and they don't know where to turn. Lord, you have the answer for every problem. Not only do we ask that you reach out to that one where Brandon used to be, but to that family member whose given up and whose heart is breaking. Lord, heal that family, I pray and bring them together. That wife who longs to be loved by the one she married, give her hope that you can bring him home and bring them back together. Lord, what greater prayer can we pray than that for all of these lonely broken men usually who are out there and they think the only thing that they can do is drink and do drugs and pornography and every other thing that will only mess them up more?

Thank you for this prayer today, and thank you for this time with Brandon today. Lord, he's a good man. You laid him on my heart and I pray when he gets at a point of despair at some point, perhaps go back, take him back to the place where he found you in the first place. And he has ministered to me, may he now minister to hundreds and maybe thousands more. Give him fruit from the vineyard, I pray. Keep him in the palm of your hand. And Lord, I pray you'll lay these men on your heart so that there will be prayer warriors out there that are doing what we're doing today. Thank you for this time with Brandon. Lord, he's become a real friend to me. And I am grateful that he knows you. In thy name, we ask these things. Amen.

Brandon Cabalar: Amen.

Roger Marsh: Amen indeed. What a beautiful prayer from Dr. James Dobson, the perfect way to end this powerful three-part conversation on this edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, our three-part series on The Warfighters Mission, featuring the founder and director of that outstanding ministry, Brandon Cabalar. If you missed any part of this program, remember you can find all of our archived material on the JDFI app. You can also listen online at your own convenience. Go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and you can find that information there as well. Also, you'll learn more about The Warfighters Mission. thewarfightersmission.com is the website that we have linked up at drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

Now, we've been teasing Brandon a little bit and his wife Tanya, the fact that they're the parents of seven daughters, all of whom were in studio with us today, by the way, and we've got some wonderful pictures of Dr. Dobson and the whole Cabalar family up on our website as well.

Dr. Dobson wrote a book years ago, the seminal work called *Bringing Up Girls*, and it sold well over a million copies and it helped literally millions of parents and daughters have a better parent-child experience during those adolescent and teenage years. Of course, the world has changed a lot, but these biblical principles have not, and yet it's amazing how a new generation is discovering Dr. Dobson's timeless principles. Now, Dr. Owen Strachan is the senior director of the new Dobson Culture Center, and he's working with Dr. Dobson to add a couple of new fresh ideas to the Bringing Up Girls curriculum, and you'll find them all in a brand new 10-day email series called Bringing Up Girls.

You can sign up absolutely free to start receiving this tender and precious and powerful biblical advice simply by going to our website at drjamesdobson.org. Click on the link there for the Bringing Up Girls 10-day email series. Give us your name and email address. Hit the submit button, and then you will start receiving these one selection each and every day. It features an excerpt from the Bringing Up Girls book, some practical principles for application even today, and as I mentioned, some of the newer cultural issues involving the LGBTQ community and transgenderism courtesy of Dr. Owen Strachan. The Bringing Up Girls 10-day email series is yours absolutely free when you go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and click the link at the bottom of today's broadcast page.

Well, thanks so much for praying for us and interacting with us each and every day on the air and online, whether it be through Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media platform you find us on. Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk is a listener-supported broadcast outreach and we really covet your prayers and faithful financial support. You can give a gift online at drjamesdobson.org. You can give a gift over the phone when you call 877-732-6825. Or you can give a gift through the US Postal Service, address your tax-deductible donation to The Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The zip code, 80949.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for listening today. Be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer:

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