



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** Winning the Invisible War – Part 1

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

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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, each day the headlines warn us about the imminent danger of war, whether it's the potential for an attack in Venezuela to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine from Israel and the Middle East to the impending uprising in Iran. It seems like just about everybody, everyone alive on planet Earth today is at risk of potentially being impacted by some kind of military offensive. As Christians, it can sometimes be a bit daunting to watch these scenarios unfold and then we wonder where is God in the midst of all the chaos. But did you know that for the body of Christ, the warfare we often hope to avoid is actually taking place right now all around us and that we are right in the middle of it. On today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, we're going to take a closer look at the spiritual warfare that not only impacts the world, but more specifically is aimed straight at us.

I'm Roger Marsh and our guest today on Family Talk is a man who is most uniquely qualified to address the geopolitical ramifications of what's taking place on the surface. He is also, first and foremost, an expert on spiritual warfare that is raging all over the world. Dr. Michael Youssef, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. It's good to see you again, my friend.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Thank you so much, Roger. Thank you for having me. Appreciate that. And as you know, Dr. Dobson was very dear to me and a great encourager. I will never forget him coming all the way across once to Florida, once in Atlanta to speak for events of Leading the Way and just encourage me through the years and I'll never forget that. I'm grateful to him.

Roger Marsh: He had such a love for you and your ministry and appreciation for what you did as well. We were talking before we started this broadcast today just off mic about how when we had a chance to do a face-to-face, your travel schedule was going to bring you to Colorado Springs. It was a real needle in a haystack type of thing, but we were able to do it. And Doctor's eyes just lit up said, "Oh, I can't wait to see Michael again." I'm sorry that it didn't work out for that, but we're grateful that you're here today to share with us about your brand-new book about *Winning the Invisible War* and you've got another book on *An Unholy Alliance*. Very prolific in this season of life, Dr. Michael Youssef, and yet you've

also handed over the reins or made the plans for handing over the reins to Church of the Apostles. Talk about what's happening in your world ministry-wise and personally.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Sure. 39 years ago, the Lord laid it on my heart, actually almost 40 years ago now, to plant a church here in Atlanta. And I really didn't know where to go, but God very clearly said, "You just start and I will take care of it." And sure enough, I told few friends. So we started in a hotel function room with 28 adults 39 years ago. The church, of course, took off and God blessed and gave us an anointing in the city and had the enormous opportunity of reaching the leadership of the city and business community and many people came to Christ and that church just flourished and flourished. And I have to be very truthful with myself that I'm 77 and I wanted always, always believed in the next generation. And I have done everything in the last 10 years particularly to train the next generation, work with the next generation. I'm blessed that one of those leaders and next generation is my younger son. He's 41, Jonathan Youssef.

Roger Marsh: Love it.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Who is a great preacher, great expounder of the word of God. He finished a doctorate in preaching over there with Dr. John MacArthur before he went to glory. And so it was the right thing and the elders of our church, all of the leadership believed that this is God's timing, God's move. I would be handing over the baton to him as I continue to be on television, radio, as well as traveling the globe doing evangelistic crusades in the U.S. and overseas.

Roger Marsh: I love to hear that with your four grown children, with your 15 grandchildren, you've doubled the number that Lisa and I have and we're trying to catch up, but we can't convince our kids to be as fruitful as yours have been, but nonetheless, what's it like just as a dad who has a son now who's not only following you in the ministry, but has achieved the level of education that you did. It must have been really gratifying to watch talk about that.

Dr. Michael Youssef: It's indescribable, really. There are no words to express my gratitude to God. And I say that to him every day, Jonathan, but also Joshua, who God led to form a ministry to help the persecuted. He came to me one day and he said, "Dad, our kingdom sat is in 260 million homes in the Arabic speaking world. Thousands of Muslims are coming to Christ. And when they come to Christ, they get thrown out of their homes, out of their jobs."

Roger Marsh: Right.

Dr. Michael Youssef: And so God laid it on his heart to start help the persecuted. And so he goes there and does practical help as well as spiritual help in all of the Middle East and Afghanistan and whatever the trouble spots are of the world where there's persecution. So he's doing a great job there too. So my two boys and I'm so grateful to the Lord. They're both committed in serving the Lord. My two

daughters have been wonderful wives and mothers to their children and they're involved in ministry and their own churches. So the whole family is love and serve the Lord and I cannot be more grateful to the Lord for anything beyond my salvation. That's the next thing I'm so grateful to the Lord for.

Roger Marsh: We read in 3 John to know that our children are walking in truth.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: And to see that happening in your family, it's remarkable. And then this very prolific season of writing for you, which I think is remarkable thanks to modern technology. You can be a lot more prolific at taking those things. But I love the title of this book because there are so many people in the church right now who are looking at the world, they're seeing chaos, they're seeing disorder. And it's very unsettling because we don't ... I mean, and this is more than just a cluttered house. This is a cluttered culture. Talk about why it was so important for this book right now. I mean, it's kind of prophecy that's playing out in real time right before our eyes.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Absolutely. So I mean, the spiritual war is not only what we are seeing around the world, but also it goes on the battle goes on between our two ears right here in our minds. And I believe, I think it was Tim Lahey many, many years ago, wrote a book called *The Battle for the Mind*. And the truth is the battle for the mind has been going on ever since Adam and Eve.

Roger Marsh: Right. Yes.

Dr. Michael Youssef: And that is the truth. I mean, the Serpent came in and brought doubt and so you look at some evangelical churches now. I come back in the 70s and 80s from mainland denomination where I had to leave because of the drift into liberalism and really, I call it apostasy, but at that time when I left in 90, 1990, I never dreamed that the same battle, the same argument, the same war, spiritual war, being in evangelical churches. Doubting the authority of the scripture, accommodating to the culture, more concerned about pleasing the culture than pleasing the Lord, more willing to compromise their convictions. Some of them have preached the gospel in times gone by, but then now they're kind of softening everything and under the guise of love, they have compromised biblical truth. And so that is the battle that's really taking place in the churches of Jesus Christ and all the Western world, but certainly it's in America, which is a land that I love and I'm grateful to be here as an immigrant and I'm grateful to serve and really serve the country that has given me a home when I escaped from Marxism and dictatorship. And so it is the burden of my heart is to show the believers that this is a winnable war. It's invisible, but because the Word of God said that He who's in us is greater than He is in the world and therefore we have the weapons and our weapons of warfare are not carnal.

And so we have the spiritual armor, the whole armor of God, the full arm of God. And then we have the Holy Spirit daily empowering us and encouraging us to win because we know that the battle itself already been won and we are just in the skirmishes. And so the battle was won on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ and He's the one who gives us a victory.

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen.

Dr. Michael Youssef: But if we stay true to his word or stay true to the gospel and that is the burden of my heart is when I wrote *Winning the Invisible War* is to encourage those who may be wavering and wondering and they're saying, "Well, this doubt here and there's doubt about this, this doubt about this." And I'm trying to strengthen those at the same time trying to explain things from an eternal perspective. Don't forget the eternal perspective.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Eternity is a very long time. Don't sell your birthright for a pot of soup because that's all it is. And so that is the burden of my heart, whether this book *Winning the Invisible War* or the book about the unholy alliance between Islamists and the Marxists and now this is being waged all over the world. I'm seeing it in England in such a way that when I tell you that nine of the top 11 cities in England are basically run by Islamists, not just Muslims because there's some Muslim people who are not Islamists, the mayors and the councils and this is happening in Australia. We just saw the horror of left wing prime ministers in Canada. And we have a little reprieve here in the United States. We were heading that way. So I'm doing everything I can to sound the alarm bells so as to wake the church of Jesus Christ, the believers, the elect of God, because I see the Lord is coming and therefore it is vitally important for us to be ready and staying awake.

Roger Marsh: Dr. Michael Youssef is our guest today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh and we're talking about Dr. Youssef's brand-new book called *Winning the Invisible War*, which we have linked up at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net). Dr. Youssef, we've seen a lot of statistics coming from the last election and some of the Barna data that indicate that Generation Z, especially younger men, are being drawn to biblical principles now. Either they grew up in Christian homes and they didn't get the full gospel or they didn't grow up in Christian homes and they're looking at the chaos and saying, "I want some kind of order. I want some kind of structure." And what they're running into in many cases is, I love this term that you use in your book, winning the spiritual war, the Christian draft dodgers who basically tried to make this kind of nice little utopia here where they're thinking, "Hey, I read Ephesians 6, but what's this thing with spiritual armor?

I don't want to wear that." Talk about why we have to be real about the fact that we have been surrounded in many cases by Christian draft dodgers in the spiritual warfare.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Yes, because Satan's number one deception is either, he doesn't exist or he's frightening people so much and you get the two extremes, neither of them of course are the truth and therefore to understand the biblical view, the full armor of God actually most of it is permanently put on. It's not just something you do every day, but it's something you remind yourself every day, but the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteousness, all of that has to be on all the time because we are in the battlefield all the time and I've never seen a soldier goes into the battlefield with pajamas.

Roger Marsh: That's true. Very true.

Dr. Michael Youssef: So that armor of God should be daily be reminded that we are wearing that and taking the sword, the Word of God, which is being undermined. I just saw a statistic that the Bible is now becoming a best-seller again and so forth. I just pray that people read it because it's not, you're just buying a Bible and let it gather dust or listening to somebody who tell you that these are just mythical stories for the past. They're not for today. I mean, even evangelical pastors are saying to my generation and your generation saying, "Oh, you don't have to defend this thing about Noah's flood and Jonah and the whale and all of that because your grandchildren cannot accept that. So you keep quiet about it." I said, "Give me a break. If the Lord Jesus Christ Himself talked about Noah and the flood, he talked about Jonah inside the whale. Why wouldn't I not defend it? Because the integrity of Jesus is on the line here and so their arguments are falsely. So we just talk about the resurrection, but the God of the resurrection is the same God of the Old Testament and they're not two gods. They're one God and the manifestation of that one true God happened to be both in the old and the New Testament because in the Old Testament we have a theophany. This Sunday I'm preaching on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

And this is the pre-incarnate Christ came there and the pre-incarnate Christ came down to Abraham and the pre-incarnate Christ has always been there appearing in the Old Testament, but then he fully came in the New Testament in the gospel and that's where the gospel account is. They hoped to see Him. The New Testament said He's here and therefore we should be encouraged to see the unity of those two testaments, two covenants that they're basically one house, one is the foundation, the other one is the roof of the house and therefore it is one book and we need to be defending the Scripture. We need to be defending the content of the Scripture unashamedly because for those who undermine the supernatural or deny the supernatural, there just is a no starter. I don't know where you go with those.

But if you believe in the resurrection, as some pastors say, " Oh, the resurrection. Focus on the resurrection. Don't focus on all these other things, but the God who raised Jesus from the dead, could he not do the other things?" And so the argument is full of holes and it's a fallacy. And so we need to be standing up and I'm talking to pastors who I know many pastors listen to your program and many fathers in the homes are leading their families. Don't be

ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation. And the power is not in what I say or anybody else say. The power is in the gospel itself.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Michael Youssef: And so you hang in there on the gospel and the gospel has the power to change lives.

Roger Marsh: I'm glad you brought that up, Dr. Michael Youssef, because one of the hallmarks of James Dobson Family Institute is what Dr. Dobson was all about. He said, "Look, my vehicle here is to talk to the family, to marriage and families, but it's all about bringing people to Christ. I want to take as many people home to heaven with me as we possibly can."

Dr. Michael Youssef: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: And I was thinking of the words, we had Jack Hibbs at one of our events not too long ago and he was talking about how Billy Graham was America's great evangelist. Dr. Dobson was America's great discipler because of what, in terms of here's how you play this out in your family. And as you were just describing that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I remember those stories when we were kids. I mean, I completely get it, but the faith that they had to say, look, we're going in there because if God can deliver us, He can deliver us, but if He can't deliver us, we're still not bowing the knee to you.

And I wonder how many young people that everything's transactional these days. And that's something that we as parents and grandparents really have to guard against and pastors and lay leaders as well. And you're challenging us here to the point where one of the quotes of your book that I really love is "our mission as Christians is to make Satan afraid of us."

Dr. Michael Youssef: That's right. That's exactly right And this is the issue, particularly this wokeism that invaded many a church and basically says, "We shouldn't be offending anybody." And so what you're doing, you're leaving people who are under the slavery of sin and Satan in those chains while in reality we should be invading those territories, bringing people to salvation and freedom in Christ and therefore that scares Satan more than anything else. I always tell my congregation and my colleagues who are pastors in the church, we have a wonderful team of pastors. I'm always reminding them that as long as we are faithful and proclaiming the truth and invading Satan's territory, we're going to keep Satan on the run. Instead of him keeping us on the run and compromising and being afraid of him, how can you be afraid when our God conquered the greatest enemy of all death?

Roger Marsh: Amen. Yes.

Dr. Michael Youssef: What can they do to me? I mean, I always say people say, "Oh, take security with you, do this and do this. "I say, "What can they do, kill me? I got to Heaven." I mean, the worst they can do, but already been defeated by my Lord Jesus Christ.

And so I just want to literally sometimes want to scream and say, "Wake up because we have a great God and our great God is going to deliver us." As you already said with the three young men, our God is able, but if He doesn't, if He choose not to, that's fine too. We'll go be with Him. And so we need to rise up to this moment, to this occasion, to these challenges, which they are new. Now, Satan's trick is not new. It's the same one as it was in the Garden of Eden. It's the same trick, but he puts on new dresses on. Every generation puts on a new dress and it looks different, but he's the same devil who appears as an angel of light and misleads God's people. And so we need ... Yes. And Dr. Dobson, my goodness, he impacted my family, impacted millions of families around the world, not just in the United States. And his cry for all these years is family, stay strong, stay on the Scripture, stay on anchored in Jesus. And because the men, husbands, and fathers are the spiritual leaders, he spoke very clearly to them and to me personally when I was a young dad and I just thank God for his legacy and I thank God for God using him. I'm sure he's rejoicing in Heaven right now and meanwhile that we now have that responsibility to carry on his legacy.

Roger Marsh: I love that. And that visual that you just described, Dr. Michael Youssef, for all the people who have entered into eternity, just even in the past 12 months, I still see Dr. Dobson as the one standing next to St. Peter with a big smile on his face looking, waiting to see people, and he's going to get mobbed by folks who he didn't even know. And we all are when you get right down to it. But 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: But He also uses people. He uses you; He uses me, He uses many other faithful pastors and someone we were talking about earlier and so many faithful pastors. I thank God for them so many of us standing strong and many of them are friends of mine. And so that is something that we must always reach out to those who either teetering or going through doubt, younger pastors. And I saw it through the years to have an opportunity to talk to these younger pastors and challenge them, encourage them. 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.

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, and 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."

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Michael Youssef: Do the work of an evangelist. And so that is a cry of my heart before the Lord takes me home.

Roger Marsh: Well, the pleasure and privilege will definitely be ours, Dr. Youssef, and what a privilege it was to sit down with Dr. Michael Youssef today on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh and I know I walked away from that conversation more convinced than ever that the invisible war is very, very real. Today's broadcast featured part one of this compelling conversation with Dr. Youssef about spiritual warfare, the authority of Scripture, and what it truly means to live as a soldier for Christ. And I hope you'll join us again next time when Dr. Youssef returns for part two of this conversation. If you'd like to hear the broadcast again or share it with a friend, go to [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk) or [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net). In addition to the audio, there you'll also find a link for Dr. Youssef's brand-new book. It's called *Winning the Invisible War*. Again, you'll find both the audio resource and information about the book when you go to [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net).

Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we are carrying on the mission that Dr. Dobson dedicated his life to, strengthening families, proclaiming the gospel and defending what is true and right in the culture. Now, Dr. Dobson went home to be with the Lord last August, but the work continues here at JDFI and this work is only possible because of friends and listeners like you who really believe it matters. If you've been encouraged by or challenged by what you heard on today's Family Talk broadcast, we'd like to invite you to stand with us. Your gift of any amount helps us reach families all across the country and around the world with biblical guidance and help. You can mail your contribution to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80949. Again, that's P.O. Box 39000 Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code 80949.

Now, if you prefer, you can speak with a member of our constituent care team. That number is 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825. Or if it's easier, just make a secure donation online at [jdfi.net](http://jdfi.net).

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 listening today. Be sure to join us again next time right here for part two of my powerful conversation with Dr. Michael Youssef describing how to win the invisible war. It's coming up right here on the next 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.