

MEET WITH ME: Service
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES - Part 5
Ben Rudolph

Good morning Life Fellowship. It is so good to see you here this morning, and it is an honor to be able to introduce you to Carole Ward who is our missionary guest today. Before we get into our conversation I think it is really important that we remember what is on these banners across our room. Maybe sometimes you have walked in and forgot about them, but one of the things that we have been praying for regularly on each Sunday is, ‘*God help us to hear from you through your Spirit and through your Word.*’ So what I want to do is just to lead us in that prayer this morning. Please bow your heads and close your eyes, and as I am asking God to do that for us let’s pray that corporately.

Father we know that you have something for us today. We know that, God, there is a work that you want to do. We know that there is something you want us to hear. We know there is something you are calling us to obey. And Lord, I thank you that Carole can join us this morning; join our church family as we worship you. I pray, Father, that we would hear from you today through your Spirit and through your Word. Shape us into your image, Jesus. We pray these things in your precious name. Amen.

We were not anticipating having Carole with us so this is kind of a new development. But as you may know Bob and Christy Williamson, who have been a part of our church for many years, just recently went on an anniversary mission trip to Africa. And if you want points with Jesus just go on a missions trip for your anniversary, okay? That is how it works. And they went to Africa to be a part of a ministry that they have been a part of for a long time. When Bob came back he said, ‘*You have got to meet this missionary that we met.*’ And he tells me about Carole. So I ordered her book online and I shared a story from her book with you a couple of weeks ago.

One of the things that Bob told me was that Carole was going to be here in the area, and if we had time for her to join us she could make it work. And I thought that would be amazing. And I think one of the reasons why I think this is so important is that we have been talking about Spiritual Disciplines. And when I read her book what really stood out to me was how much prayer, fasting and the Word of God shape her life and her ministry. So Carole, first I want to ask you to introduce yourself and tell us how you got involved in missions in Africa, and then share a little bit of that story with us this morning.

Carole: Thank you, Pastor Ben. It is good to be here. I guess I have been branded with missions and I think that comes from living what I call, ‘inside the heart of God,’ because we can’t get close to Jesus without loving what He loved. And He is after people and He is after enlarging His bride. So I grew up with that in me as a child. My grandparents were missionaries in China for thirty years when Communism came in. They were fearless for the thirty years they were there and they faced war.

Then my parents went to the Philippine jungles with Wycliffe Bible translators. And you don’t choose where you are going to go. I realized then what absolute

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surrender means. It is unconditional, meaning we don't have a list of benefits and protection and we don't think about having to have life insurance, or if anyone is going to rescue us out when danger comes. So we went to a place that was in the middle of a village of Islam terrorism and what we call ISIS a lot. But my parents had no fear so we didn't know to be fearful. I realized then that fear is contagious. My dad was a man of prayer and he lived on his knees. And even though there was a price on his head for forty-five years he never left. He said he would go home serving rather than sitting.

So we were hunted and we would get in the car at night when the angels would wake daddy up. He would hurry his family into the car but he still didn't have fear. He just obeyed even at two o'clock in the morning with us kids asking where we were going in the jeep at that time of the morning. And he would say that he didn't know where we were going; we were just going for a ride. He never instilled fear in us. And two hours later our village was bombed.

So I grew up knowing that unless we take the light in the power of God into dangerous and dark areas we will never dissipate darkness, but light dispels darkness. My dad lived it. So that was in my bones, I call it the call of the wild; just send me where no one wants to go. I began praying that at 12 years of age, because I knew there were unreached people groups that have never, never, never heard the name Jesus. And yet we have an opportunity to hear his name every day.

Ben: So how did God take that early forming in your life? What was the call to Africa? How did God take you there and what was the ministry that God prepared for you?

Carole: While I was doing missions in Oklahoma as a nurse and street ministry I realized that I needed to go where no one wanted to go. And I knew that I hadn't gotten there yet. So I worked faithfully with the missions at hand and then I got a call from southern Uganda with Campus Crusade. I had done a short term mission trip there, and at that time I didn't believe in short term missions. That if you are going to go, go for life, put your hand to the plow and never look back. And I am ready to die there because that was my generation of missions, because you know they said, 'We will see you in heaven,' kind of thing.

So I did do a short term trip though where I met a phenomenal missionary in his 80s, and he and his wife needed a sabbatical. So they asked me to come and run the camp for them for a year so they could take a break. The camp was a hundred and fifty students from all over east Africa, and I accepted that invitation.

Ben: That's great. And so while you were there did God give you a call to go back?

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Carole: Yes.

Ben: Most times when we think of Africa, and Uganda is where God called you, we don't think of it as a safe place. So tell us what you walked into when God called you there over twenty years ago.

Carole: Southern Uganda was okay, but once you cross the Nile River which divided the north and the south that was no man's land. That was run by the Dictator Joseph Kony who was one of the most demonic dictators ever, maybe surpassing Idi Amin. When the UN discovered it a couple of years after I was already up there, they said it was the worst atrociousness they had seen since Hitler. He was doing human sacrifices on a daily basis. He abducted thirty to fifty thousand youths from eight years old and up, marching them into Sudan and teaching them how to fight. It was kill or be killed, and they had to kill their own families first in order to sensitize them to death. Then he did atrocities like chopping people up in cannibalism and a thousand people a day were dying.

This was going on in northern Uganda and it was called the LRA War, the Lord's Resistance Army, meaning he was Jesus Christ personified but he got his power from Lucifer. So he was extreme, extreme occult. I heard all this from the students in the camp because they were from northern Uganda and Sudan at that time and they had begged me to come back when my year was finished. I asked them why were they asking me to come, and they said it was because it is a place where no one else wants to go. Everybody had evacuated; World Vision and Samaritan's Purse had lost people so they had brought everyone in, and they said the US Embassy put it off limits because God has forgotten us. And I said no, he hasn't; I will go.

Ben: So hearing that how did you battle fear knowing that God had called you to that? What was that process like of God helping you in faith to take that step and go into such a dangerous place?

Carole: Well, I do believe the full Bible and the full Bible says: "***I am not my own, I am bought with a price, therefore glorify God,***" so I have an owner who redeemed me, and I don't have the last say. And then it says: "***For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.***" It says in Revelations Chapter 12: "***They love not their life even unto death.***" It says in the gospels if we save our lives we will lose it. Paul said: "***I die daily. Death works in me that life might work in you.***" Those are parts of the gospel quite often that are not preached, much less lived.

So what does that look like? It is absolute surrender. And the Lord had been teaching me, He said the Great Commission must be based on the Great Commandment of: "***If you love me, then you have already died to yourself because you have taken up your cross.***" So when those issues are dealt with

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then it is kind of a given that I will go anywhere He wants me to go. But fear can still be there, because the front page of the paper everyday was showing people decapitated, people chopped in pieces, people burned alive. And I thought - I am going there? No one would go with me. US Embassy said it was off limits. They asked me my name and then crossed my name off their roster and said I was as good as dead.

No mission organization would support me or cover me to go. They said I would come home in a body bag. And I said I can't find in the book of Acts where they ran away from fear or danger; they went right into it, and that is how they turned the world upside down. So in the car I drove alone, no African would go with me. And I struggled with fear looking for ambushes where they would come out and mow people down, burn their cars and they would be gone in a split second. This happened every day. And the Lord asked me what I was doing and I said I was obeying. And He said He never sends anyone out in fear because fear will paralyze you. Fear has torment; He can't use you when you have fear, and I realized that is the way anywhere. So I asked Him to set me free from fear and He said I didn't have enough love. If I had enough love I wouldn't fear because in I John Chapter 4 and verse 18 it says: "*Perfect love casts out fear.*"

So I said in that moment I was going to follow God and face ambushes and face gunpoint. And for twenty years I have had no fear. You tell me there is a mountain and I will climb it, there is a wall and I will get over it, I have no fear. But that was only because He supernaturally baptized me in love in the car that day and "*Perfect love casts out fear.*"

Ben: So you entered into this environment where there is all this evil going on. We have been studying prayer and fasting, and that is one of the things that stood out to me was how much prayer and fasting shaped you. It was like your starting point. First of all why did you choose that as your starting point and what did you see God do with that in your tool bag? Tell us a little bit about that.

Carole: Yes, I had it modeled of course in my home that you didn't choose prayer, you lived by it or you were dead. So that was kind of very real to me. I love prayer because it is communication with the Father, it is standing in the gap, it is the power of heaven pulling it on earth, it is life changing. And no man can come to Jesus unless the Spirit of God draws him. Prayer is the business of heaven because Jesus said that He ever lives to make intercession for us in Hebrews Chapter 7 and verse 25.

So I thought if that is Jesus' fulltime job, and I am the bride of Christ, married to Him as the helpmate, then that is my fulltime job too. And so I love prayer and when I went up there it wasn't a choice. The darkness was so thick you could cut it with a knife, and I wondered where to begin. People were hopeless, their eyes

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were hollow, and they were hiding in fear waiting to be killed the next day. They were terrified of Joseph Kony. It reminded me of a picture of Goliath terrorizing and taunting the armies of the living God until David showed up.

So I put a little cardboard sign on the little house I was in because they wouldn't let me live in the camp with the people. And that house had bullet holes in it so I thought prayer is a weapon that was not carnal. Prayer brings us weapons. II Corinthians chapter 10 says prayers are powerful against the forces of evil and hell. And our Bible says in Psalms 46 that He stops wars. So God can stop what the government can't. Prayer is the place of faith, so I put this little sign up and it said, *'Prayer at 7am and 7pm, 7 days a week. Anybody is welcome.'*

And I didn't care if anyone came or not because I was still going to pray because He can save by many or by few, and if two or more agree it shall be done. So I gave myself to prayer. I felt like Hannah with her empty womb crying out to God in her barrenness. That was the agony of prayer, *'Give me this nation, Lord, the womb and the land is barren.'* And God filled that little house with His presence. People poured in off of the road. They heard the drums, they heard the African harp and they heard the sound of music. They had never heard worship in music in almost twenty years because there had only been the cry of murder, assassinations and all kind of things happening.

They came into the house, and every time they would come in they would fall on their knees to the floor, throw up their arms and say, *'I want what is in this house,'* because the presence of God was there. And we would have three hour prayer meetings twice a day. We did that for six months and then we said, *'Oh we need II Chronicles 7:14, so let's go the stadium and pray.'* Now the stadium which was just a grass field, but we had to fast and pray to get to use the stadium because the government told us no. And I told the government that God told us yes, so we need that stadium. And they said we couldn't pray there because it is a burial ground.

I knew we were going to pray there, but I went back to the house peacefully and I told the guys we needed to take God the atomic bomb of fasting. That is what fasting is, it is an atomic bomb. So we went to prayer for forty days and God changed the government. After forty days they said we could have the field. And we took prayer to the field for a week and God stopped the war.

Ben: There are so many stories in your book about God doing that. Share with us just some of those unique stories that you saw God do. Tell us some of those stories where you saw God in a very tangible way show up in His presence to overcome and stop evil and to change people's lives because you have 600 missionaries right now. Many of them are young children that grew up in that war torn area and your stories are what they had to live through which was unbelievable. How

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did you start seeing God change life by life, person by person? Share with us some of those stories.

Carole: Well God has taken broken people and turned them into His army. And if He can do that there He can do it here. It is amazing how one guy walked in the door and he said, *'Oh, don't make me leave. Please don't let me leave.'* And I asked him why and he said he had no place to go. Patrick was abducted when he was about ten years old at gunpoint along with the forty or fifty thousand children. He was marched for two days into Sudan, wrapped with human intestines, and then he had to do atrocities and kill for ten years.

So you can imagine how his mind and heart were a bloody mess. He had to kill his own people. And when he walked in that door God began healing his heart because He brings healing from the inside out. He can heal the mind, the heart, the emotions and the body, and then He begins equipping them to be turned into missionaries. Now God is doing this with several hundred at a time.

God had caused us to go right into the war zones, and I love soldiers, and I love to see them with guns because I say to them, *'You are the perfect guy God is looking for. You have a uniform on, you know what it means to be committed to an army, and you know how to fight. I just have to get you on the right side.'* So it doesn't matter if they are rebels, or warriors, or murderers I tell them they are doing a great job but we just need to get them on the side of the right king.

I will tell this story about how we are now going into Sudan taking all these youths who have been radically saved, and now there are missionaries running the radio, there is church planting, there are Bible schools, and there are women empowerment and street programs. After our prayer meetings in the stadium I said to some of the people, *'Guys, this is not our comfort zone. God stopped the war because as soon as we finished praying in Uganda, the government called me and asked me, the crazy white lady, what we just did?'*

And I told this government official that we were in that stadium praying with a thousand people for eleven hours a day for days. And he said, *'It feels like a dark curtain has been pulled back over the whole region. And we feel a difference.'* And Joseph Kony confessed this to his right hand general a month later: *'When did they pray in that stadium? That is the week I lost my power.'* And he left the country powerless, and he has never been back since because the war was over.

So now because God was raising up spiritual soldiers out of this once dissolute place I said we are not going to get comfortable, guys. The Holy Spirit came to bring us comfort but not to make us comfortable. If we get comfortable we are as good as dead because we will stop growing. We might as well just die and go on to heaven. God made us to be stretched, to go take some more territory and to

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grow our faith. And I told them we were going to go to Sudan. They said, *'Sudan - they have had sixty-two years of war there.'* And I said it anyone knows about war they did, so come on, let's go, because they are asking us to come.

Tribes in the Sudan had been killing each other for all these years. And I had been going back and forth with a team. There were a couple of drivers and I would sit in the back until we got to the border which would take about seven hours to drive into this war zone. I had been coming back and forth even though there were ambushes on this road every day which was the same thing they had done in Uganda where they jump out from the bush, take the vehicles off the road, rape and steal, and then mow them down. They would burn the vehicles and they would be gone.

Now our rebels put on their military uniform so they wouldn't know if they were rebels or government military. And when we got to the border the government stops us and says, *'You are not going north because there has been a bloody battle and there are bodies all over the road. It is off limits.'* And I said I am going. I have Bibles in the car and food for the pastors there. The government guy said no, but I said, *'Come on guys, we are going through.'* We knew we would be going through dangerous areas where many had been killed and many had been evacuated.

I don't like being told I can't go because I know God is waiting for us there. So the military guys call the government and they said this crazy white lady was coming through. So we waited a few minutes and they sent three big military vehicles that were fully armed and with south Sudan soldiers in the front and the back. And they said, *'Okay, these are going to be your escorts.'* I had never needed those before because we drive under Psalm 91 with the secret places of the most high. ***"A thousand fall at your right hand, ten thousand at your left never touch you."*** And that is what we traveled under.

So we are in the car with this convoy around us and soon other vehicles joined the convoy and somewhere along the road the convoy was stopped. When they stopped everyone saw me with a skin color that is not so good, and two big rebels in uniforms came with big Ak47s up to our vehicle. I knew by their faces who they were and what they intended. They opened the back of the vehicle, jumped in on either side of me, slammed the door and said, *'We are your escorts now. Do exactly as we say.'* So I told our driver to do exactly as they say and we had to drive out of the convoy slowly. The rebel on my left had a pistol with a string of bullets and he started rolling his pistol around in his hand.

I said Lord, I need you to talk to me, or I will see you very quickly. The Bibles were in the back, so I turned around and grabbed one and then turned to the guy on my left and I said, *'Oh, I am so glad you are in the car with us today. It is a*

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pleasure to have you here. Can you please tell me what your name is and have you ever seen one of these books before?’ His eyes got real big and he said his name was Jacob. And I said, ‘Jacob, your name is in this book! Do you know who he was? Do you know about his father and his grandfather?’ You better know the Word at a time like that because it will save your life, and you won’t have time to read it then.

But thank God I had done a lot of memorizing so I talked to him for three and a half hours. I told him Bible stories all the way to Revelations. I didn’t give him a second to think about anything else. And he was spellbound, he asked lots of questions and he was following my every word. And when I got to I John about walking in love with Jesus, forgiving your brothers and sisters and walking in peace and light, he said, ‘*I think that is what our nation needs, isn’t it?*’ And I said, ‘*Yes, Jacob, that is why I am here.*’ And he said he had intended to kill me and I told him I knew that, but God has come to bring life, not death. That is why I am here and I led him in the sinner’s prayer just as we were coming into Juba.

Both soldiers received Jesus, and then I told them I wanted to give both of them a Bible on one condition. I said we have the Word of God and it is free, but it is not cheap. It cost Jesus everything. And I told them they needed to read it every day and then to tell someone about it. And they said they would. I told them that makes them missionaries, that we are all missionaries. And that is what God is doing day after day after day.

Ben: You shared with a group of us last night that in the last three months, or last six months, twenty thousand people accepted Christ. Give us just a little bit of the vision of what God has given to you for not just now but in the future.

Carole: Well, I have watched armies over there, and I know what armies look like. People think they protect the borders, they advance, they take territories, they fight, but God has an army too. And He is a man of war as told in Revelations and in Exodus. So we have to learn how to fight, guys, because I realize I am going into a battle zone. We all are no matter where you were born. It is warfare, and the devil wants us dead, and he wants us intimidated and fearful. So we need to know how to fight with weapons that are not carnal, seated with Him in heavenly places, and overcome them by the blood of the Lamb. If we don’t know how to fight and battle against forces of darkness as Ephesians 6 says, we will be fought against. And we will be rendered powerless and then we will wonder why our governments, cities and families are under attack all the time.

So God has given us the equipping to be warriors. And I am looking at this in a very real way because I live with armies; we work with armies and chaplains. We work with ex-soldiers getting saved. I asked God how we are supposed to win this nation for Jesus. He told us to ask Him for a nation, to ask Him for a miracle,

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and it is going to take an army. So I asked Him for an army and He told me to go to the valley of dried bones and start praying over them just like Ezekiel did. And God would bring them in one life at a time, so we could train them and send them out. And they are the greatest missionaries.

So whether we know how to fight in the natural or not, we must know how to fight in the Spirit, because the kingdom of God has suffered in violence. The violent don't ask, '*Please, please will you give those terrorists back to us?*' No, they take it by force. And the only way to get light in the darkness is to advance, to penetrate the darkest, most dangerous areas of the world by faith with a God that is alive, with signs, wonders and miracles of a God that is love and a God that has power. And we demonstrate that and live that so Muslims and Hindus, Buddhists and the occult are getting saved right and left. And as soon as they get saved we tell them they have just enlisted in God's army. Then we get them trained so they can be sent out. And they make the greatest missionaries because they have been over there on that side very recently, and they want to rescue people. So God is adding and adding.

So now when we send them out we get a map and we ask them to show us where the naked headhunters are, where the wild tribes buried in the jungle and in the bush are, the ones that no one knows about. They have never heard of Jesus so we want to know where the blood zones are that the government is evacuating and where there are tribal wars, blood and guts. And that's where we want to go because that is where Jesus would have gone. He left ninety-nine to go after just one, and I am following Him. He asked if we love Him, so that is where I am going. I am going after one tribe.

So we find the places, and then we train people and we send them out two by two. We match them with language speaking areas and the two missionaries are all indigenous, they are all from south Sudan, and they are ready to die for their faith. The devil can't kill a dead man, so when you die to yourself you become a threat to that enemy. And they think, '*Oh no, here they come again.*' All the demons in hell are terrified because God's army is on the advance.

We send them two by two with prayer and fasting. The war zone is in the Spirit realm and you can't spoil the goods of souls until the strong man is bound as found in Mark. So fasting binds the strong man as seen in Daniel Chapters 9 and 10. We pray and fast for two or three weeks then these guys go out two by two. We just finished two hundred and ten of these jungle Bible schools. They stay for three months, they try to find believers, and if there are believers they lead them to the Lord. And we tell them they are in God's army now and we pray. So they start a prayer meeting and then they start signing people up who want to be taught about the true prophet, the Son of the Creator, the living God, who is all powerful. And boy, they sign up. Sometimes they will sign up a couple hundred and other

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times just a small group. They can be a naked warrior or a chief, there are just all kinds that come and want to learn.

So we do two months of discipleship in the jungle and they are fighting spiritual battles of demonic occult and human sacrifices. Then they go door to door and hundreds get saved. At the end of those two months the average in eighteen years of doing this is a hundred are disciplined and a hundred are saved. And then we have a big graduation where we really celebrate these who were bush warriors yesterday and today they are in God's army. They get a certificate and they get a Bible. Most of them are audible Bibles because they can't read and the Bibles are in as close to their language as they can be. We distribute about a hundred thousand Bibles a year in twenty plus languages.

And then we water baptize. We always say at these graduations that we have bonfires and baptisms. So we burn the paraphernalia of the witch doctors after they are saved because that is what happened in the book of Acts. They brought their stuff and burned it. We just do what we see in the Bible. So they burn their stuff and we have baptisms. After the last three month session we had a little more than twenty thousand come to Jesus and about twenty thousand disciples. That is two different twenties and it is amazing how fast this is growing. And we do that three times a year. So our goal is sixty thousand disciples and sixty thousand who come to Jesus in about six countries going northward in Africa. And we want to go into the Middle East and take Jesus there too.

Ben: That is so amazing and so encouraging. I have a friend that I am partnered with in Uganda and he has been in my other church a couple of times. And one of the things they said when we sent teams over was that they could feel the spiritual darkness, they could just feel it. It feels like the darkness and the light are just amplified over there. But when we had ten Uganda people over to our nation we asked them about that and they said, '*No, the darkness is here as well. It just looks different.*' And because you have been here, and you have lived both here and there, speak to the battles that you see the American church fighting, and the kind of battles that we have to face and prepare for as the people of God here.

Carole: It is the same devil, he just wears different clothes. And he is always after our children. But you know Revelations 12:12 says the devil has pulled out all the stops because he knows his time is short. And church, if we realize that our time is short we will pull out all the stops and go full throttle against the forces of evil because we are on the winning side. I looked in the back of the book and by the way we win. So we are fighting from a stance of victory because Jesus is undefeated. There may be some battles, and we may think we lost that one, but just get up and keep fighting because at the end of the war we win.

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And here the children are used. What happens is an identity crisis and that takes many forms and fashions from surgeries and from ten year old kids wondering who they are. And this identity crisis is to take away the identity that we have with the heavenly Father, because we can't know our destiny if we don't know our identity. And so there is an identity crisis that we can fight for. God has given us Scriptures all through the Bible on how to fight the fight of faith. It is going to cost us something, but David said he would not offer to God that which cost him nothing in II Samuel 24:24. So we have to be ready to fight with prayer and fasting. It is worth it.

And more children are abducted in America than were ever abducted in the LRA War. They are abducted right out of our living rooms. The Internet comes in with pornography, with the occult, with witchcraft and with every filth and perversion you can imagine. And I am watching it in home after home. After going up and down the West Coast, to Chicago, and Tennessee I have seen family after family doing the same thing. Children can be abducted right from the Internet.

So I say, Okay God we have the LRA rebels right in our own houses; how are you going to fight that? We better get strategy for family after family. I know families that are cutting the Internet off and saying that is it. I don't know how to do it for you because you have to hear from God. And then also we have murdered more babies than what happened in the African genocide and we say it is legal.

So here we have blood shed with abortion. It is in our nation but we drug it, we diagnose it, and we try to counsel it out of people. And it is a spiritual battle; you can't use physical weapons to fight a spiritual war. We hide demonic oppression and we just call it coincidental, or demonic possession or we just call it by some physiological name. I studied psych nursing so I could go on and on with the names of two personalities and bipolar and whatever. But you know hidden underneath those things are a spiritual battle and we haven't recognized that we are in a war and we have the ability to win.

Jesus in Luke 10 and in Matthew 10 sent seventy out to go heal the sick, to cast out devils, (which can be mental oppression, possession, whatever,) cleanse lepers, raise the dead and preach the gospel. So I thought, oh so healing a headache was no different than raising the dead. He told them to free people of demonic oppression mentally, physically, and spiritually. Would Jesus tell us to do something that He doesn't equip us for? The greatest weapons are prayer and fasting. The greatest weapon in our household is prayer and fasting. And I have watched dads and moms get on their face and say they would not eat again until you bring my son or daughter back to Jesus. Does that look like three days like Esther fasted, or does it look like three weeks like Daniel, or does it look like

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forty days for Moses and others? Everybody in the Bible that knew the exploits of God need how to fast. What is it worth to you, what is it worth to me?

Ben: We have a few minutes left and I had a couple of other questions I want to ask you. When you were sharing your stories what stands out to me is there seems to be this childlike faith when they read God's Word. When you shared your story it seemed like they read God's Word and they knew that is what others had done so they wanted to go do that too. What do we as Americans in American churches have to confront in order to regain that childlike faith, to read God's Word and to simply believe it and to do it? What do you sense is a way for us to challenge that and for us to grow in that area?

Carole: In the west we try to analyze everything and to diagnose it, and we try to figure God out. But God will never fit in our boxes. He is too big for that. We have to get in His. Our traditions, and many times our culture and background of how we have been trained have programmed us to take the Word of God and see how it fits in our filters of traditions. And what we have been taught and what we believe has been that we can pick and choose information instead of saying, wait a minute, I want to be deprogrammed with my traditions because in Matthew 15 and Mark 7 Jesus said they held their traditions above His Word. And yet His Word is the final say, and He is the same today.

So God holds His Word above His name. And if He does we should do that too. It is above our traditions; we don't want to destroy childlike faith with the traditions of man, which is what Jesus was telling them in those days. He said His commandments, His calling and His equipping will never fit into your doctrine, your denomination, your platforms, your man pleasing, your traditions; it just won't. Just come as a little child reading Bible stories and say, wow, you did this, then do it again for me. He is the same yesterday, today and forever as said in Hebrews 13:8.

So come to the Lord like you know nothing. Come to the Lord like a little child. Come to the Lord to be programmed by the Holy Spirit, not by what you think, because God will blow your mind, and rightfully so that He can put on us the mind of Christ Jesus.

Ben: One of the things I am convinced about since we are doing the spiritual disciplines series is I believe there is a huge need for us with prayer and fasting. When I preached on fasting a few weeks ago I was honest because I feel like I am a child in this, because the America church seems to have just lost some of the spiritual disciplines. We are used to religious practices, but not spiritual disciplines. How do you train and disciple your missionaries, your army over there to really start practicing these things like prayer and fasting in a way that becomes just a natural part of their life? How do you do that over there and do

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you have some wisdom or some counsel we can use if someone is sitting there saying they have tried prayer and fasting and it doesn't seem to work for them? What is the Word of God that you would share with them?

Carole: We base everything on II Timothy 3:16: “*The Word of God is profitable for teaching, reproof, rebuke and training.*” None of those are party words, so I say get ready, guys; we are disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what discipline means for disciples. So if we are disciples of the Lord Jesus then we signed up for discipline and the party comes later when we are gathering the spoils and dancing over the addicts that are getting transformed. But it comes with a price and God meets us in that price. So when we teach fasting I train on spiritual warfare a lot, that is know your enemy, know your weapons, know your God, know your position, know the battle you are in and know your victory. And each one of those is taught for a week or two.

Ben: Go back and say that again. And people write this down. Say those things again.

Carole: You can do your own study on it. It is phenomenal. Know the battle you are in, Terrorism was different than World War II, and the US Army studied this. Know the battle you are fighting, know your weapons and they are all throughout the Bible. Atomic bombs are fasting, praying, the name of Jesus; the whole armor in Ephesians 6, even praise is a weapon. Know your position, you have to fight, hit and hide. Psalms 91 says we are hidden with Christ in the sight of God in the position of victory. John 15 tells us if we abide in Him we can ask anything and it will be done.

So you can just do studies on this. “*Seated with Him in heavenly places.*” And then know the strategy of heaven, how to fight this battle. David asked God every strategy, every battle and what His instructions were. God has given us the keys, not just one key, the keys to the kingdom, and the keys to your children's heart. Know those instructions and strategies and then know your victory. So it is know your God, know your weapons, know your position in Him, know your battle, know your strategy and know your victory. You have to know that we will win this in the end. Whether it is in life or in death, we win, and that terrorizes the enemy.

So in those places of knowing that you know and you stand in that position I teach on that since we know that fasting can be an atomic bomb. I teach on the kinds of fasting – the Esther fast, the Daniel fast, the Moses' fast and the Jesus' fast, it is all through the Bible. And that is part of our lives. We just finished three weeks of prayer and fasting as a team, two hundred of us, six hours a day. How do you pray six hours a day? With Scripture. We get the Bible, and we will pray and fast for almost eight hours. We get a Scripture and pray for the nation. We get a Scripture and pray for the nation the whole day. We just give a focus and God

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leads people in how to fast. We tell them they can choose the Esther, Daniel, Moses or the Jesus fast but we are going to fast for three weeks.

No food is allowed on the campus and we are on our faces under the tent. People read the Scripture and we are fasting and praying. Sometimes it sounds like a war room in there because it is so loud. Sometimes people are weeping on their faces. Sometimes we are worshipping and dancing, but it just like the breakers on the ocean. We break with the burden of God, we draw back and worship, break with another burden, and eight hours is gone just like that. We finished the three weeks and they said, can we go another three weeks. And I said we have to come down from the mountain of transfiguration because there is work to do. But it is powerful.

Ben: That is awesome. I know we could go on but we are running short on time. I want to just let you guys know when you leave here today Carole will be out in the lobby if you want to talk to her. And her story is in this book, so as you leave here this morning you can go grab that book and take it free of charge. But I would say that what she has just shared with us this morning is like a tiny sliver of the pie. So I want you guys if you have been impacted, if you have been burdened by what Carole has said this morning I want to encourage you to do two things. Number one, check out her website which is favorinternational.org. Just go to that website to find out more information about her ministry. And then also if you want to partake in some of the impact ministries and donate you can always donate to her ministry there.

Carole, I just want you to share a few of the financial projects that are going on right now, the things you are raising support for, just briefly.

Carole: Getting a piece of land in south Sudan for a training center so we can send missionaries out all the way into the Middle East. And then some other properties for the youth that are coming in as we have a couple hundred of them and we are turning murderers into missionaries and prostitutes into preachers. And then support for these missionaries. We support all of them and take care of their families, and there are five or six hundred of them at a time that are in the field. The radio station is running, we are teaching women empowerment, and then the youth who come in to live there are learning vocational skills and Bible training. So there are just a lot of things going on at the same time.

Ben: If you have been touched and burdened by Carole's heart and ministry I would encourage you to partake in it. I want to close in a time of reflection for us as a church, and I just want to ask Carole to pray for our church right now. Would you do that before I close?

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Carole: Father, I just pray so much for this precious, precious part of the family of God, the Bride of Christ called, set apart, chosen, because you have put your seal within our hearts. Lord, this family and you call them a family of faith no matter who we think we are, we know what you speak over us as a body of believers. And so Lord, we just thank you for Pastor Ben and Liz, we thank you for the congregation, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you don't just call us but you call us to train us. You call to teach us and you call us to send. And Lord, I just pray that every person in this room, whether they are a youth, a mom, a dad, a man or a woman that you would just speak so they will know their identity in Jesus, know their destiny, they would know the hope of their calling, and that there is purpose, there is direction and there is equipping that comes from the Word of God and from your intimacy and your relationship with Him. I bless everyone in this room in the sound of my voice with hunger. I bless them with hunger because we know the hunger drives us to the heart of God where we can find food. And you said, blessed are the hungry for they shall be filled. So I bless your people and all of us with a deeper hunger to know you and to make you known for your sake and for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.