

Announcer:

Welcome to The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast, a podcast all about leadership, change, and personal growth. The goal? To help you lead like never before, in your church or in your business. And now, your host, Carey Nieuwhof.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well hey everybody, and welcome to episode 380 of the podcast. My name is Carey Nieuwhof, and I hope our time together today helps you lead like never before. Man, it's been so good to hang with you in the middle of, well, what has been the most insane year that I have ever lived through. And yeah, I love doing this with you. Today, I've got Beth Moore on the podcast. This is really exciting. Found out a couple of years ago, she's a listener to the podcast. It's so amazing to see who listens and subscribes. And ran into her in the green room at an event we were doing in LA, and I said, "I'd love for you to come on the podcast." So a little bit later, fast forward to today, and we've got her, and I'll tell you it is a fascinating conversation. And if you wonder how to navigate the online world, I promise you, probably it's not as complicated as it is if you were Beth Moore.

Carey Nieuwhof:

So we go there, and we talk all about that and how she handles her critics and all that stuff. And I know a lot of you are navigating that right now. And this episode is brought to you by Pro Media Fire. You can get an amazing website and custom graphics weekly with Pro Media Fire's new Digital Growth Bundle, by going to promediafire.com/digitalgrowth. And by Leaders in Living Rooms, a new podcast that launched this year, you can subscribe at Apple Podcasts anywhere you listen to this one. And it's one that's on my regular rotation as well. So yeah, in this episode, Beth and I talk about how she stayed engaged in social media. Like, why didn't she just quit? Because she's been involved in well, quite a few controversies online. And how does she handle her critics? How does it not get into her head? When does it get into her head?

Carey Nieuwhof:

She is the founder and president of Living Proof Ministries. She has authored numerous best-selling books and Bible studies. She's a dynamic teacher, whose conferences take her across the globe. She's also somebody who's really devoted to her family, lives in Houston, where she leads Living Proof Ministries, and she's equipping women and actually many men around the world to study and explore the scriptures. Beth is someone I've followed for years and it's just a thrill to have her on the program. I just want to say welcome to all of you who are new listeners as well. This has been an unprecedented year for the podcast, and if you are new, hey it's really good to meet you. So this is what we do. We just try to bring you behind the scenes conversations and try to figure out what is it like to be in leadership if you're Beth Moore, or Andy Stanley, or Patrick Lencioni, or some of the various guests.

Carey Nieuwhof:

I found out recently that the general manager of the LA Lakers listens to our podcast. He reached out, so I'm going to have Rob Pelinka on. And it's just fascinating to see what all of you are up to, and I'd love to hear from you. So if you can give me a shout out on social, just connect there on Instagram, I'm [careynieuwhof](#). On Facebook and Twitter, I'm [cnieuwhof](#). I know that's impossible to spell. So you can go to the show notes and to my website, careynieuwhof.com. Even if you misspell it, you'll find it. Or go to leadlikeneverbefore.com, you'll find it there. But I just love to connect with you, and if you'd be so kind,

if you find this encouraging, leave a rating and review wherever you listen to this podcast. We're so grateful for you and just love being in this together, as we try to figure all of this out in real time.

Carey Nieuwhof:

So this episode is brought to you by Pro Media Fire. Do you know, think about being a mega church? Okay. There are some now in the US that have dozens of campuses, but they always have a remote team that is serving their campuses. It's not like every campus duplicates what the other campuses are doing. Well in the same way, Pro Media Fire and Pro WebFire have come together to equip your church, whether it's large, medium, or small, with very similar resources to what a mega church would enjoy with their central offices. So they got a brand new Digital Growth Bundle to help your church in the city where you live and they do it all remotely.

Carey Nieuwhof:

So here's what it includes. The Digital Growth Bundle includes a custom built website. Note to file, do you know how expensive those are if you try to get them done custom? Yeah, a lot more than the Digital Growth Bundle. You also get a web team who is updating your website weekly, a graphic design team, creating all your design needs from print to social media graphics, and a bonus brand identity package for a new logo or brand on any department. The pricing is simple, no upfront fees and a monthly flat rate price. So you can check out the launch price today. You'll save a lot of money by going to promediafire.com/digitalgrowth.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And then Leaders in Living Rooms. Man, I'll tell you, I have so enjoyed Sean Morgan's leadership. I've gotten to know Sean over the last couple of years. I joke that he is the best connected, least known leader in the church, although that's changing pretty quickly. Sean interviews guests, and one of the things I love about podcasts ... I think this is a good podcaster okay, because I've interviewed a lot of the people that Sean has interviewed. But then when I hear his interview, he gets them to say things that I didn't get them to say, and I really work hard on my interviews. So it is not duplication, you actually just learn. It's like turning a jewel, you just learn new things every time you turn it a little bit.

Carey Nieuwhof:

He's talked to people like Andy Stanley, Derwin Gray, Nicky Gumbel, Lysa TerKeurst, that you've heard on this show. But again, angles it differently. And I just love the conversations. Also Ray Johnson, Hosanna Wong. And you can get the Leaders in Living Rooms podcast, it's growing rapidly, by going to Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, wherever you listen to your podcast, or it's brought to you by CDF Capital and you go to cdfcapital.org, where you can find Leaders in Living Rooms there as well. So I really hope you do that. Hey, we choose our partners really, really carefully. And these are people I believe in, and causes I believe in, and I think they're going to benefit you. So make sure you check that out. We got links to all that in the show notes, you can go there at careynieuwhof.com/episode380. Without much further ado, let's get into my conversation with Beth Moore.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Beth, it's such a thrill to have you on the podcast. Man, we got started talking and I'm like, we better just capture some of this. Right? So, so glad to have you. This has been a long time coming.

Beth Moore:

I could not be happier. I tell you Carey, that one reason why I was a pretty immediate yes when you asked me is because I really, really love your leadership podcast. I really love it. I have listened to so many episodes.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's so humbling. You have no idea how humbling that is. Because here I am in my basement and I said, "Hey, I got to put a pillow in the window to keep the sun from coming in on me on video." So it's pretty humble stuff, but thank you.

Beth Moore:

I love interviews. I love a podcast where there is good preaching or teaching, I certainly do enjoy that. But what I really am most drawn to in a podcast, is an interview style because I love getting to know people and I also love to hear how other leaders are making it, how they're enduring. And so, oh man, I've enjoyed it. So I'm very happy to be on here. Thank you for having me.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That sounds very humbling, and it's so great to have you. Now we were talking social media, and you are one of the few people who still really enjoy Twitter. And that is you on Twitter, right? Is that not?

Beth Moore:

Yes. And what I was saying, for you who are listening or viewing, that one of the reasons why I love Twitter, and I don't like the trash on there, I don't like the dumpster fire any more than anybody else does. I don't enjoy trolls and all of that, but what I do love is that I love for somebody to make me think. I love dialogue, I love the communication of just words, expressions. I love to learn from people. And so I've made some friends on there, especially ... And I'm sure we're going to circle around to it at some point, especially in a difficult time in the most recent years, sort of finding some people. I don't need people to think just like me, Carey. I never have needed that.

Beth Moore:

I came from a big family. We were very, very diverse in personality and in opinion. I've got a lot of room for that. But I've at least got to know I'm not just alone. And so I really found some wonderful people, wonderful friends, and just wonderful thinkers. So I do really like it, but it can be a lot. It can be a lot.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well every social platform has its own personality, right? And I said to you sometimes when I haven't been on Twitter in a little while, my team will post on my behalf, but I'll go in and I'm like, "I haven't been to a back alley and gotten beaten up in a while, so I think I'll go onto Twitter." But you've endured some real stuff on there.

Beth Moore:

If you hate yourself that day, don't get on Twitter.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Exactly. It's like, wow. How do you keep your presence of mind on Twitter? Because you've been, well, you've been beat up in the back alley there too. So what do you do? What do you do?

Beth Moore:

And in the front alley.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And in the front alley, correct. All the alleys. All the alleys, you've been beat up there.

Beth Moore:

Carey, all the alleys. You know, a good friend of mine that I'm sure is a mutual friend of ours, such a leader in the church. And he and I were talking and he said, "Beth, why on earth do you do that?" I said-

Carey Nieuwhof:

I've asked that question. I'm like, "What are you doing there?"

Beth Moore:

"Why do you get into that?" Well, he's like, "Be on it, but why do you have to get into any of that? Why don't you have to get into the stuff that is going to be controversial and all of that." And he said, "I just don't do any of that." I said, "Because the Lord is not calling you to that. But if he were calling you to that yet, yes you would. Yes, you would." And the best way I know to tell you is that the Lord, he just, for the time being, he just, it's a place where he has me. It is a place where ... It is a public square, Carey, it truly is. And it's, do we have the stamina, the strength to hang in there? Sometimes the craziness, the foolishness to stand in that public square and speak, when we know we're going to be hit that hard.

Beth Moore:

It's always a question of what's worth it? And man, if it is something deeply convictional, all I know to say is, for whatever reason, God gave me a very, very strong sense of conviction, where at that moment, if I feel really deep conviction to say something, Carey, I don't have one ounce of fear about it. After a message sometimes, I'll look back later on it and think, are you nuts? Have you ever done that, Carey?

Carey Nieuwhof:

Oh yeah.

Beth Moore:

Where you spoke so strongly that you later go, I cannot believe I said that. And especially in the morning, let me say this. I'm not sure who's interested in this, and you can cut this out if it's not interesting. But you can watch a difference in me, in my Twitter activity in the morning and in the evening. Because in the morning, I'm coming straight out of my prayer time. So I get up, I'll have my time with the Lord, my time in the scriptures, and it'll be after that if I'm going to say anything, that's going to be it. And you can tell, I mean, it's going to be straight forward, I hope it's going to be loving, but it's going to be that kind of thing that there is just no fear. Just no fear. But in the evening, I'll always wonder, is it because my quiet time has faded? Then it's going to be the much sillier version, and then I'm usually going to be in a little more humorous mood, but I don't know.

Beth Moore:

I love dialogue. I love going back and forth with people, especially during COVID. All of us that are normally speakers and teachers out in sanctuaries and event centers and all these kinds of things. Oh my goodness, this is just not a day when we're getting a lot of interaction. And so for me, that's where some of that feedback is coming from. And you know, some of the criticism I get is valid and I learn from it. But I learned from a ton of people on Twitter, I really do. So I don't know. I'm sure someday I'll just be like, okay I'm done. And then that's just it, I'm off and that's all there is.

Carey Nieuwhof:

You'll be done. But you know, I like that forum of the public square, because I think you're right. That is Twitter at its best. It's not always at its best, and not everybody uses that. And what I sense, because I've followed you for a while now on Twitter, and I'm like, "Yeah that has to be Beth. That can't be her team."

Beth Moore:

They would never get me in that much trouble.

Carey Nieuwhof:

They would never get you in that, I'm like, that's her. But you are taking a stand, but there are people who bait people. Do you know what I mean? And I don't see you in that category. I see you as principled, I see you as passionate, but I don't think you're trying to pick a fight. Sometimes you're calling truth out, sometimes you're calling issues out, or leaders out, but I don't feel like you're baiting for a fight. Is that just you? How do you figure out the line? Do you have to edit yourself? How do you process the criticism? I'm just interested.

Beth Moore:

Okay. For one thing you have to know, going into social media, this would be on any platform right now, on any of them, because I've even seen it start on Instagram and I'm like, "Oh, that's such a shame," because it's tended to be the real respite among-

Carey Nieuwhof:

It's civil on Instagram, for the most part.

Beth Moore:

Every now and then I'll see it on there. But we have to accept ... I've told some of the young women that I mentor in ministry, that there is a certain amount of, man if you ... I hate to use this old colloquialism, but if you can't take the heat, then you better get out of that kitchen, because it's just going to be there. So there's a certain amount of it you just accept. I've also learned how to recognize ... Oh my goodness, Carey, I'd give anything if I had known this. We were not indoctrinated in it say four or five years ago, but I wish I could have recognized at that time what we know now, and that's how to tell who's a troll. You can tell if you go look at accounts that those are not even real accounts. They're not real life individuals that are interacting behind them. It's just all sort of a scam and a game and a strategy, but it doesn't mean anything. And so I learned to look past that.

Beth Moore:

I've also learned to look past the ones, there are people that are just flat ... Their identity is in the argument, and what makes them feel tall is to make you feel small. And so I got so baptized in it. I told a friend of mine this last night that messaged me, because he was asking me if something bothered me. I said, "No." I said, "Some of it does." Some of it does, it depends on how personal it is. And by that I mean, if it's coming from the world that I have most served and loved, they are still capable of really piercing my heart, because that's my tradition and my closest part of my family of the faith. But a lot of it I've been so baptized in that fire that the small burns don't really hurt. And some of them, I think are hilarious.

Beth Moore:

I was saying just last night, I mean I'm not kidding. Over and over out of Revelation, I get the portion out of Revelation that is about a great mother of prostitutes. And I'm always forever wondering, I don't know, I want to ask them, "Am I the great mother, or is this ..." So some of it's so insane, I don't pay any attention to it. But there is value to it, and when I no longer feel that there is, I'm going off of it. But I want to say, it's not because I think that I've got a lot to say, it's because I learn a lot from people on there, and see a lot of ... There are people that make me think, and that make me rethink. I'll have had a certain perspective for all this time, and hmmm, I need to really pray that through. And I didn't-

Carey Nieuwhof:

I don't want to put you on the spot, but who's making you think these days?

Beth Moore:

Well, one of the things that Twitter has done is that worlds that were very separate, all got thrown into the same fishbowl. So I want you to think this through with me. Carey. In the old days, what they would call ... I wish there was a better name for this, but I would've been in the popular cultural Christianity kind of realm, and that segment of the ministry world. Where then there was going to be the more academic, this was the seminary world, these were the professors and teachers. And those worlds, they really didn't mix.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Yeah, you're right. There was an academic stream, a preaching stream, a women's stream. Yeah.

Beth Moore:

Very separate. So what Twitter did, is it threw us altogether. And it's one reason why it has been such a train wreck, is because we did not have to reckon with one another. And I have to tell you, I think that he would not, well I know that he would not mind. So I'm going to tell you this, but I'll give a perfect example. Through Twitter, nothing done social media, I came to really think a lot of Russell Moore.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Okay, yeah.

Beth Moore:

And I have to tell you, I'm going to speak on his behalf here, but I think he would nod at this. He might turn a little bit red, but I think he'd nod to this. He did not like me and I did not like him. Again, our worlds were so different. I had a very narrow, a caricature of what he and his kind would have been like,

and he would have had the same about me. And here we are all thrown into the same world and it's a mess. It is a mess. But I think the good side of it is, that we got to see one another, so many of us, as actual people and not just positions or caricatures.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Oh, that's good.

Beth Moore:

And I think that's been some of the value of it. So in all our defense, as much in-fighting as there's been, we're not used to all being thrown in there together. We're not used to being compared to one another. My world would not have touched their world, but suddenly, we are all in disagreements. But we're also very new to being in the same world with one another, and we don't understand one another's language. I said to a friend of mine yesterday on there, because it was using a phrase. I said, "I need you to explain this to me. And I'm not a seminarian, talk this way to me. I don't understand." I said, "You can speak to me in a language that I can't understand." And so it's sort of forced us to have to remember that one another is there, and that there are people that are way beyond our usual circles of contact out there. And that's probably what I like about it.

Beth Moore:

I've had to really come to grips with that. And some of the things that I would have had very strong feelings about, maybe very strong negative feelings. I've never, ever been anti-seminary ever. I would have greatly benefited from it, but just the world's so different. And I would have tended to think, there was a coldness and a distance, and that I came from a much more demonstrative world, but they would've thought I was crazy, and emotional. And so those are some things I like about it.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Those are really good thoughts, Beth. I hadn't really thought about it. You sort of reminded me of what social media was when it first came out. And maybe that's why it's so tribal right now, is all these people who would have been in their little corners are suddenly thrown into the big public square. And I love where it's going with you, because I've had that about this podcast sometimes. I've thought about this 400 episodes in or whatever we're at, I will have guests who normally wouldn't be in the same room together. Now they may not be on the same episode, but I'm like, you know I found them to be a really reasonable person and I may not agree with everything they say, but it was a really good interview.

Carey Nieuwhof:

But you think about it, it's like, well this person sits over here and this person sits over there, but I can bring them together on the same show. And the people who've been around a little bit longer than me will sometimes say, "Well, why would you have this person and then have this person? They don't agree with each other." I'm like, "Well, I think I can learn something from both." So you're reminding me of the unifying power of social media.

Beth Moore:

See Carey, now that's what I would love best. It will always be. I love that. And I guess again, I'll take this back to having a large family and to having very different siblings. And even in our family, mine and Keith, raising two daughters, we were all very opinionated, but it's been, in our family it was a very safe

thing. A very safe thing. Feeling differently about something didn't ever mean that you didn't like them. That was a shock to me. One of the things that God gave me, and oh my goodness, the whole mix of things that there are so many things that I don't like about myself and that I wished were different. But one of the things that I believe that God gave me just as a gift, is I'm always going to naturally like you first. I'm a people person, so I'm intrigued.

Beth Moore:

I don't need you to be like me. I'm just intrigued about what makes you think. I'm always interested, even if they see something a totally different way. Why is it that they see it that way? What is it that has poured into that? What's made them, what ingredients have come together to make them that particular person? I'm very, very intrigued by that. So that's been something that I find enjoyable. So I love it.

Beth Moore:

I'm encouraged in the body of Christ as a sister, when I see people come together and as different as they are, and owning up to those differences, they still can show graciousness in Christ and like each other, just purely like each other. I love that. I think that's when we see, to me, the love of Christ demonstrated most, is when we love someone so much that we know in our natural personality, we would not even like. I have friends that I just adore, and I know that just in my flesh, in the way that my natural personality would go, that I would not care to spend five minutes with them. And yet they're some of my very favorite people.

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:25:04]

Beth Moore:

I love that about the faith, and so I love to see that. I don't have a lot of respect for people that only spend time like if you were hosting a podcast and you only had the people on that believed what you already believe. Why, Carey, do we spend so much time reaffirming what we already think about everything? I don't understand it. I'm bored by it. I can't comprehend. Are we so insecure in what we believe that we're afraid if we hear somebody's different perspective on it that we might then become confused or what? It's an overused phrase now, an echo chamber, but it's so true. I don't enjoy it. I don't find that compelling at all.

Carey Nieuwhof:

One of the things a lot of leaders struggle with, Beth, is when you put yourself out particularly when it's personally you and you have almost a million followers now or a millionish on Twitter, et cetera. But when you do that you make yourself vulnerable. You make yourself open. And you've taken your share of hits as you know. You've been no stranger to controversy over the years and people have felt free to take their shots at you. I would love to know what your filter or line is. Because you said some people you kind of have to just go, "Okay, I need to leave that. I need to walk away. That's a dumpster fire. I need to walk away."

Carey Nieuwhof:

But you strike me as someone who's specifically open like, "No, I'm going to try to learn from this person." How do you not end up letting all of that criticism, how do you not take that personally and just implode? I think a lot of leaders are just like, "I don't know that I could handle that, Beth." And

sometimes I've thought that when I watch you in the middle of one of those debates and I'm like, "I don't know whether I would have that kind of strength, Beth."

Beth Moore:

I do get asked that. That may be one of the questions I get asked the most, Carey, and I am going to try to answer that the best I know how. I do want to say that there are times when it does get to me. There really are. There was a time that I had to get off for a month. I mean, a month. And I didn't know when I got off, I didn't know how long it would be. But I got off for a solid month. That is almost always going to be, you sort of hate to admit to this achilles heel, but don't we all have one? I already softly referenced it a minute ago anyway. That's going to be when it's most personal to me. If it's coming from my own world or my own tradition or the people that I would have spent a whole lot of time just shoulder to shoulder with and served alongside and loved. That's the kind of thing that's going to hurt the most.

Beth Moore:

If we can just be candid, I'll give you an example of it.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Yeah.

Beth Moore:

Let's just go ahead and give a very specific examples. I'm trying to think. I think it was a year ago so I'm not sure when people will be listening to this, but at this point it would have been about 18 months ago I made a smart aleck comment and I was being funny and I regret it. I regret it, but it was in a ... you know, sometimes we forget. We're answering someone over here in a little dialogue and we forget that everybody's seeing it. It was just something that was kind of funny and a friend of mine, Mother's Day was coming up and she said something about speaking on Mother's Day and I kind of smarted off back with her. I said, "Shh, let's not tell it." And it was like, me too, but I was speaking at my church on Mother's Day. It caused an explosion, Carey. An explosion. The likes of which we were in the middle in my denomination of the biggest sexual abuse scandal in our history and this became the biggest topic. It exploded as if I were after someone's pulpit.

Beth Moore:

You need to understand something, Carey. I come from a very conservative part of the body of Christ. I have never had sights on being, I've never even been on a ministerial staff of a church. The only time I was ever paid by a church was when I taught aerobics part time in my 20s and early 30's, Carey. It was inconceivable to me. It was inconceivable to me. It was Mother's Day. I do think these are just differences in interpretation, but I do think there are times when a woman could be asked to address a people or a congregation that is mixed. It's just something I-

Carey Nieuwhof:

So the issue was, just in case there's any listeners wondering what is the issue here? What are we talking about? It's women preaching, right?

Beth Moore:

Right. Please know we realize that our audience is very, very broad today, but you need to know that in my world it goes all the way from in my tradition all the way from really hard core complementarians to what Ed Stetzer asked me right in the middle of it. He said, "Well, what are you?" I said, "Ed, I don't know what I am." He said, "I'm going to ask you some questions and I want to know what you believe." So he asked me this, asked me this, goes, "Okay." He said, "You're a soft complementarian." I'll never forget it. It was the funniest thing. I said, "Okay. That's what I am."

Beth Moore:

But it exploded in such a way that it was so overblown and it was my own world. And still, it's not very often that I could talk to you like this and I could feel the emotion in my throat, but I can right now. It was that personal because I thought I've served this denomination all my adult life. I've never been a threat to anyone's pulpit. Never. Never. I've loved it and given it everything I had and it hurt my feelings. I mean, it got me.

Beth Moore:

So then, let me tell you, a couple months go by and then the thing comes out of I'll not get too far into this, but where a very well known pastor who's putting on a pastor's conference is in a Q and A and they said, "We're just going to say a word to you and then give us your one or two word response." And they said, "Beth Moore." And he said, "Go home." Well, it bounced right off of me. It had no-

Carey Nieuwhof:

Really? That one didn't get to you?

Beth Moore:

Nothing. It bounced right off of me. For one thing, Carey, I don't know any other way to say this. I am a train wreck in so many ways, but God called me. I am certain. There is no way. I surrendered to Him when I was 18 years old. I have not managed to run Him off into all of this time and I have given Him every conceivable opportunity. I could not possibly have accomplished what He's done. I didn't have it in me. None of it makes any sense. He alone could have done it. So that is nonsensical to me. It's like, take that up with the Lord because as far as I know He told us all to go out there and carry the Gospel in our homes and outside our homes. So no, it had no penetrating affect whatsoever.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Isn't that fascinating? Because I would have assumed that that one hurt badly.

Beth Moore:

None. It was so absurd to me. It just was like I'll hand that to the Lord.

Carey Nieuwhof:

But it was wounds from a friend. It was wounds from the inner circle.

Beth Moore:

Oh, it was you all know me better than this. And I didn't know a lot of those pastors, but it was like, "Dudes, I have been serving your women for years. When have you ever gotten the idea that I was after your pulpit?"

Carey Nieuwhof:

Right. I'm not coming for you.

Beth Moore:

It hurt so badly and it was pretty scarring. So it's a very odd thing. All that to say, so the more distant it is for me and so so much of the trolling and all, I can deal with that. But if it's like you knew better than that and you made a big deal out of something that wasn't big. It wasn't big. It just wasn't big. It's absurd to think that a woman could not speak to a people on Mother's Day. I can tell you, Carey, you have been a lot of things, brother, but you have never been a mother. I'm just saying.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Very true. So, resilience. A lot of people would have just quit. They would have said, "You know what? I'm not coming back to Twitter or frankly, this isn't worth it. I give my life to serving the church, it turns around stabs me in the back." Or they become cynical. I'm just wondering, I pick up a lot of hope in you. I pick up a lot of joy in you. I find that you have a very positive voice. What makes you resilient after all of these years of rejection and hurt and, obviously, some success as well?

Beth Moore:

Okay. You just said it in a portion of that sentence after all of these years. And Carey, wouldn't you agree with this? This is what I wish we could picture a number of young women and young men that are just starting out in ministry are one of my very favorite groups on earth to be able to speak to so that we can speak into them and say that the Lord is so faithful to us. He's just so faithful to us. There have been times that I've been tempted to drop out of the public eye, but I have never, Carey, not for ten seconds been tempted to stop serving Jesus. He truly is ... I can hardly talk. I'm either going to grin from ear to ear talking about Him or I'm going to want to cry about Him, but He is the absolute love of my life. And the only reason I'm in one piece. I'm just in it with Him to the last breath. You know, I just know.

Beth Moore:

And the other reason. Through that, Carey, through a period of time in 2016. Again, this was so early on that all of the getting hit so hard was shocking and so it was a lot like standing in front of a firing squad. It was quite undoing, but I kept thinking about young women and not just young women, but women that didn't have many women out there that they had the opportunity to see are they going to let them run them off or are they going to stay? I could not live with thinking that a 25 year old would have looked to me and watched me be easily run off and bullied. I have a responsibility to her. There were some days, it's been a long time since I've been here, but there were some days that I'd think, "Oh my goodness, the last thing on earth I want to do is open up social media." Because it was just constant. It was constant. Hundreds and hundreds, Carey. Hundreds and hundreds of people just saying oh, I was called everything you can imagine.

Beth Moore:

But I would think, "No." Every day, I thought, I'm getting on. If all I've got to say is, "Man, that was a great breakfast taco." I'm going to get on there today if it is the last thing I do because there might be some young woman. Listen, I believe in a real live devil. I believe in demonic forces and spiritual powers of darkness just like Ephesians 6 says and there's a force. The enemy wants us to quit. He can't take

what Jesus has given us, but he can certainly try to go after our effectiveness and our fruitfulness. We've got to get it in our head. We've got to get it settled.

Beth Moore:

I talked to someone not long ago and I said, "You know what, you keep trying to decide over and over whether or not you're going to quit." I said, "I keep watching this. You're going through torment because again you go through the next trial and it's am I going to quit? Am I going to quit?" I said, "You're in this cycle of am I going to quit?" I said, "There's some things that need to be resolved." What I'm resolved to is I'm not quitting. So there's other questions past that, but I'm not quitting, Carey. I don't ask myself that anymore. I don't ask myself if I'm going to have prayer time today. There are certain decisions I've already made but that's resolve. God help me and God sustain me and God fill me and God forgive me as I wallow all over the place and blow it a thousand times, but God help me I have made up my mind I'm not going to quit. It just simplifies things.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's such a good perspective. I have over the last couple of years moving into this founding pastor role, I got a vision for my life at 80 that I prayed over, discerned with friends and everything and it makes it so easy to say, "Well, that's decades in the future." But I kind of think I know where it's going and it just makes all the other decisions easier. And maybe there's a slight left turn or right turn here or whatever, but if you know okay at 80 this is what it looks like it's like I can reverse engineer that.

Beth Moore:

Oh, Carey, I love that. I'm going to be giving that a lot of thought. Because just to have that trajectory. Because I do ask people from time to time where is it you want your life to end up? What do you want it to look like? Picture you are on your death bed and you're able to reason and you're able to glance back over it, what do you want it to look like to that point? And then the very simple question, Carey, it's the most elementary thing. Are you headed that direction? Because just make a turn. Don't wait until five years from now. Are you then have you shifted just a quarter turn to your right or your left? Where is it you want this thing to turn out and are you headed, not are you there? You won't be there. But are you headed that direction? Are you pressing on? Not that you have attained as the apostle Paul said, but that you are pressing toward that.

Carey Nieuwhof:

I think that's a great idea and maybe somebody's take away on this is, "Yeah, I'm just going to decide today. I'm going to stop debating quitting."

Beth Moore:

Oh, yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And that solves so much.

Beth Moore:

Oh, it solves so much.

Carey Nieuwhof:

It's like, I'm just in this.

Beth Moore:

Yeah, and that doesn't mean there may be-

Carey Nieuwhof:

You might change churches or jobs or something, but you're not leaving ministry. You're not leaving leadership.

Beth Moore:

That's right.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Ahh. Now, let's go back to a few years ago. You studied political science.

Beth Moore:

I did.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Tell me all about that. What made you go into poli-sci?

Beth Moore:

Oh, I loved it. The big question is what made me go into ministry? Truly because I loved government. That was my, I think it's just kind of that right brain, left brain thing. There are people that really love science and math and then other people that really love English and social sciences and social studies. I was in that latter category. I was a political science major in college and an English minor. Those were the things that I loved and I had terrific teachers. I was raised in Arkansas, but in the middle of high school was moved with my family, my dad got a job in Houston. Went from a small town in Arkansas to Houston, Texas of all things. But I was moved into a big 5A school where there were just the best of teachers and I just had tremendous instruction. So you tend to love whatever your best teachers did and they were so fascinating and it was a world that I very much loved.

Beth Moore:

I thought that I would be a lawyer and I believed that I would go into government. That's what my grandfather had done and I had thought that I would like to do the same thing. But in the middle of college, I did everything with pre-law in mind for my undergrad years, but then my calling came right in the middle of it and it was so confusing because I knew that I had received a call, but the Lord had not given direction. There were people that were I was called to preach or I was called to the mission field. I was just called, period. The best way I know to explain it is I sensed that the Lord was just going like, "You're mine. You're mine." I didn't see anything. I didn't hear anything, but it was unmistakable and it was from one moment life was one way and the next moment it was another. It was that dramatic. It was one of the most dramatic things that had ever happened to me.

Beth Moore:

You know, I've taken so much heat. This is also something I shrug my shoulders a little over because there's nothing I can do about it, over being people will say she's mystical. I cannot deny some of the ways that God has dealt with me. A huge mistake was assuming that because I understood that and those things that happened to me that would be everybody else's experience. That's where I really was an idiot. But why God has worked this way with me, I don't know, but He has. He has. There has been some things and I don't know how to explain them. I don't know how to explain them, but and my calling was one of them.

Carey Nieuwhof:

A supernatural call. Also a poli-sci major.

Beth Moore:

I absolutely did. I absolutely did where in a moment I sensed the power of the Holy Spirit. I'd been saved since childhood. I had a moment where I sensed the power of the Holy Spirit and I knew that He was like I own your future. You are mine. And in all of these years that was 18 and I'm 63 and I have not had one, I praise the saving, gorgeous name of Jesus to be able to tell you I have never had one doubt. And I have done everything there is to disqualify myself. I mean, you talk about an idiot. Oh, my gosh. I absolutely destroyed every qualification I might have had before I could even get off the ground. And He was like, "You know what? This is going to all be great."

Carey Nieuwhof:

What do you mean by that? How so?

Beth Moore:

Carey, I had a rough, rough time. I hate to even ... you're such a happy person and I'm a happy person too. I hate to get into this because this is the dark part of my story. But I came from a very, very troubled home. I come from a background of sexual abuse and it happened. I don't tell who, but I have been open with the fact that it happened inside my home and that one reason why I love the church so much is, Carey, you talk about the church which is all of us in Christ all across the globe. But now church and I'm talking about my local church, good grief. Carey, it was my harbor. It was my salvation. I'm not one of those that can say I was abused at church. I was abused at home. My safe place was church. I can honestly tell you oh my goodness, the best memories of my life. And I was also loved at home. I've got a big family. A lot of things happened. A lot of problems between my parents and just a lot of instability in my home. So it was pretty dark.

Beth Moore:

I made decisions out of that darkness. I made very poor, very poor relational decisions, just disastrous. The kinds of things that a godly young woman would not do and yet I loved the Lord and made every possible stupid mistake. And Carey, I loved Him. I loved Him. It was like I could not stop and I would get out of ... because the Holy Spirit dwelled in me so this was after my calling was 18. I had not even begun to make mistakes. I would be so repentant and sorrowful and truly, truly because I loved the Lord. He pulled me out of that pit and I'd start walking again and before long I'd fall right back into it and it really, honestly, it took years. I had so much brokenness and such a broken view of my worth that honestly, I wish so much ... this is what didn't happen. You know how I told you that moment of my calling was like

one second it was this way, one second it was that. I'd give anything if my healing had been like that, Carey, but it was not.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Oh, that's such a good distinction. Calling versus healing. Wow, Beth.

Beth Moore:

Oh. So what happened with me that strengthened me and remade me happened slowly and it happened because I tell you the Lord lit an appetite in me to study the Scriptures. I'm telling you, veracious. And it was when I was 27 and I still have it. He's maintained it all of these years. And I don't mean that every day it's just like a flame, but it's at least an ember.

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:50:04]

Beth Moore:

It's warm every day and other days it's like a flame. It's just like a torch. It's like a bonfire. This morning, even I was just like my face right in it. But literally, the concept that Scripture teaches of the renewing of the mind, that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind and then in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, when it talks about taking our thoughts captive to the knowledge of Christ and tearing down those strongholds. What happened with me is that I studied, I loved it so much, and I loved it because of Jesus. One of the most wonderful things that the Lord ever taught me to do is I never was... I didn't learn to study as apart from him. It was very involved with him. So it wasn't... I don't... Does that make any sense?

Carey Nieuwhof:

Yeah, yeah, it does. It does.

Beth Moore:

I study the Word, and... God's Word and God be left completely out of it. And you don't even have to be saved. But that wasn't the case with me. He drew me into it and his spirit met me. I mean, he animated those pages for me and just exhilarated me. And so it was years of that, Carey, that he was just remaking my mind. Just... I wish it had just been in an instant, but it wasn't. Just years and years of studying and memorizing it. And this morning... I hope I'm not talking too much. Am I talking too much?

Carey Nieuwhof:

No, this is great.

Beth Moore:

Okay. This morning I was on a walk with him and I was reciting some of my chapters to him. And I just... This is going to sound so sappy. And it is, it is sappy, but I just... Oh, I just wept to him this morning. With joy, not with sorrow, but with joy, I just said to him out loud, "You saved my life. You... I ought not be alive." And if I were alive, I should have... I was so self-destructive, I don't know how I didn't burn it all down. And it's just him. It's just him. And so as much as I wish it would've been overnight and it would have saved me so much pain, at the same time it's what caused me to fall in love with the healer instead

of just being infatuated with the healing. I don't have just one story for you about my healing it's still going, Carey.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Wow. Mine is too. Mine is too, Beth. How do you battle self destruction? It's a pattern I see in leadership. It's something I think to one extent or another, we all struggle with, I know I do. I can self-sabotage.

Beth Moore:

Oh me too.

Carey Nieuwhof:

How do you battle that?

Beth Moore:

I think it is that daily process, when our practice is to be with him. Then we are having to bring that to the forefront. I also know, and somebody listening, I'm just hoping so much they're going to get some encouragement right here. I also know that it is that self-loathing and that deep insecurity that sets me off on a bad path. Every time when I look back over my most disastrous decisions, it was because I continued to go with that. So I know... It's like that where you hit... When a child hits that burner on the stove and gets burned. It's like I... Now, when I reach toward it, it's almost like I could hear the Spirit of God going, "You really want to touch that? Because do you remember how that's..." You know? And so I would say to you, to get... To someone listening, to start being very aware of what the triggers are that cause you to go into that self-destructive cycle that go from the thought into somehow acting on it.

Beth Moore:

And that's where you want to deal with it is to it right in that stage. Okay lord, I'm... I've told him so many times, I am so down on myself and so tired of myself. I'm so sick of myself. And that's where I really need him to minister to me. So I have to hit it at that point. And so what if I don't? What if I do spiral into... I'm so irritable in such a dark place for three weeks that I can hardly lift my head? Well, then he still loves me and he still picks me up. But my normal practice is to try to catch it. If we're in a habit, in the spiritual discipline of bringing ourselves before the Lord daily or almost daily, then we're in practice of going, this is mine. This is my state. This is where I am today, and it's not very pretty. And Lord, this is what's gotten me in trouble a lot of times. And I've had to have a real honest relationship with him because I have such a... Because I've been such a train wreck.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And I don't want to poke inappropriately and we can move on if you're not comfortable answering, but what would be an example of one or two of those self-destructive tendencies? Because I do think you're reading a lot of leaders' mail right now.

Beth Moore:

Okay. Well, for one thing, I promise you, brother, I would have burned my marriage down. I walked... I promise you. There is just no way except for the Lord's help that I would not have destroyed my marriage one way or another and given up on it and not had the tenacity to do it. I can tell you that for

certain. I can tell you that you can... For what I do, you can get... One of the things about being a teacher and a speaker, oh my goodness, Carey, I taught Sunday school for 23 years. And one of the best favors that it did me is that I didn't have the choice about whether or not I was going next Sunday because I was the teacher.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Right, so you're kind of like, "Well, I think I have to do this," right? Yeah.

Beth Moore:

Exactly. So we're... there are pastors listening. There are other teachers that are listening and this is the beauty of it, is that where other people would get to go, I will never do that again. I mean, I had so many times that I would adjust that rear view mirror in my car where I could look straight at myself and go, did you call that a... Did you call that a lesson? Because that, that. That was the biggest mess. Where you just go, I've embarrassed myself so badly and just taught... Been dumb. Just said dumb stuff, Carey, just said dumb stuff.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Are you hard on yourself, Beth?

Beth Moore:

I am. I am. But then it would be like, go back after it. Go back after it and get back up there. And one thing that God, he did put a spring on my behind. I do get knocked down. But for whatever reason, he has put a spring on me where Tigger gets right back up and goes at it again. But I definitely would've destroyed it. I would have. And the Lord, that's the power, that's the strength, the sustaining power of the call. As 1 Thessalonians 5 says, he called you, is faithful, and he will surely do it.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Wow. Thank you for sharing that with us. I mean, I get that too. There's a push pull to intimacy and closeness that I still battle to this day. It's like, "Well, you can come in, but not that close." Yeah.

Beth Moore:

Right. Right.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's something I'm familiar with.

Beth Moore:

And with failure, Carey, we are going to fail. We are. And so, can we deal with it? Or did we really think that all of this was based on how good we were instead of the pure grace of God? And I think that is a big question there, and I got to tell you something, Carey, this is a conversation that would be interesting to have with a lot of leaders, because a lot of us would feel real differently about this. I do believe that anyone can be restored. And in fact, I believe that it is crucial that people are restored to... That they get to, in some way, in some fashion, somehow serve God in some way that produces some fruit. Whether it is in a... Parking cars at the church for people that are visiting, or whatever it may be.

Listen, I know that there are areas of failure that where that person does not need to be restored back into that position or back into that place.

Beth Moore:

But I cannot read the scriptures and come away from it thinking that anyone is past being forgiven, fully re... If they're willing. If they're willing and there's fruit in it. We don't have to sit back and go, "I wonder if they repented?" There is never... A person who has repented is going to be humble every time, they're not going to be prideful and entitled. There's going to be fruit of repentance. If there's fruit of repentance, then that person could be fully restored. And that there'd be something useful for the Lord. Maybe they're just... their place is prayer. They just get a list of people they pray for, but I just, I believe in forgiveness of sins, I believe in restoration. And I believe that we confess our sins and God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Carey Nieuwhof:

We do live in this cancel culture moment where it's like one more strike and you're out, or just the wrong word. Right? Which is interesting. I'm starting to see a theme as we continue this conversation. You're in the public square. You refuse to give up on people who disagree with you. There's stuff that hurts, but you're not going to quit. One of the best voices I've ever heard on restoration is Gordon MacDonald. He wrote *Ordering Your Private World*, but he also wrote a book called *Rebuilding Your Broken World*, which I think is fantastic. And he outlines-

Beth Moore:

Have not read that Carey, I'm going to get it.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That is a great book, Beth. And he outlines this process. One that actually he went through when he had that tough season in his life. But you basically surrender yourself to other people, to a trusted counsel that helps restore you, make sure that you're okay. And when they say, not when you say, but when they say you're ready to go back in this capacity, that's when you humbly go back. And I thought, that's what's missing in this culture because, I decided to cancel you and you're gone. So I just decided and now you're banished to the wilderness. You're the scapegoat. You're gone forever. Your life has no purpose or no hope of redemption.

Beth Moore:

It's not gospel.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That isn't gospel. And the instant, like, "Hey, I said, I was sorry. Like just give me, get me back in there right now." That's not the answer either is it? I'd love to hear your thoughts on that.

Beth Moore:

Because that's not true repentance. I love where it says in Galatians 6:1, "Brothers and sisters if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit." But that you who are spiritual, it is plural. And I think about this, it's the person who has fallen into sin and then it's you, that's going to be a plural. And I love that. That when there is a small

group of people that gather around someone that's really blown it, really fallen into something deep. I love that, where it's not just the one-on-one. I think that's a very dangerous thing to do because that person can be manipulated.

Beth Moore:

But when it's a group of people and everybody is able to watch and test the spirit and take the time, man, take the time. Don't rush it. But I tell you, you got somebody that's pushing and elbowing their way back, they are not ready. There's got to be that renewing of the mind and that fruit of repentance, but... Oh, God's so faithful. God's so faithful. If we'll let him do it. Let him take the time with us and the healing with us. There's just nobody he can't restore.

Carey Nieuwhof:

You've talked about young leaders and you love building into the young leaders, but when you were in your twenties, even early twenties, late teens, you get called into ministry, you're God's, but you don't really have a whole lot of female role models in ministry. Particularly in your tradition, which was completely male hierarchy.

Beth Moore:

Right.

Carey Nieuwhof:

What was that like for you? And how did you hang onto that call?

Beth Moore:

I wouldn't have even known what... I'd love to tell you. And I'm going to tell it in brief, if you don't mind.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Yeah, go ahead.

Beth Moore:

18. I was always... In my tradition, one of the best things that my tradition had to bring to the mix is that we were taught very early on to serve. It just never occurred to me. I had no concept that you would just go to church on a Sunday. That's just not the way we were disciplined. We were raised to serve by the time I was 12, I was serving. And I know that it was 12 because I would have come out of Vacation Bible School. When you age out of Vacation Bible School, then you start helping with it. And so I would have been in someone else's class and been the one pouring the Kool-Aid or passing out the cookies or just helping line up the children or whatever. So I started serving when I was 12 years old and then on to my calling. But these were things that we were raised up to do and to be involved in it. And to be part of what's happening in the local church. Oh, Carey, I'm trying to think where you were heading me, that I went into that story.

Carey Nieuwhof:

I'm wondering about your mentors. Who your mentors were, because there weren't a lot of open doors for women leaders.

Beth Moore:

When I was 18, it was in the summer, and I had gone back home to Houston from college and was serving my church just like I would always do. I was helping with Sunday school class. And so they said, "Okay, we don't have anyone to go as a sponsor with our sixth grade girls to..." What was... It was our missions camp. It was college days at that time. Or girls' auxiliary. I can't... We need somebody that would go with them. And I was like, "Well I'll go." And I said, "Am I too young to go?" And they said, "Well, no, we don't suppose you are." And all it would mean is that I stayed with them in their little... In their cabin. And I was their sponsor at camp. And so other people took us.

Beth Moore:

And so I was with all of these sixth grade girls and I had been teaching them in Sunday School anyway. And so we were at camp. And so please just picture any kind of summer camp, church camp. You can picture all of our cabins looked exactly the same. All of the bunk beds looked exactly the same. I'm in this concrete bathroom. And that literally, this is how unimpressive it was. This said, you'd have to know what was the spirit, because here I was, I mean, why in the world? Couldn't it have been outlined by lake? But it was there that I encountered that move of the Holy Spirit. And so I didn't know what to do. I thought, I don't know... I don't even know what just happened because there was no manifestation. I had no manifestation at the time. I just knew.

Beth Moore:

And so I went to this... I... Had to have been the Lord. I went to the camp director and I said, "Can I tell you something?" And she had the wherewithal to look at me and go, "Beth, you have received a call of God." And she said, "Here's what I want you to do. I want you to go right back to your church and on Sunday..." Because in our tradition, there's an invitation at the end of the service to come forward if you were giving your life to Christ or if you're surrendering, we would say back in that day, Carey, and maybe in your role as well. Surrendering to full-time vocational service. And she said, "This is what you're doing." So she said, "You go and you tell your pastor." Well, I did, that next Sunday invitation time came, I walked the aisle. I'll never, ever regret it.

Beth Moore:

It was the best advice she could have given me because every time I thought back on what a failure, I had been and how I disqualified myself. I thought about that day that I walked the aisle in front of my church. And my pastor presented me to my church and my church members came up and shook my hand and embraced me and spoke words of blessing over me. And I knew that it was real. So after that, it was like, "Whoa, what on earth do I do?" I just... I didn't know anything to do. What can a woman do? And so I just, I finished out my degree and thought, "Well, this is going to be the biggest waste. What in the world?" Nothing's more, nothing is more useless than a pre law degree when you don't know.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Yeah, no kidding. Yeah.

Beth Moore:

I got my teachers certificate, I thought, "Well, I can fall back on that." I could teach political science. I would love that. And I know I did do that. And student teaching, et cetera. But all I had, there was a woman at my church that was a speaker and I... That she became my mentor. But I wish that I could

stand up and show you how she would do, because she was the kind that she would go and do. She would speak at women's luncheons and different dinners and events. In those days, Carey we always had like a fashion show first, we've come a long, long way in women's ministry.

Beth Moore:

Along with that, she would stand right at the microphone. Her notes would be there. And she was always just dressed a certain way. Oh my goodness. She attended my classes all the way to her, nearly to her death. As long as she possibly could into her early nineties, every once in a while I would look at her, I could see the look on her face that, Oh gosh, I created a monster.

Beth Moore:

I'd just bounce off the walls. But I had her. And she was the one that told me, she said, I had done... I told you that I taught aerobics at my church, listen, people can laugh at that if they want. But I mean, it was, we had a blast. And I spoke, she had me speak on it, on Christian fitness. This was in my early twenties at a conference where she was the keynote. And she stayed for that little breakout... Remember Carey, when we used to do break out sessions? Remember those days? There'd be the keynote.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And then the breakout. Yeah.

Beth Moore:

All the speakers, all do the breakouts. And so she stayed after and she said, "You are called to speak." That was the first person that ever said that. And so she was a role model for me and a couple of women, but I will tell you, no one did... I didn't know anyone. I wouldn't have had any place to put the ministry that God ultimately entrusted to me because I would not have even, I would not have known it existed.

Beth Moore:

And so every year of my ministry life, to this day, what I minister out of is the overflow of what's going on in my own relationship with Jesus. So it was always that my passion for him and my passion, I have always believed, I still believe, and I will not let this go, and I will not... I cannot be convinced otherwise. This is the... I am more stubborn about this right here than I guess anything else. I will not accept that something about me made me special where the Word was that brilliant to me and that Lord Jesus has been this thrilling to me. I have to believe with all of my heart that anyone can enjoy him like that and enjoy his Word.

Beth Moore:

And so that's been so much of what has... That wanting other people to enjoy him and wanting other people to enjoy the Scripture. Is it overcame my fear because I do. I do still get nervous before I speak. I'll feel anxiety. I worry sometimes afterwards, "Oh, that was awful." Other times don't feel that way, but I'm weak in my natural self. But my... I want people to enjoy him. He's just been the love and joy in my life. And life's hard. I just want them to know him so bad.

Carey Nieuwhof:

How do you prepare a message? You're so real in your communication. Just like this interview, very transparent, very open, very vulnerable, and yet very clear and very anchored in Scripture. What are some keys for message prep for you?

Beth Moore:

So much of it comes out of my own reading. I love that because I'll just have my... I have a, just a way that I approach my daily Bible reading. And so, so much of what becomes a message... I keep a journal, but I don't write in my journal like a letter. I'm recording things. I'll record prayer requests, things that I want to pray for people. And I saw one just a couple of days ago over a baby, that's on the way that's already showing to have serious birth defects. Well, that... Her name went immediately in my prayer journal. And so I keep records like that, but I always keep in the back of my journal, just blank pages. And so when I'm doing my Bible reading, I am very often flipping to the back of that notebook and jotting down a concept because something will be jumping out at me. And so I would say, I've tried to estimate it. I would say about 80% of what I end up teaching or speaking on has originated in my own reading time.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's amazing.

Beth Moore:

The other 20% of that would be coming from things like a sermon that I've heard, something that's stirred up in me from another source. It would be maybe I'm reading a book or whatever, but here's how it works for me. This is how I know if it's the difference between, say for instance, a social media post or an article, or an event, or a book. It's all about whether or not I can get the passion to be finally satiated.

Beth Moore:

So say for instance, I get obsessed a couple of years ago in my reading of Galatians. Just obsessed with it. So the first, probably the first thing I'm going to do as man, that's the coolest scripture, I'm probably going to post something on it. Well, then I can't quit thinking about it. And so next thing I know that it's turned into a message. The next time I speak at an event, I'm speaking out of it. Well, I still can't get it to go away. Well, before I know it then, by the time it will not go away invariably, I'm about to write on it. This is how it's gone for years and years and years. So I've always been able to test it.

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:15:04]

Beth Moore:

If I can go to another event, let's say a Living Proof Live event, which is one of ours. I'll speak three times at that event. When I come home from that event, I'm nodding, it feels complete. Then that gets tucked away or it's going to be used for TV, but that's there. That's there. I might speak on it again. I might not, but if it is a love that will not let me go, invariably that's going to be. It builds like that. And then my first thing is going to be just to pour over the passage again and again and again and read it in such a way that I'm emphasizing a different word when I read it.

Beth Moore:

And then I'm going to hit the books. One of the things I did not, I said this toward the beginning, I wish so much I would have, oh my goodness, I would have benefited so much from seminary, but it just did not work out for me. But one of the things that I had to learn how to do was just to study. I had to learn how to study secondary resources, how to study a Bible dictionary and how to study commentaries. And so I have really gleaned a lot just from being able to go to the giftedness of others that have those spiritual gifts of knowledge and wisdom and I'm able to glean from them. And one of the things that I love thinking that we got somebody listening to us or watching that does this kind of thing, that is a communicator.

Beth Moore:

And I'm going to tell you something. I pray big things because I've got a lot of responsibility and I pray very often to grow as a teacher to keep learning. When I quit learning, listen, a teacher that is not a student is a talker, they're not a teacher. They just want to talk. They don't want to teach because a teacher, a true teacher is a student first. And so I pray, "God, please continue to grow me as a teacher." But the other thing I just do not shy away. I ask the Lord, "I wonder if I'm going to be calling you about three days from now?" Could you scratch that part? What can you fault a person for praying? But I ask God to make me accurate and ingenious. I'm sorry if that's offensive to somebody.

Carey Nieuwhof:

No, I think those are good prayers. I don't think people pray enough.

Beth Moore:

I don't either. And we're taking credit for, we got another problem. But if we're looking to God, Lord, I'm asking, first of all, that I am accurate, but I'm asking you, "Lord, would you give me ways of teaching? Methods of teaching where my class leaves and is not soon going to forget that?" Okay, last Saturday I was talking about prayer and so I thought, okay, I want a way, I did a survey to see why don't we pray more than we do? I took the top nine answers and I've turned it into a Family Feud game, where the top nine reasons why we don't pray.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Survey says.

Beth Moore:

Yes. And then I've got two people up to play it. And so then we flipped the screen where the answers came out that I had so many people say after that, "I will never forget those." Because it was silly. It was hilarious, but it was memorable. And I'm going to believe that that was an answer. It sounds dumb, but I think it was an answer to that prayer. Just caused me to be creative in the way that I am able to in the methodology. Got to be accurate. I need to be sound in my doctrine but in the way that I presented it in such a way that it is salty and memorable. Lord, how do I do that?

Carey Nieuwhof:

Are you a manuscript person or more bullet points? Or how developed is your talk? Bullet points?

Beth Moore:

Bullet points. Bullet points. Points. And what I do, I leave space in between them. If I've got an event that weekend, by midweek, I'm on my concept and I'm beginning to line out a number of points. Say, I'm speaking three times a Living Proof Live, then I'm likely going to make between all three of those sessions, I'm going to make probably not in excess of seven or eight points, total. Three points per session, roughly. Maybe one point in the last session. But what I'm doing, I am constantly, Carey, depending upon the Lord, I do use older examples and I don't have any hesitation to do that. But I'm constantly asking God, "Set me up for my lesson." That what I'm experiencing, what I'm seeing, conversations that I'm having, even what happens in the airport on my way, I'm leaving space between it so that literally either that morning, before I go to speak or that afternoon before the evening, when I go to speak, I wait until then to fill in the space in between.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Wow.

Beth Moore:

So that it will be as, so I've got the skeleton, but I'm not going to put that muscle around it until the last minute, because I'm going to have waited till then and let that thing cook. Let that thing cook and look around me and be aware constantly. There's this gorgeous place in Luke's writing in Acts 16, where he says that, "God opened Lydia's heart to pay attention to what she was taught." And I ask the Lord to do that with me all the time, Carey. That I'll just pay attention. That I'll watch what's around me, in that conversation, in the sight that I'm seeing, maybe something that's happening just in nature around me, but so it will be as alive as possible.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well, that's inspiring. It's nice to hear that at this stage in your life, it's still so fresh, so real, so real time because it would be easy to coast, wouldn't it? And we've all seen people who have done that. They stopped learning a decade ago, or it's the same message over and over and over again. Kudos to you.

Beth Moore:

They're missing the best part, Carey. I hope somebody that's in that trap will hear some hope here and go back to this because when we let everybody do all of that for us and we're not just crying out for that wisdom ourselves and meeting with God over it, we're missing the best part. I love the discovery. I love it. I love it so much. I love being able to kind of dig it out, but I got to tell you something funny because of my personality or what, but I just, it's in the word. I've asked for it. Listen, I would not hesitate to ask the Lord, I've a donkey that lives next door that I absolutely love. Do not think I have not said to the Lord, "If you ever want to make that donkey talk to me, I just want you to know I'm ready."

Beth Moore:

I would ask him to burn a bush. If it's there, if it's available, I'm just adventurous. I'm going to always say, "Lord do it." And so I love living on the edge of that and seeing what he'll do. And so, I've asked the things that you see in the scripture. It says that Moses was, his eyes were still as strong in his old age they had ever been. And then it tells us that Caleb had all that strength in his eighties that he'd ever had. And all these. And so I've asked the Lord all of that, "Lord just don't let my eyes wear out. Just keep me strong." Well, none of that's happened. I have very poor eyesight and wear very thick glasses and I wear very, very strong contacts.

Beth Moore:

I have aged just like everybody else has, but I tell you what he has done because I was laughing with him the other day about it because I thought, "Oh Lord, I've asked all of it." I have asked all of it. I have asked, oh, every ecstatic experience. I don't understand why people have it. I just don't. I guess we're just all different, but I'm just like, "Oh, I'll go. I'll go. You're lifting anybody to the third heaven, I'll go see." That's just me. But I realized that no, none of that happened for me. I have all of those aging things, but he has kept that young, all of my adult life.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's awesome.

Beth Moore:

Carey, he has.

Carey Nieuwhof:

I can hear it. I can see it.

Beth Moore:

I don't know. There's no explanation for it. And so I realized, yeah, you did. I wanted it to be that my eyes never clouded up, my vision stayed. All of these things, but you gave me something better. You sustained a lifelong love affair through me.

Carey Nieuwhof:

That's a good thought. That's a great thought. That would be, there's a translation in the message, I think it's the end of Romans or something. I can never find it, but it's like, "May you be fresh and celebrating." And I think about that. That would be great. At 70 or 80 to be fresh and celebrating. Hey, you've got a brand new book. Do you want to tell us a little bit about it and where people can find you online as well?

Beth Moore:

I bet you're thinking, are you thinking in terms of Galatians?

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well that or Chasing Vines or what else you got? You do a lot of writing. You pick your favorite.

Beth Moore:

I also have a new Bible study that's just come out. It's just come out online and then it comes out in regular workbook, traditional form in late January on the book of Galatians. And so that's a ton of fun for people that would like to study along with us. I teamed up with my daughter, Melissa, who's a total brainiac. She really does bring in that whole academic edge to it. She is very formally educated as well as just brilliant and quirky and wonderful and interesting. We have that, but oh my gosh, Carey, I got obsessed. I took my daughters on a bucket list trip. Oh gosh, I guess it's been about four years ago now, maybe three, maybe three, to Italy. And we stayed right in the middle of a big vineyard right at harvest season. And wouldn't have had the wherewithal. We planned the trip when we could go.

Beth Moore:

We did not plan the trip for harvest time. We just planned it when we were able to go. But oh, oh. You talk about getting a great crush. The vine and the branches came alive to me. Yes, yes. And I smile because I don't suppose I have ever just flat out enjoyed writing a book more in my entire life. I enjoyed every single sentence of writing that book. Chasing Vines, and it is just God's desire to make every single one of us in Christ, immensely fruitful, just immensely fruitful. You may or may not be called into some kind of vocational ministry, but I promise you if you are in Jesus, that it is his very great intention for you to be immensely fruitful. Yes.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well, and any book that starts in, is it Tuscany you were in? Yeah.

Beth Moore:

Yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof:

We vacationed there last year. It was amazing. It was so beautiful. Hard to believe until you're actually there how gorgeous it is.

Beth Moore:

It really is. Melissa said something. I had both my girls with me, they joke about my best. Those are my very best friends. And Melissa said something I thought was so insightful. She said, "I've never been drawn to pictures of Tuscany because they don't look real." And she said, "The reason why they don't look real is because you're staring at it and it still doesn't look real. It still doesn't."

Carey Nieuwhof:

I know. It's insane. Beth, this has been a delight. We'll have to have you back. I feel like we just scratched the surface.

Beth Moore:

Thank you.

Carey Nieuwhof:

It's been so rich.

Beth Moore:

I'm a handful. I thank you so much for having me on.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Oh, are you kidding me? And I've learned a lot from you and look forward to continuing learning. If people want to find you online, obviously Beth Moore and then what's the end of your handle? Is it LPM? Living Proof Ministries?

Beth Moore:

Yes. BethMooreLPM and that LPM, I've been asked so many times what it stands for, Living Proof Ministries. The basic, it's based on the word being living and active. But the basic premise of it is that I pray that I and my coworkers would be reminders that we're living proof God could use anybody. And I believe that, Carey, with all of my heart that nobody's beyond being redeemed and being put to good use and benefit to this world through Christ.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Awesome. And online website, easiest place?

Beth Moore:

Well, I'm always a little reluctant to say this because I just hate saying my own name over and over, but the easiest way for people to remember it is it's going to be Living Proof Ministries, bethmoore.org is just the easiest way to remember it. That's our website.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Beth, what a joy. Thank you so much for being with us today.

Beth Moore:

Carey, thank you. I enjoyed every second of it. Thank you so much for having me.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Well, that was fun and profound and real. And if you want transcripts or you want to drill down on anything we talked about, you can go to the show notes. They're there for you for free and you'll find them at careynieuwhof.com/episode380. They'll be there for you. We got some fresh episodes coming up that I'm going to tell you about. Also What I'm Thinking About segment. And I want to talk to you today about why mega church pastors keep falling. I'm going to do that at the very end of the show. In the meantime, who've we got coming up next? Well, I am very excited to talk about cancel culture, Scott Sauls and Sarah Anderson will be my guests. Sarah's book, we recorded this a little while ago, just hit the top 50 in all of Amazon. And, how do you really connect with people you disagree with? And what is it with cancel culture? That's the next time here's an excerpt.

Sarah Anderson:

Well, cancel culture has turned into, we're not making a snap decision or snap judgment on what somebody did. We're saying, "You are bad. I don't want to just cancel this action that you did. I have contempt for who you are." And so there's a way, I think that in anger, in a way is healthier towards what people sometimes do or have done wrongly, because it's saying, "I believed you are better than that and you disappointed me. Anger is telling me there is a bar that I thought you could have reached and you didn't reach it and so I'm disappointed. I'm frustrated about that." Contempt is saying, "There's no hope for you. There's no chance to kind of fix this." And I think that that's the really dangerous message.

Carey Nieuwhof:

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Carey Nieuwhof:

It's time for What I'm Thinking About, and I am thinking about with a heavy heart, why mega church pastors keep falling. And I want to share some theories with you. Some things I look at in my own life, my own heart and this segment is brought to you by Pro Media Fire. You can head on over to check out their new Digital Growth Bundle. It gives you basically a staff member for a fraction of the cost to do everything from web design, updates, graphics and a brand identity package, go to promediafire.com/digitalgrowth. And by Leaders in Living Rooms, checkout Leaders in Living Rooms, a podcast I love and listen to by heading over to Apple Podcasts or wherever you are. Sean Morgan is the host there and he brings you a lot of great guests.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Oh man, unfortunately this is a repeating story, but mega church pastors keep falling. And I keep asking why and I think the seeds of failure are in all of us. I think anytime a leader says, "You know what? I'll never do that. I'll never have an affair. I'll never take something that doesn't belong to me. I'll never let it all get up to my head." Yeah. I think that's very dangerous. I think the seeds for success and the seeds for failure live within all of us. And so this isn't a particular comment on any recent incident. This is something I think about on a regular basis and unfortunately, well, for years now, we've had mega church pastors that have not ended their ministries particularly well. And it just hurts so many people. It hurts their congregation. It hurts the victims involved. It hurts their family. It hurts them, their board, their team and trust is broken.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And so I've got a few thoughts that these are just the things I'm looking for in my own life and when I counsel leaders, these are the things I say, "What about this?" Here's one of the things, because to honestly say our church got bigger than I imagined, even though it's not one of the biggest mega churches, it got a lot bigger than the six people I started with. And even this podcast and the other work that I do in leadership, it just got bigger than I ever expected, but there's a difference between bigger than you ever expected and bigger than you could handle. And I think one of the reasons, and I've talked to leaders who have fallen and they're like, "Yeah, just got bigger than I could handle."

Carey Nieuwhof:

Leading something large is not inherently bad. It's not. If God wants to entrust you with more, that is not a problem. And I've just had to navigate the whole growth journey as well. And I think the caution for me in this is it's way too easy for your platform to outgrow your character. It's not your platform, it's God's, but you've got to make sure that your character grows either in tandem or faster than your platform grows. One of the things I'm really grateful for, I'm in my fifties, but I think if I had the kind of followership I have now in my twenties, I don't know how that would have turned out. I feel sorry for young leaders who end up with a lot of a celebrity or influence, or that kind of thing, because I think it's really complicated. If you find yourself in a rapid growth situation, just make sure that your character is growing as fast or faster than your platform or your church or your ministry or your business.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And that's something I really try to work on. How do you do that? It starts with an hour a day with me and God alone with the Bible. It starts with an accountability partner. It starts with a great marriage with my wife and friends who knew me long before any of this happened. Pay attention to that. Second factor is it's pretty easy to create a world where no one challenges you. Even if you're a boss, a boss of a

small organization or church, you're a pastor, when you have the power to hire and fire people or you are the person who is quote, "in charge," it is very easy to create an echo chamber where you have a lot of people who just do what you say and listen, that's inevitable. If you have the power to hire or fire, if you are responsible for their paycheck, people are going to be afraid to challenge you.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And so you've got to create an environment where people can tell you the truth. Listen, if you're insecure and we're all insecure, it's even harder because you maybe don't want to hear feedback. You're like, "Finally, I can get into a place where I can kind of control the information that's coming to me." And I had a friend tell me years ago, "Carey, there's no such thing as bad news." Because I was in the habit of saying, "Don't bring me any bad news." He's like, "There's no such thing as bad news. It's just news." And I thought that's a really good point. And so what I've done particularly over the last 15 years is I've encouraged my team just to give me all the feedback, push back. And sometimes it takes a little while to train your team to do that and then have other people who are not impressed with you, who can speak the truth into your life.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And obviously going to a counselor is really important as well, but you don't want to create a feedback loop where people just tell you things you want to hear. I've got a lot more, by the way, on my blog about this, you can just look at Why Mega Church Pastors Fail and search my name and you'll find it. I want to share one more. There's two others that I won't take the time to share today, but I want to share this one because I've seen this very recently in a fall of a leader that I admire.

Carey Nieuwhof:

And it's simply this, "I invested too little time at home." When I look at my life, sort of is pre burnout and post burnout. I burned out in 2006 and I would say in the time leading up into burnout and I'm so fortunate when I burned out, there was no affair. There was nothing that disqualified me from ministry or made me take a break. I just felt awful. which itself was bad. But I recalibrated a lot in my life around that in 2006. And I look at that first decade of leadership and I didn't spend enough time at home. More people equaled more hours. And since then, the last 15 years, I've spent a lot of time at home. A lot of time building my marriage, a lot of time with my kids. And I'd love to get those first years back, but I just realized if you're winning at work, but you're losing at home, you're losing and I don't want to lose at home. And eventually if you lose at home, you can lose your ministry or lose your leadership or that kind of thing.

Carey Nieuwhof:

But frankly, at the end of the day, a lot of the people who follow you, you're going to retire one day, but you're never going to retire from your family. You're never going to retire from being a parent, being a friend, being a spouse, hopefully. A marriage, I hope is for life. You want to think about who are those people who are going to be with you when you're 75 or 80? And you want to invest in them the most. And I want to live in a way that the people closest to me become the people who are most grateful for me. And there was a season of my leadership where I was really impressed with people who thought I was cool, but didn't really know me. And now it's like, yeah, "Okay. There's a guy in California who thinks I'm a good leader, likes this podcast or whatever," and that's awesome. I don't want people to hate me.

Carey Nieuwhof:

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On the other hand, what's most important is how are things with my wife, Toni? How are things with my boys? How are things with the people who really know me well? And so you just got to invest more at home because if you're winning at work, but losing at home, I think you're losing. At least that's what I convinced myself.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Those are some thoughts. There's more over on my blog. I also do a almost daily email to over 75,000 leaders and if you want to subscribe to that, it's the easiest way to get my written content and other content. You can just text the word CAREY to 33777 and that'll give you the link that we'll sign you up for that email. And I love being able to bring you a little morsel of leadership nuggets every day.

Carey Nieuwhof:

Hey, thanks so much for listening, really excited for the next episode and I hope our time together today has helped you lead like never before.

Announcer:

You've been listening to The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast. Join us next time for more insights on leadership, change and personal growth to help you lead like never before.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [01:39:22]