

Hello, Sid Roth here. Welcome to my world where it's naturally supernatural. My guest got a phone call no parent wants. Her youngest daughter was brutally murdered. Then, believe it or not, then it really got difficult. God told her to embrace the murderer as her son. Next on It's Supernatural.

Sid Roth has spent over 40 years researching the strange world of the supernatural. Join Sid for this edition of It's Supernatural.

SID: My guest, Linda Markowitz, is Jewish, but she didn't know that. Most of her life she was raised Catholic. She got married, had a couple of children, unfortunately got divorced, and she wants to make sure these children are raised right and the best school that she knew in this small community was a church school. So she put them in the church school. They're having a concert and she's a good mother and she's helping to sell the tickets. And so she goes to the concert and she got a lot more than music. What happened?

LINDA: I certainly got much more than music. The church was hosting a conference with the Happy Goodman Family and they had this powerful concert and at the end of the concert, Vestal had an altar call. Now, I wasn't saved and wasn't interested in salvation at all, but as she just presented the offer, the invitation to come to the altar, for whatever reason, I just got out of my seat and walked down to that aisle and got in line at the front of the church. And at that altar, Sid, I met Jesus in the most remarkable way. I met him so face-to-face—

SID: What is the difference between what you're describing? You knew about Jesus being raised Catholic. What is the difference?

LINDA: Relationship. Relationship. It was no longer just an ethereal thought, there was a presence of living reality in front of me, inviting me to do something much more than just read. And I was saved that night and filled with the Holy Ghost. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and I prayed in tongues fluently that very moment and nobody ever told me to shut up. So I just assumed I could continue to do that. That was my only point of reference.

SID: Don't you wish everyone that received the Holy Spirit in a supernatural prayer language was never told to stop? What did Paul say? "I pray without ceasing." Only way you can pray without ceasing is to pray in tongues. Praying in tongues edifies, it builds up your spirit, man. And her spirit was growing and growing and growing. Her life was going good. She remarried. She was a Bible teacher. She has an amazing relationship with the Holy Spirit and she's out of town on Mother's Day, speaking, pay attention to that part, we're going to come back to it, speaking on Mother's Day—and you receive a phone call from your husband.

LINDA: I do. I live in the Orlando area and I was in Port St. Lucie visiting a church that was pastored by friends of mine and I was actually staying in their home. And I received a call and it was my husband. And he said to me, he said, "Linney", he calls me Linney. He said, "Linney, what I have to tell you is the most difficult thing I'll have to say." And I thought maybe something happened to his mother because she had been ill and was actually staying with us, but that is not what came out of his mouth, Sid.

LINDA: What he said to me is, "Michelle", who is my youngest daughter, "Michelle is dead. Ray shot her to death." And Ray was her boyfriend. I'd only met him twice. And I was beyond shocked. The disbelief was unbelievable. Here I am a minister of the gospel of Christ. I had just ministered and now I hear this horrible, horrible report from my husband. It was not anything any parent would ever, ever want to hear.

SID: You must have almost gone into shock.

LINDA: I think I did for a few seconds, but it wasn't very long though, Sid, because the Holy Spirit that I already had this wonderful relationship with, the Holy Spirit just began to just well up within me and just give me this assurance, "Okay. It's okay. It's okay. It's okay." Well, I didn't see okay. There was no okay. There was no okay, but I could hear and sense and know this voice that I was so familiar with.

LINDA: And I just began to spend a little time with the family before I drove home. Obviously I had to go home. And that's a drive, almost a two hour drive for me. And I was so arrested by the Holy Spirit all the way home. Actually, Jesus rode in the car with me. I'm confident of that. And he at one point says, "It's okay, Linda, I have her." He said that to me before I ever drove in my driveway. The Jesus that just loves us so much said to me, "I have her."

SID: And you actually stopped at a convenience store and prayed in tongues.

LINDA: Well, that was just really, just truly a spiritual act because I had only been on the turnpike just a short, short while. I mean, I didn't need to stop for anything. But I got off of the turnpike, I pulled into the parking lot of a convenience store, having no reason to be there. I didn't even get out of the car. I just continued to pray in tongues as I had been almost incessantly since I received the call. And I sat there and just prayed and prayed and I wasn't even going any further into even asking the Lord for interpretation, which now, I probably should have but I didn't. I just yielded to that intercession because it was deep and it was pure and it was edifying and building me at the same time.

SID: She was doing something beyond what she realized she was doing. I mean, because she prayed in tongues all the time, she actually had the ability to interpret her language, but not at that point. But she was praying and as she did, an amazing miracle was happening. You'll find out about in a little bit. But then, you went home and you obviously couldn't sleep. You get up and you had a visitor.

LINDA: I did have a visitor. I did. I got up early in the morning and our house is small. Mom was staying with us, sleeping on the pull-out couch because we didn't have a spare room and I could not turn the lights on in the kitchen without disturbing her. So I was in the dark, sitting at the table, standing up, sitting, walking, pacing, just asking the Lord, "Help me, help me, help me."

LINDA: And I was just beginning to sense this rage rise up in me and I had a powerful visitation from God. He came into my kitchen, Sid. He was so real to me. I didn't see him. I didn't see him, but I knew he was there. I was so familiar with the God within that I was very familiar with the

God who was face-to-face. I knew it was him. And he said to me, he said, "Linda, I don't want you to be angry. I want you to be grateful because I have delivered Michelle from much."

LINDA: I go, "Well, that's not right. That doesn't even sound right." But just on the tail of that, he said, "Linda, I'm asking you to forgive Ray." Well, I'm a minister at this point in time and not a new one. I've been ministering for years. So I knew that was in the scriptures and I thought, "Okay, all right. I don't particularly want to do this, but I know I have to do this." And I didn't say yes right away, but I did eventually say, "I will. I will, Lord. And with your grace. You're going to have to help me. You're going to have to help me because the murder was brutal." It was vicious and it was brutal and it was horrible. And so for me to forgive him at all was going to take a supernatural intervention from God.

LINDA: So I finally said, "Yes". And I thought, "Okay, I got that over and he's going to help me with that." But he no sooner let me say, "Yes" that he came back with something else. Sid, he said to me, and it was absolutely with purest love, his words came with just such compassion. He says, "And Linda, I want you to embrace Ray as a son." As a son.

SID: The man that brutally murdered her daughter. Embrace, not only forgive, but embrace as a son. You couldn't do that.

LINDA: There was no way. There was no way. If I had not already been prepared to—

SID: You could have forgiven him, but you could not have embraced him as a son.

LINDA: No. No, I couldn't. I didn't want to do. I would love to tell you that I was this powerful woman of God that just immediately said, "Oh, yes. I'll do anything you want,", but that would be a lie. I sort of bantered back and forth in my Spirit. I never said, "No" but I thought, "No." I'll tell you, I thought, "No." I thought, "No, no, no, no, no. We're not doing this."

LINDA: But I did finally say, "Yes, Lord. I know you would never ask me to do something you won't help me to do", and as soon as I did, I opened my mouth and said, "Yes, I will. Help me." That's exactly what I said. "Yes, I will. Help me." And instantly, I was just overtaken with a river of grace unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I was so saturated. Even my blood cells and my tissues and my organs, everything knew I was overtaken with grace.

SID: After that grace came on you, you actually wrote a letter to Ray, that young man.

LINDA: I did. I did, I sat down that morning at the kitchen table and I wrote him a letter and I told him that I forgave him and I said a couple of other things about how I hoped that he would meet the Jesus that had enabled me to do that. And I sent that letter by the way of a pastor at the church that I was attending, the pastor in charge of Prison Ministry.

LINDA: And so that sort of began a thing in Ray's life. Just many, many steps to many other things came along, too. The sentence was premeditated first degree murder. In the state of Florida, the only options for that are either life without parole or the death penalty. So the two attorneys called me, his attorney and the state attorney called me and they said, "This is what you

have to choose from and what would you like, which would you prefer?" And I said, "Neither. I don't want either." And they thought, "Well, this poor woman just doesn't understand the law. Let's explain it again." So they explained it again and said, "Okay, now which of these two do you want?" I said, "Neither." I don't want either—

SID: They didn't know about the grace that came all over.

LINDA: No. I said, "No"—

SID: I don't think she could have done that on her own. I don't think you could have, Linda.

LINDA: I could not. I could not.

SID: I don't think so.

LINDA: No, no, no. I could not. And so the state attorney, the prosecuting attorney said, "Well, we're just going to have to call you back, Mrs. Markowitz, because we're going to have to discuss this." I said, "Well, just make sure you understand. I don't want either sentence."

LINDA: And so they called me back a little bit later and they offered me a couple of choices and I said, "No, this is what I want. I want him to have an eligibility for parole. I want him to pay for the crime. I want him to have the consequence, but I want him to have an eligibility for parole in a reasonable amount of time."

LINDA: And they changed the sentence. They changed the sentence, Sid, because that's the only way they could do that and give him what I asked for. They changed the sentence.

SID: And over the time he served, he became a very strong believer in the Messiah.

LINDA: He did.

SID: And not only did he become a strong believer in the Messiah, what does he call you?

LINDA: He calls me Mom. He calls me Mom.

SID: He served how many years?

LINDA: A little over 24. A little over 24 years. Yeah.

SID: And I have to ask you this, could you have survived this trauma, this ordeal you went through, without being so built up in your spirit from praying and supernatural languages in tongues? Could you have?

LINDA: No, I don't think so. I believe I had been prepared, my heart was prepared, my spirit was prepared, it was built up, it was enabled, and it was empowered at that moment that I needed it. And then because I had that power and because I had that grace, I was able to move on.

SID: It says, we pray mysteries in the spirit.

LINDA: Yes.

SID: You prayed all of this into being for such a divine purpose. After 24 years in prison, Linda and her husband picked Ray up when he was released. Ray will be with us when we return.

We'll be right back to It's Supernatural.

[music]

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We now return to It's Supernatural.

SID: Now when this program ends, we have a special extended segment that I know you're going to want to see. So at the end of the program, just log on to the website to watch because this extended segment, it will be life-changing for you.

SID: Now I'm here with Linda Markowitz and with Ray Ciaramaglia. And Ray was in prison, it was a drug-related crime for murdering your daughter. The grace of God came on you to become his mother.

SID: I have to ask you, even before you went to prison, after this drug-related crime occurred, you wanted to commit suicide. What did you do?

RAY: I put a loaded .45 in my mouth. Not once, but three times. It wouldn't fire. I tried to fire it. I pulled it out and it fired. I put it in my mouth, it wouldn't fire.

SID: Excuse me, when you fired it in your mouth, it wouldn't fire. And then you'd take that same gun and put it toward the ground and pulled the trigger and it fires?

RAY: It fired.

SID: Three times?

Ray Ciaramaglia: Three times. Three times it fired. I thought, "This is impossible." How can I... I kept hearing, "No, no, no." I said, "Yes, it's going to happen. If I don't do it myself, I'll commit suicide by a cop. I'll pull a gun on a cop and let him shoot me to death." God said, "No."

Ray Ciaramaglia: I said, "Yeah, it's going to happen." But it didn't happen because towards the end, when the cops were coming and the officer pulled in in his cruiser, I took the gun and stuck it underneath my shirt, but there was no bullets in the gun. I already threw those in the creek. I already got rid of anything—

SID: So you were really going to commit suicide another way?

RAY: Yes.

LINDA: One way or the other.

RAY: Yes. One way or the other, I was going to be dead.

LINDA: Right.

RAY: I deserved it.

LINDA: Right.

RAY: But God said, "No. I have a different plan for you. I have a plan that you can't even imagine. You'll touch many lives. I'll touch many lives through you if you're willing to be the instrument of my love." And that's what it was. Pure, straight love.

SID: Now this happened on Mother's Day, remember? And Linda, do you remember? Was going home and pulled into a little convenience store. Didn't have a need to. She just pulled in and prayed in tongues.

LINDA: Right.

SID: That was the same time he could not commit suicide.

LINDA: Exactly. And we've talked about this. Apparently, it is the exact same convenience store where he turned himself into the police. Yeah. Yeah. He turned himself into the police there.

SID: I'll tell you, I could just sit in the presence of God coming out of both of you right now. Can you guys feel what I feel?

LINDA: Absolutely. Absolutely.

SID: Now, Linda's letter that went to you initially and Linda's contact with you over those 24 years, what difference did it make in reference to your salvation?

RAY: It was like Jesus was talking through her. Like Jesus wrote that letter to me and I cried the whole way through the letter. I cried every time I read it. I'm sorry I gave it to my attorney because she never gave it back.

RAY: I would carry that letter in my pocket for the rest of my life if I had it. But I have it in my heart because I know what Mom said. She's every bit my mom as if she gave birth to me and I'm so grateful.

RAY: But that letter changed my life because I wouldn't have accepted Christ. I wouldn't have. It wouldn't have happened, but he was showing me, "I'm right here". It was like he had his hands around me. He was holding me. He said, "I have you. You're safe. I love you. Come to me. Come to me." And I did. And it was the best thing I ever did. And he has done nothing but widen

and lengthen and heighten my life in ways I still can't... I'm thrilled and I'm grateful. I'm truly grateful.

SID: Ray, what would you say to anyone that's facing a crisis at this moment, they're watching us in a hotel room, in a bar, at their home, wherever. What would you say to them?

RAY: One to Jesus. One to Jesus. No matter how small the problem is, no matter how big it is. If you think it's the worst thing in the world and there's no way anyone can help you, God can help you do everything. No matter how small or how big, one to Jesus. I've done it. I still do it. And I begged God. I said, "Jesus, help my own belief. Why am I feeling like this? I feel like I'm being attacked." One to Jesus. He is your shelter in the storm and the darkness. One to Him because he is everything. One to Jesus. I beg you.

SID: The Jesus that Ray is talking about, the Jesus that Linda is talking about, they don't just believe in someone hanging on a cross, they have him as their best friend. And he says, "I'll never leave you or forsake you."

SID: I want you to say this prayer with me out loud and mean it to the best year ability. Dear God.

Audience: Dear God.

SID: I'm a sinner.

Audience: I'm a sinner.

SID: I'm so sorry.

Audience: I'm so sorry.

SID: I believe.

Audience: I believe.

SID: The blood of Jesus.

Audience: The blood of Jesus.

SID: Washes away my sins.

Audience: Washes away my sins.

SID: And I'm clean.

Audience: And I'm clean.

SID: Jesus, come and live inside of me.

Audience: Jesus, come and live inside of me.

SID: Be my Lord.

Audience: Be my Lord.

SID: I want to know you.

Audience: I want to know you.

SID: Not just about you.

Audience: Not just about you.

SID: I want to have my own experience with you.

Audience: I want to have my own experience with you.

SID: Amen.

Audience: Amen.

SID: Now what happened the first Mother's Day that Ray got out of prison?

LINDA: Ray was released in March, and as you had already mentioned, Lee and I picked him up at the prison, and the first place he wanted to go was to Michelle's grave. That was the first place he wanted to go.

LINDA: So we went there together. And then fast forward to May, Mother's Day, we ministered together at a church in Orlando. I had already received an invitation to minister on Mother's Day and I knew the pastor well enough to ask him if I could please, please tell this story on Mother's Day. It's not a typical Mother's Day, pass out the roses story. It's just not one of those.

LINDA: But he was so open, he was so wide open and such a wonderful man of God. And he agreed. And so I stood on Mother's Day and told the story and showed some pictures. And at the very end, invited Ray to come up. And as he came up to the pulpit, the first thing he did was hug me. And I think all of the air was just sucked out of the room. It was just one of those moments where God was just given all the glory because this is the story of redemption.

Audience: Amen.

LINDA: This is redemption because Ray is not the murderer. That is behind. It's over, it's done. He's a totally new creation, Sid. He's a totally new man and his relationship with Jesus is so pure. He didn't get tainted with religion in jail. He didn't have to mess with any of that. It was just him

and Jesus and occasional impartations from Mama. And it's pure. It's pure. His relationship is pure.

SID: In our a special extended segment, Linda is going to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for you to release not just one prayer language, but multiple languages in tongues, for you to have an impartation of the ability to interpret your own tongues and for you to pray without ceasing like she did. I also want her to activate the power gifts resident within you. And by the way, one more thing. I want you to pray for some of that grace that was released on you to be on all of us.

LINDA: Yes.

SID: So be sure to go to the website right after this show to watch.

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Next week on ***It's Supernatural!***

John Ramirez: Join me today on ***It's Supernatural*** with Uncle Sid and we're going to teach you how to destroy fear once and for all and give it an eviction notice and you'll be totally free and live the life of freedom that's been designed for you.

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