

Missions 1992 Opening Session

Joy Dawson

Announcer:

Especially, like, would be Urbana of last year. And Urbana is a great experience altogether. But I went to her prayer seminars that were offered and learned so much about our dependence on God. And she always brings a message that always kind of gets you right there. And the reason being is she waits to hear upon the Lord and prayer is so important to her. She serves on the National Prayer Committee speaks widely during conferences such as this about missions, about prayer. One book that she has I'm dying to do this because I feel like George Verwer but the book that one book that she has written is Intimate Friendship with God. And this is available in the back. This is an excellent book. She also has she's written four books altogether and some will be available in the back as well. She currently serves with YWAM now with her family and I think you will find her refreshing. You will find her a bit on the convicting side because she does bring a word from the Lord. So please welcome with me Mrs. Joy Dawson.

Dawson:

God does more than convict, you know. He does encourage too. And we need both, don't we? Good morning. How are you? Well, there's a few people that are fine and two people said they're awake. I'll pray for the rest. Father, we come into your presence this morning thankful for the privilege again of being able to do anything at all that you call us to do in obedience to you. The privilege of obedience because of who you are. Mighty God with an eternal indestructible kingdom the ruling, reigning monarch of the universe. How absolutely amazing that at the same time you can be the lover of our soul. And we worship you. And we declare before you this

morning that our greatest need is to have a far greater revelation of your character. And as this is a mission's conference we pray that you would reveal to us your character especially as it relates to the Great Commission. Remove by your spirit every distorted view that we have of you.

Thank you that you will, in Jesus' name, amen. As I sought God diligently to know what would be the word of the Lord to bring to you this morning he very clearly impressed upon my spirit that I was to share about the character of the one who says, go.

Could I have my Bible, please? Thank you. Thank you so much. The character of the one who says go. All my life I have heard testimonies of individuals being afraid of surrendering their wills to God because, quote "God might send me to the heart of Africa." Who of you have either heard that as a testimony or have thought it in your own heart? All right. You've just joined the club of millions of others. You are not alone. I really don't understand why Africa should be the point of fear. Because Africa is a country of very wonderful people. However, I think I understand why so many are unwilling to be obedient to the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20. And Jesus came and said to them every single disciple at that time and for every future disciple that includes you and me, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and have you noticed that go means a change of location? And make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And lo, I am with you always. Until the close of the age. So, few understand the character of the one who said these words. When we really know God, then we understand God, and then we want to make Him known anywhere he would send us. What is your concept of God? The

answers to that question will absolutely shape your responses to his mandates. I have discovered that my friend God is the author of humor, has an exciting personality, is intriguing in his ways, is limitless in his understanding of me, is indescribable in his tenderness and unfathomable in his love. Here's exactly what the Bible says he is. What does the Bible tell us about Him? He is ingenious in his creativity. He is unswerving in his faithfulness matchless in his grace, unparalleled in his greatness blazing in his glory, awesome in his holiness, incomprehensible in his humility, absolute in his justice, infinite in his knowledge and wisdom, unending in his mercy. His totality of ownership is unquestionable in his sovereignty. He's the ruling, reigning monarch of the universe. He's the only one who can totally fulfill us. And he has totally captivated me. And he is the lover of my soul.

In the light of who God is, we do ourselves the greatest favor by running to Him, surrendering our will to Him and saying, hey, God, where do you want to send me? We become willing, ready and longing to go. Now let us look at this one in some detail. If you don't think if you think that was a sales pitch that I said after studying his character, you're not longing to go, then you haven't studied his character, because that was my testimony from years of diligently daily studying each facet of God's character from His Word. The revelation of Himself was so wonderful that I had to receive grace from God literally to stay until he sent me. And when he started to send me in 1970, I've never stopped. I have been going at the call of God to the nations of the world for 22 years. The story of my life in that 22 years is preparing for the next trip. But I had such a revelation of the character of the one who said the Great Commission spoke the Great Commission, that it took much grace to stay waiting for the moment that he would send me.

God is infinite in knowledge and wisdom. Let's look at facet, those facets of his character, his knowledge and wisdom because he now think of every facet of his character this morning that I'm going to speak to you about in this next hour in relation to the God who says, Go. And he says Go to every disciple, doesn't he? Think about it. You see, the Great Commission is not an optional extra if you're a disciple. When we take the Great Commission seriously, we expect to be sent and we would need a story of divine guidance to remain at home. In fact, you and I and every other Christian will never, ever know what the full purpose and plan of God for our lives is until we have been obedient to the Great Commission. Now obedient to the Great Commission is that we don't get up, pack our bags tomorrow and rush off to China or Afghanistan in order to obey God. In order to be obedient, we say, I expect you to send me because go means a change of location. And I am listening to you, giving you quality listening time, asking you first of all to tell me how best to prepare, where best to prepare, expecting to be sent, and anything after that is over to you if it means that I stay. I belong to church on the way. Van Nuys, California. Dr. Jack Hayford is my pastor. I have done myself an enormous favor by being obedient to God to not only attend that church when I'm not traveling around the world, but to be along with my husband elders there. And it was only a few months ago that he gave testimony out of his life, which is very, very relevant to the point that I have just made that we will never know the fulfillment of God's plan for our lives until we've been obedient to the Great Commission. He was sharing with us a few months ago that he was converted as a boy of ten. And then later on in his late teens, I think it was having surrendered his will to God he heard the voice of the Lord very, very clearly calling him to be a pastor. And he accepted as his main missionary ministry calling. He accepted the call of God and was committed to being a pastor and was thanking God

for where he was to train. And God had shown him that. And so, he was on his way, as far as he was concerned, for his ministry for the rest of his life.

He had concluded that that would be a pastor in the United States of America as that's where he was born and raised and where he accepted the Lord and where he got his call into ministry until he attended a mission's convention. And it was only then that he realized he had never responded to the great Commission, although he had responded to the call of God to be a pastor, you see, there are two different things there. And he was sitting at the back and the person who was speaking at that missions convention said. If you have never really seriously taken the Great Commission and you realize that you desperately need to. I'm asking you to come forward as an outward expression of this commitment to your will. If you're being willing to be sent by God anywhere. At any time. Under any conditions in obedience to Him. And he was weighing the implications of this. As he stood at the back, he said, god, you know that you called me to be a pastor. And I've said, yes, but I have not realized that that could be a pastor anywhere outside the United States of America.

I had presumed it would be in my country. And he was weighing the implications, but he realized that to be really surrendered to God, it meant going anywhere at any time, regardless of the call that had been made clear to Him. He said, I walked to the front thinking, well, my plan of a pastor in America is now gone, and I don't know what this is going to mean. It could be absolutely anywhere on planet Earth, and I may not ever see my country again once he sends me, who knows? And the implications were very, very deep to him as he took this very seriously. As he walked forward that day as a young man, when he got to the front, the Holy Spirit spoke to

him just as clearly as he had when he had called him to be a pastor. And he said, jack, I'm very glad you have responded to my call today to missions. It was right. And then he said, I'm not going to be sending you to a foreign mission field to be a pastor, but I had to know if you were willing. And then he said this I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that if I had not been willing, seriously, desperately seriously willing and ready to be sent by God as a pastor to any part of the world at any time and to be moved to be sent anywhere, anytime, God could never have given me the ministry that he has given me today.

Now, he didn't go on to describe his ministry, but I am, so that I can show you, as I can illustrate the point. He could well have remained a pastor in an obscure small area of America and never ever have been given by God the amazing ministry that God has given Him today. Which is pastor of a church where every single week and I'm not speaking in exaggerated language at all. Where literally 10,000 people go through the doors of the two churches that are church on the way. Because it's two churches within about half a mile that the 10,000 people are pouring through every week. The 7,000 members of the 10,000 in the congregation have come weekly. I do not know a pastor in the world today and I travel the world constantly, interdenominationally internationally and I don't know a pastor in the world today that is being asked and is being sent by God to speak at more pastors' conferences around the world than any other that I know of. I don't know any pastor in more demand to speak to pastors internationally than Dr. Jack Hayford serves on the board of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, is moving in right across the board of all streams of the body of Christ, has authored 14 books, is the author of 400 spiritual songs that are sung all over the world you sang one of them here this morning.

And a man whose life is influencing multiplied millions for Christ. But his testimony is, and I believe it with all my heart, that ministry worldwide, that and God sends Him all over the world in obedience to the Great Commission. But that would never have ever come to fulfillment had he not answered the call of the Great Commission. And as he spoke that gave that testimony a few months ago in our church, I thought of the perhaps multiplied thousands and thousands of pastors and other Christians who are not pastors, who never having responded to the Great Commission, will never ever know what the full purpose of God for their ministry is. It's a solemn thought. And he had divine guidance to be a pastor, you understand? God had spoken to Him and he could have thought, well, that's right here in my homeland on presumption. You see, we'll never know God's exciting plan for our life until we are obedient to the Great Commission. And God is exciting and that's why he has exciting plans. Everything God does is consistent with who God is. His plans for our lives will match our temperament, our natural gifts and the ministries he wants to give us.

He knows our strengths and he knows our weaknesses and will team us with people to balance both. He not only knows the plans that will fulfill us the most, but because of his infinite knowledge and wisdom, knows how to tell us the plans, methods and when to tell us timing. Job 12:13 to God belong wisdom and power, counsel and understanding are his. I've already mentioned God is exciting. I want to emphasize that he is exciting for two reasons. One, that he is and the second is this was the dimension of his character that was missing in the very wonderful exposure of truth that I had growing up as a young person and as a child I was surrounded by wonderful Bible teaching all my life. My father was an outstanding a Bible teacher, an evangelist, and I've been attending deeper life conferences since I was six months old.

My father was the leader of it and I used to come in the little crib and attend the meetings. I've attended missionary conventions all my life. But the one ingredient that was missing in this wonderful heritage that I had was that God was exciting. I never heard it.

And it's an enormous factor about God that the enemy least wants us to hear, because the devil's main ministry is to distort the character of God both to the church and to the world. And the devil's plan always is to say, come my way, do my thing, because I can make it more exciting. And if there's anything that the enemy fears is that Christians will tap in on the excitement of God. And until we understand that this is a definite part of God's characteristic, we will fail to see that the true fulfillment in our lives is being in submission to a God who is equally awesome in his holiness, pristine in his purity, unfathomable in his love, but absolutely exciting and the only one who can totally fulfill us. We find the greatest joy in being under his control. True joy comes from an exciting God. We begin to discover what David meant when he said in Psalm 16, verse eleven, you show me the path of life in your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. And in my lifetime, some of the greatest pleasures with intense joy have been when God has sent me to countries where people have never, ever heard the gospel and given me the opportunities to tell them about the wonderful plan of salvation.

The thrill of telling them how they can have a personal relationship with God is great. But the joy of seeing people who have never heard the gospel in their lives, seeing them come to Christ and experiencing salvation right under your eyes, is absolutely indescribable. In the many refugee camps of the world that God has sent me, I have found the refugees extremely responsive to the gospel. The following story is just one of many I could give to illustrate this

point of the excitement of seeing God at work with people who have never, ever heard the gospel. It was lunchtime in an overcrowded refugee camp in Thailand. Cambodians were sitting on their straw mats, eating their vegetables and rice and swatting the flies that clung tenaciously to the food. I appeared smiling and I said to them, could I join you, please? And the warmth of their welcome was matched only by the heat of the humidity that was of the sun and just the intense humidity that was everywhere. Perspiration was just pouring down our faces and sitting together as I did in the circle on the mat. I started to tell them in English about the love of God and how it related to their lives.

Now, I find this extremely exciting that I didn't have an interpreter. There were 40,000 refugees in the camp. I just asked God to lead me to just wherever he wanted me to speak. And I figured that if I did the possible it was his business to do the impossible. I only know English, and God knows that. So I said, I'll go just where you lead me. I'll expect you to prompt me. And I dropped in amongst these Cambodians and I didn't know who they were because there were all kinds there were Khmer Rouge, there were all kinds of people there. Anyway, I discovered when I got in obedience to God into this part of the camp that they were Cambodians. And I don't know one word of Cambodian, but anyway, I just did the possible. What's that? Open my mouth and start speaking about the love of God. I noticed that when I spoke a sentence that one Cambodian interpreted into Cambodian when I spoke the next sentence I noticed another Cambodian translated from over here. When I spoke another sentence somebody else translated. So it got more interesting every moment. God had a number of translators already there and they translated just as I spoke, sentence by sentence.

And of course, when people have never heard the gospel before you have to start with in the beginning God and then you work your way through to the cross. And I was doing this and I came to the part where sentence by sentence with all different interpreters translating for me. I came to the part and of course, I was using all kinds of graphics with body language. And I came to the place where Jesus was as the Son of God was nailed to the cross. And I was showing him how it was down into his feet and he was hanging there like this. And I was saying, now he had to hang there and suffer as God's Holy Son because he was taking the punishment for our sins. And then I noticed the translators went blank. Nobody was translating this word, punishment. No words were coming forth in Cambodian. And I thought, My, this is an interesting moment because unless they understand that the purpose of Jesus dying as God's Son to take the punishment, they're not going to see that he's the Savior and therefore, how can they receive Him as such if they have no comprehension of Him?

But I was as relaxed as a poached egg at that moment. Now, you see, a boiled egg is uptight and a fried egg is frazzled and a scrambled egg is mixed up. But a poached egg is the only thing that's relaxed. So, I was relaxed in his character at that moment that it was entirely his responsibility to come through with someone who would understand that word punishment. In fact, when you have studied the character of God and there is a difficulty in front of you instead of it being a point of fear or even a challenge it becomes an exciting adventure to see how the God that you have studied is going to come through. Not if he will come through how he will come through. And so, I was poised, tiptoe in anticipation how is God going to come through? And then I heard the word in Cambodian spoken for the word punishment. And the only reason how I knew it was

the word was that they all went oh. So, I knew. Now this voice from the left had spoken that word. Now, then we went straight on. They comprehended. And on we went.

What they didn't know, all the refugees, was because I glanced to see who it was who'd spoken that word which brought the understanding and listen to the amazing thing that God did. I recognized the Thai taxi driver who had driven me all the way from Bangkok for 5 hours' drive up to that refugee camp of 40,000 people. And because he had put his taxi outside the door uh um door as though there would be a door in a refugee camp he had put his taxi outside on the road and had parked it there. And then he had obviously become full of fear. He was a nonchristian man because they had been bombing just the day before right out on the very road there where he had parked his taxi. And he had become afraid to stay in the taxi. And his alternative was to come into the camp and spend the hours that myself and some other youth with a mission leader were going to be witnessing. We were there for hours and hours and he would have nowhere to sit down. And he preferred staying in his taxi except that he became too afraid. And God had motivated him to get out of that taxi.

He had walked a long way right into the refugee camp. Now get it 40,000 people. And exactly the moment that I needed to have a translator for the word punishment, that Thai man knew that word in Cambodian came to the door, spoke it and then left and went off around the camp. And I never saw him until hours later when he came to take us home. I call God exciting, [applause] just a little thing to us. But do you understand that God in his limitless power, can't do anything little? He's not little. He's Mr. Big. And what he does is big Godlike things in our little circumstance. I later invited that group of men to openly acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord

and Master of their lives. Not just to take him as Savior, but to acknowledge Him as Lord. And because I was sitting on the mat with this little group and it was a little intimate group that I was giving the gospel to. There were all these other refugees, of course, for miles in the camps. But all the ones that were watching were standing around and they were watching the response of these Cambodian men that I was speaking to and I was talking about Lordship and confessing with our lips Jesus as the new master for salvation.

And I knew what those men knew, that if they did so, if they stood in that refugee camp and acknowledged Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives, everyone around them would know very quickly if they were real or not, because their crowded environment meant that there was no privacy whatsoever. Whole families, it's like as open as it is in this gymnasium here. There are no walls, there is no privacy whatsoever. And a row of chairs would represent a family. And about that amount of room that takes a row of chairs would be where the family lives, sleeps, eats, week after week, month after month, no privacy. You would sit to eat or sit on the floor course and you would lie down to sleep. And if you had enough room, it's unbelievable till you go and see. So, if you declare with that kind of upfront living, everybody will look at you and want to see what the difference in your life is. If you have said, I am a committed follower of Jesus Christ, if you're real, it's going to show. And if you're a phony, it's going to show. Several men that day made very serious public commitments of their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having an hour or so before, never heard his name. As I went around, left that group and then went round to another group and this went on hour after hour. And seeing this kind of thing happen and having had these kinds of experiences many, many times, I can tell you there's

nothing to match that kind of excitement that in this world. It's a spiritual high from God. It's the joy of the soul winner that nothing can match. It's always exhilarating to lead anybody to the Lord anytime, but to lead somebody to the Lord that's never heard the gospel. And I find that they many times are the most responsive. For instance, I was in Japan, one of the many, many times God has sent me to that country. And I was witnessing to a university student, a young man of about 22 years of age, very intelligent, never heard the gospel in his life before. So, with an interpreter this time that I happened to have, I was starting at Genesis one and you go right through to the cross and at the end of the time I said to this young man, well, what are you going to do about the Lord Jesus?

I confronted him, I was preaching for a verdict. And he looked at me absolutely amazed. I will never forget the expression on his face. And through the interpreter, after I had told him God's plan of salvation and who Jesus is and what he has done and described the character of God, and this is the sort of person he was going to commit himself to. Like I described to you early in the beginning, he looked at me wide eyed, as though there was something very wrong with my intelligence, and he said to me, you're asking me what I'm going to do with him in the light of who you've told me he is? You mean I wouldn't you think that I might not sell out to him and give myself to him? Amazed that I would ask that there would be anything else other than surrender to the one I had just described. You want to preach the gospel to the same people the rest of your life who've heard it 10,000 times and are hardened. You want the excitement of going to those who never. Ever heard. You see the total twist of what I'm giving you.

The twist being this. I'll explain it with all the wonderful Bible teaching and all the wonderful challenges that I heard all my life. It was. Surrender your will. Sacrifice your life. Look at all that Jesus has done for you. You owe it to go out and sacrifice your life for him. To go where the gospel has never been preached. That's one way of saying it. The other is we do ourselves the greatest favor. And will be have the most exciting adventure! Yes, there will be sacrifice, but so what? Do you want to be fulfilled or do you want to be bored? The excitement, often the greatest excitement is going where they've never heard, now, do you see the twist? Three people said, do you comprehend? Could you put up your hand, if you understand what I'm saying? Where they've never heard. The excitement is the greater. Okay. So, the greater the price. But you look at Sir Edmund Hillary. Who was the first to climb Mount Everest. Would you be saying to him? Edmund Hillary. Are you thinking about the price or are you thinking about the exhilaration of standing there knowing you were the first person to climb that summit on the top of the highest mountain?

Exhilaration? He wouldn't be talking to you about the price. And that's what I'm standing here telling you today. Sure. There's a price. But the privilege is higher and so are the rewards from God. God is a friend and guide who says. Go. God created us for intimate friendship with himself. And communication is a vital part of that friendship. So, we can expect that hearing God's voice is a normal part of our relationship with him. John. Chapter ten. Verse 27. My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. Wouldn't it be absolutely by the way, isn't that so simple? My sheep hear my voice, know my voice and follow me, it never ceases to amaze me that people think it's weird when people say and God said to me, I think it's weird if you're not hearing God saying something to you, very weird, my sheep hear my voice and know my

voice and follow me, isn't it amazing that we can live in such a sophisticated Christian society that with a Bible absolutely packed with and God said to Noah and God said to Moses and God said to Abraham that we wouldn't think God would say to Joe or Mary today. Normal Christianity is hearing the voice of God because he is a friend and a guide. Wouldn't it be ridiculous for God to expect us to communicate to others about Him without our being able to receive clear directions from Him? The basis for our belief that he will speak to us comes from the knowledge of his character and then from his promises. As a God of infinite knowledge and wisdom, he knows what to tell us, when to tell us how to tell us everything we'll ever need to know. Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you. It's only people full of preposterous pride and unbelief that won't believe him and won't experience it. The simple little people full of faith and humility say, God, you said that you would speak, and because of who you are, you're my father. Imagine a father who wouldn't communicate to his child. I'm not going to insult you with unbelief. And not only that, you're my loving heavenly father, of course, because of who you are and because of what you've said, you will speak to me.

And as a God of righteousness and justice, he will only tell us to do things that will match his standards of holiness. His directions will also include justice to us and to everyone else connected with our circumstances. As a God of love, he longs to communicate to us. One of my favorite verses in relation to divine guidance in the Bible is Deuteronomy 33:3. He loved his people. All those consecrated to him were in his hands, so they followed in his steps, receiving direction from him. We can receive impressions from God. We can receive impressions from demonic spirits, and we can receive impressions from our own human reasonings and our own

human desires. There are no more sources that can speak to us other than other people, of course. But if we're alone, we can receive impressions from those three sources. So, what do we need to do in order to hear God silence the other two. Very simple, not complicated. God has told us in James four, verse seven if we will resist the devil, he will flee from us. Who does the resisting? All right, I'll try again. James, chapter four, verse seven resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The previous verse says, submit yourselves therefore unto God. Who does the submitting? We do. Then who does the resisting? We do. Don't ask God to do what he's told you to do so you resist the enemy. Very simple. Satan and principalities and demon powers. If you happen to be around here and don't presume they are, and don't presume they're not. Don't presume. So, if you happen to be around here, I'm telling you, I'm not hearing from you anything. The word of God says, resist the devil and he will flee from you. So, I take that word, the sword of the Spirit, and I wield it against you. It is written, resist the enemy and he will flee. I believe in the word of God. I believe in the all-powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I come against you, Satan, and silence you in the power of that mighty name. He cannot speak to you if you've had faith in the living word of the living God, and faith in the power of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that takes care of the devil. And that's simple. The next is the voice of your own human reasoning or your own human desire needs to be silenced.

Well, how do you silence it? Well, let's establish from the word of God that we need to, first of all, Proverbs chapter three, verses five and six. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Well, your own insight is your own reasonings. What else could it be?

In all your ways acknowledge or, I love the Amplified in this verse says, consult him and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 28:26. Very clear cut, no shades of gray. I love it. Listen, he who trusts in his own mind, his own reasoning is a fool. If we are not to lean on our own reasonings, our own insights, and trust in our own thinking, then there's only one thing to do, and that is die to them. And this is what I say each time God, I will with an act of my will, I die to what I think the answer should be. I'm not going to reason it out. You've said, don't lean to that. In fact, Isaiah 55 five says, my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so much higher are my thoughts and my ways than yours.

So, I will to die to my thinking on this situation. Now, I believe that you accept the death of my human reasoning on this, and that you actually make it so. That's God's part to silence our voice as we will today, casting down imaginations. And the margin of the King James Version says, reasonings and bringing every thought to captivity, to the obedience of Christ. Now, if I am willing to die, this is an extremely important part of this message here, this morning basics of how to hear God's voice. Because in order to be obedient, you've got to hear something, right? And I got a picture in the early days when the Holy Spirit was teaching me this of a coffin, and I actually laid down on the floor and said to God, now just imagine that I'm lying in the coffin here to all human reasoning on this question that I'm asking you an answer for. And I lay down on the floor and I said I imagine I'm in the coffin now. But you see, I can't screw the nails of the lid to make the coffin secure. I can lie down in the coffin to die, but you will have to screw the nails in.

I can cause the lid to close, but I could pop the lid open again. You will have to screw the nails in. And you see, this was the parallel. I can will to die to my own thinking. But God has to come through and silence. That's his part. What is the scripture? Something something and alive unto God I'm trying to dead. Yes, thank you. We are dead unto sin, but then we are alive unto God. And our part is to die with an act of our will to human reasoning and then release faith alive unto God that he accepts the death of our own reasoning and makes it so. Thank you, God, that you have silenced the voice of self as I have willed it to be so. Now there's another branch of self's voice beside human reasoning. You know what it is? Human desire. Because one thing is to work out with human reasoning what we think the answer would be. There's another thing is that we have the free will and we can desire what the answer can be. And two are the branches of the root self, human reasoning, human desire. And it's the root self that has to go.

So, what do we do? We say not my will, but yours be done here's. I'm bringing to death all the pros and all the cons of what the answer should be. That's human reasoning. And I'm surrendering my desires in this matter to you. Not my will, but thine be done now. Have you noticed that when you have said I will God to be dead to what I think and what I want and I believe you accept the death I offer you and that you come and silence the voice of self? Have you noticed dead men don't talk? A few. Have you noticed dead men don't talk? Who's left to speak? Who is left to speak? God. Not complicated. And he speaks in his own way and in his own time. I have a series of video tapes on divine guidance and audio tapes on divine guidance and I give I think it's I've forgotten now. It's about 23 different ways that God communicates to mankind and with illustrations. But that's his prerogative as to the how. But because of who he

is, he will speak in his own way and time to every Christian who desperately wants to hear his voice for one reason only to run, to obey.

A man once said to me after he'd heard me speaking on divine guidance, I've only just given you a tiny little snippet of it there this morning, because that isn't the main purpose of this message.

A man came up to me afterwards and he said, well, you obviously hear God's voice clearly. He said, please see God on my behalf. I want to know whether I'm an issue in my life I need an answer on. And I looked at him and I said, are you willing to do whatever the answer would be?

Oh, no, he said, I just want to hear what he would say. I says forget it, Charlie. Forget it. Don't waste my time, nor yours, nor God's. God speaks to those who want to run to do his will. God is sovereign. Because God is unquestionable in his sovereignty. We can trust Him to fulfill his purposes for our lives as we live in obedience to reveal truth. Psalm 138, verse eight the Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. And because God is ingenious in his creativity, we can still count on Him to do to fulfill his will for us, even when others we are linked with make wrong choices.

Job 42 verse 2. I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

God will always make a way for those who will believe and obey. Joseph's life in the Bible is a classic example of this truth. I was in the nation of Korea, which I'd been in many, many times, and I was speaking to a large group of university students, Christian university students, and I had been teaching them on the fear of the Lord. And by the way, the book out there, on the stand Intimate Friendship with God. The subtitle is through understanding the fear of the Lord. And we will never, ever be in intimate friendship with God without understanding and practicing the fear

of God, which affects every single aspect of our life. And I had been speaking on that subject, and I'd also spoken to them because I was there over a period of time on the subject God will always make a way for those who believe and obey. A young university student of about 18 years of age believed what I was speaking, believed it to be true. God tested him very severely on his belief and spoke to him very clearly that he was to go and do missionary training.

Not in Korea. But he was to leave Korea and go to New York. Here in the States. As there was a three-month training course taking place under the auspices of youth with a mission in Korea. I'm sorry In New York. Amongst many. Many thousands of Koreans that are in that city. And while there was training that was available in Korea, that is not where God was telling this young man he was to train for missionary training, to be in obedience, obedience to the Great Commission this young man understood some of the implications as he in obedience to God. He went to apply for a visa and a passport. He filled in the big long form with all the masses of details that he had to fill in. And he went to the consulate with his form and handed it to him. And the man looked at him, looked over his paper and then said to him young man, are you not aware that if you are a student, there's no way that you can ever get a passport and a visa to leave Korea? And the Korean student said, yes sir, I'm very aware of that.

Are you a student? Yes, sir. Are you aware that the law says that unless you have done military training, you cannot leave Korea at all to get a passport and a visa? Yes, sir. Have you done military training? No, sir. Then why in the world are you wasting your time and mine coming to apply for this visa? The young Korean student looked that consulate in the eye, eyeball to eyeball, and he said, sir, for one reason only, I fear God. And he's told me to go to New York for

missionary training and I need a passport. The man looked wide-eyed at him like this, stunned. He said, Young man, then that's exactly what I'm going to give you. And he wrote out and gave him a passport and handed it to him because God is sovereign and God will always make a way for those who believe and obey. And instead of using all his human reasoning and saying, what in the world would it be any good to go and apply for a visa? I'll be turned down straight away. He figured God was bigger than the customs, the council, and he believed that God, the God who said to him go for missionary training, would be able to get him there.

He is sovereign. Gladys Sailwood was a young woman of 21 years of age in England who was turned down by a missionary society when she applied to go to China. Undaunted by men's refusals, she obeyed the call of God and believed what Daniel believed. Daniel, chapter four, verse 35. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing. And he, God, does according to his will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand or say unto him, what Doest thou? She gathered up her meager earthly belongings and took a train journey into China. I saw Gladysdale would have heard her speech this little pint-sized thing of under 5ft high. Her life as a missionary was so remarkable in obedience to God turned down by the missionary society in England. Her life was so remarkable that three books were written about her life after she died and Hollywood made a movie out of one of them. One of the most amazing missionaries of the century. God will always make a way for those who believe and obey. God is not only knowledgeable infinite in his knowledge and wisdom, he is not only sovereign, he is not only limitless in his power.

He's not only a friend and guide, he's not only exciting, but he's just. God is absolutely just and righteous. That means we will always get a fair deal from Him, no matter how difficult our circumstances may be. Oh, how Christians need to really believe it when you really believe, Deuteronomy 32, verse four you will never resent God or question his justice in any situation, no matter how excruciatingly difficult or how you can't understand how he has just but if you will believe he is in time, he will show you how. Deuteronomy 32 Four the Rock his work is perfect for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without, iniquity, just and right. Is he now related to the Great Commission? To obey the Great Commission, we may well have to be separated from family and friends. I have had to be thousands of times. But in God's justice he has many compensating blessings that come through separation, because God has told us that every single time we obey Him, he's going to bless us 53 times. He tells us that in Deuteronomy 28 alone. 53 times in just that one chapter. In Mark chapter ten. Verses 29 to 30. Jesus said Truly I say to you. There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters. Or mother. Or father. Or children or land for my sake and for the Gospel. Who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time. A hundredfold now in this time. Jesus said it, believe it, it's true. I've been blessed out of my socks to a point of total embarrassment by God through having done what I've done in these last 22 years just go. Go where? Because of the price of a constant price, which is very, very high. Not just the packing and the going constantly, but all that goes, or the ramifications of an international teaching ministry traveling. If anybody tells you the price is not high, they've never paid it, but the privilege is higher, and I have to receive grace every time to pack that bag again with all the details that go with packing, being many times on trips, I will be in three or four different climates, do you understand? Can be in half a dozen time zones, three or four different

climates. It takes only the grace of God and the wisdom of God to ever know how to pack for those kinds of situations.

But here is what I'm trying to tell you the greater the price, if we will go in obedience to God not murmuring majoring on the privilege more than the price, he in his justice in time, when we've passed the tests, and he sees that it's a way of life with us that we are majoring on privilege, not price. He will embarrass us with his bonuses because he's just it's not just all pie in the sky when we die. As I was growing up as a kid with all these godly people all around me, because that's all I've ever known around me all my life. Great privilege has brought great responsibility to whom much has been given, much has been given, much has been required. I would hear my father and mother and all these other spiritual Heavies around say to each other, your reward will be great in glory. And growing up as a child, you know, glory seemed to be lightyears out there that you would have to wait before you got your reward because it was all I would I would hear this in the context of somebody who was paying some big price to obey God, well, never mind, dear.

Your reward will be great in glory. I want to tell you that God is more just than that. Yes, your reward will be great in glory, but listen, because he's just it's not just pie in the sky when you die, it's pie here as well, big, huge gobs of it. If you go for pie, he's just the more difficult the thing he tells you to do, provided you are obeying instantly, joyfully and holy and not murmuring, the more he is planning how to embarrass you with his blessings in reward. That's the kind of God who says go, go. Psalm 84, verse eleven. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. Another manifestation believe it no good thing and listen it's in the very areas where you relinquish your rights the most. In those very areas he will bless you the greatest.

Another manifestation of God's justice is that in the midst of suffering that comes from doing his will, he has promised all sufficient miraculous grace. Two Corinthians twelve, nine. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. And he has also promised, apart from miraculous grace and that's wonderful, that we will experience his glory.

The glory of God will be manifest in our circumstances as well as his grace. One Peter Four 13:14 but rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. God's grace and glory come upon us in varied forms, often in the most unexpected circumstances. God has not promised that we will be delivered from the fire and from the flood, but that we won't be overwhelmed by it. Isaiah 43, verse two. In fact, we find from the account of biblical characters that they had exhilarating adventures in the midst of horrible circumstances. I love adventure and I'll take the horrible circumstances in obedience to God to have the spacey adventures that God has in me. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could have written a bestseller on fascinating fun in the fire with the fire maker. Daniel could have written another winner on the inside view of watching angels give lions lockjaw. Paul could write the manual on the great escapes of pioneering preachers. Peter could teach a lively course on pertinent principles and how to perplex prison personnel.

God is supreme in his authority. Therefore, no power on earth or hell can touch us unless under his sovereign jurisdiction, and that will ultimately be for our good. When we obey God, he takes full responsibility for us. Job 12:10. In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. We are not puppets at the end of the Devil's string. God is in control. He alone is

omnipotent omnipresent and omniscient. Therefore, the Devil hasn't the power to be the cause of every Christian's problem. My time has gone, but I've got one last story. Is it possible so that I could grab another two or three minutes to give a story of miraculous provision? Could I do that? I'll try and jam it into two or three minutes. Is that okay? Okay. God is faithful. You better believe he's faithful. My husband and I have lived entirely by faith, completely unsalaried for 22 and a half years. Our teenage children, who were teenagers when we launched out into mission to live by faith with not \$1 of guaranteed support from anybody on planet Earth, they chose as teenagers to go into missions and have been in missions all their life.

They are leaders now. And so, the testimony of our entire family of living by faith for 22 years is that God is absolutely faithful, provided we seek first his interests and seek righteousness as a way of life. Understand? Putting God's interests first and keeping short accounts with God, living holy lives as we put those things in their right priority, God will never fail. It was 36 hours before my husband and I were due to board the plane in Los Angeles at the Call of God, where I was to speak at a conference in Seoul, Korea. And then I was to speak at another conference in Hong Kong the week later. And then I was to go we were both to go into mainland China where we were going to be ministering to leaders of the underground church in China. We were to be away three weeks and the telephone rang in our office. It was about quarter to five, I vividly remember. And it was a woman calling from the East Coast of America asking to speak to me. Got on the end of the line and she said, I have never, ever been told by God to do this before in my life.

But my husband and I were in prayer, and God impressed us strongly that we were to telephone you in California. We know by the advertising that you're going to be speaking at that large prayer assembly at International Prayer Assembly in Seoul, Korea. And what God has shown us is that we had to call and ask you, have you got your airfares yet? And she says, God has never, ever spoken to us to do this in our lives before. But she says I'm being obedient. And I said, Well, I never really worry about that stuff about the airfares. I said, perhaps my husband will know. I don't really know whether we have or not. This was 36 hours before we were to leave. So, I said, Hold on a minute. So, I ran out from my office into my husband's office and I said, Darling, there's a lady here wanting to know, we got airfare. Said, how are we? He says, well, he said, we are short. And I said, by how much? And this is typical. Again, he says, I'm not sure, but typical not meaning that he's careless, but that our faith in God is complete.

That while we do our part, it's God's problem entirely to do his. And so, I said, well, you need to calculate quickly because she's on the phone, because God's told her that according to whatever we're short of, if we are, she's going to make it up. So, he did a quick tally at his desk and said to me, \$2,000. I said fine. And I told her, she said, the check will be sent immediately. We got off the phone rejoicing in the faithfulness of God and praising him for his provision. Thanking him like he always does come through because the Bible says Deuteronomy 32:8, 31:8 he will not fail you. Do you know why? He cannot fail you. He doesn't know how faithfulness is part of his character and he'd have to come unglued to fail. Okay? So, you relax in the knowledge of his character and we work. We got to Seoul, Korea. We had been there a few days when my husband said to me, you know, darling, I calculated in such a hurry that day. I have since recalculated and found we are \$500 short on this trip of what we will need for basics.

I said, well, isn't that wonderful because we're going to just see another opportunity of how God's going to meet our need. We were sitting in a restaurant in that week with a friend who had come to the International Prayer Assembly from America and she was chatting to us. And she says, by the way, I need to tell you that some months ago God spoke to me clearly. She lives way up in Seattle, Washington. And she said, God spoke to me and said, you ought to give Joy Dawson an amount of money. And I said, that's fine, God, I sure will, but and how much? And he spoke a figure. And she said, but you know, I don't have it. But she said, Lord, you give somebody to give me that amount of money and I will give it immediately to Joy Dawson. So, she said just before I was boarding the plane to come here someone handed me the exact amount of money that he told me to tell you to give to you months before. And she handed us a check. For how much? \$500. We were on our way. Because God is absolutely faithful.

You put his interests first. Live a clean life. Deal with sin, repent of it. Live in intimate friendship with God. And it's his job to come through. He's Mr. Big. He can't fail. He's exciting. Do you want fulfillment? Then obey him. And you come and say God, anywhere, anytime on planet Earth, under any conditions. Here I am available. You say jump. I say, yes, sir. How high? Okay. Thank you. I'm going to close in prayer for a moment. I have this message and far more of it. We got about halfway through the message this morning the character of the one who says, go. It's only \$2 and it's available at the back there that we brought supplies today. You will read about the other facets to this character as it relates to the great commission. Father, we thank you for who you are. It's always the most fulfilling and the greatest purpose for praise at any moment that you are as wonderful as the Bible says you are. And I thank you that you have been

revealing yourself today. And I pray in Jesus' name that you will so motivate us to go and act upon this message that should you give orders to stay that we would have to receive God's grace to do so.

Thank you. That you will ruin us for the ordinary as we put this message message into practice.

That all the kingdoms of the Earth may know that thou alone are God. Amen.