

# The Cinderella Syndrome

## By Lee Ezell

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I am tickled and thrilled to be back here at Biola. I am not a minister. I shaken my boots as I hear Dr. Boice speak. I'm not in his league, but I'm practicing for that league. I'm not a minister. I would describe myself as a fellow struggler in this thing of learning how to better walk with God through the difficulties of life. And I enjoy that as I get a chance to do it. I enjoy blending truth with humor to vook up something nourishing for people so they can eat it and grow up and mature. Although I know you got to be careful what you eat nowadays. You never can be too sure, especially in the cafeteria over here. I noticed that.

Well, a friend of mine proved it to me because he went to visit a gal in a retirement home, an old folks home down in the beach area. And he said that as he sat there for about the hour, he didn't realize what he was doing, but he finally said to her, Well, I'm sorry. As I was sitting here for the hour talking to you, I ate all the peanuts out of the bowl here by your bed. But don't worry, honey, because I'm coming back next week and I'll bring you some more, to which he replied, Oh don't oh bother. All I can do is suck the chocolate off them anyhow. Well, hopefully what I have to say will be a little more refreshing and a little fresher than that. Tonight I get to speak on a favorite subject that's been requested again in the area of the Cinderella Syndrome, which is available for you both in book and video form, which is really helpful for small groups. And I'll be in the back there to autograph books for you and greet you afterwards.

The Cinderella Syndrome is a very short book. Another good short book, I think would be entitled Humility by Tommy Lasorda and Howard Cosell. That would be a small book. Very

small book. Yes, Rednecks and Contemporary Art. That would be another very short book, but I know we come from different backgrounds and we're seated here tonight from different denominations. It makes me think we have Baptists. We have all kinds of people together. How many Baptists does it take to screw in a light bulb? Do you know? It takes about five, really, one to change it and four to sit around and talk about how good the old light bulb really was. That's true? How many Presbyterians does it take to screw in a light bulb? Hm? Takes a long time because the light bulb really has to one to change.

And that's kind of I have a Presbyterian friend who basically believes that everything in life is sort of predestined to happen. They have a really good doctrine of predestination, election calling and basically believe everything that's supposed to happen is already planned to happen. A friend of mine was a good Presbyterian was on the freeway a couple of weeks ago and she got rear ended in the car. First thing she said was, wow, I'm so glad that's over with Lord. And there's a lot of people who are like that in life. And whether you find yourself, regardless of what denomination, maybe tonight you might be able to analyze yourself as being a little bit emotionally sick with a kind of a hidden illness that gets inside of our heads whether we're guys or gals, men or women, married or single, it doesn't seem to matter. I find people all over the country who are sick with the Cinderella Syndrome, which is a kind of emotional disease that really does convince you subconsciously that you can't be happy now.

But someday, somewhere, someday, when things begin to change, when I get through this year, when I can have less stress than I'm under right now, or when I can get my career or my Ministry going, or if only I could turn on, the shower wouldn't turn hot when I flushed the toilet in the

dorm. You know? I mean, simple things, but we find ourselves. I noticed waiting, waiting, waiting especially when you're in school. First happiness that's going to come someday. And unfortunately, a lot of us miss out even right now on the happiness, on the plan, on the joy that God has for you right here where you are, because we're always looking to someday somewhere.

My Latina friend, I love her in Los Angeles. I can remember years ago when she called me and said, Well, the Lord has shown me that you cannot be happy unless you are married. No?

Because all the world when you get to be my age is for two. The couple's class and two tickets and two seats. So I met a nice boy in the church. He's my prince. We were going to be married. Hallelujah. So they got married. And before they had been married very long, I can remember her calling me. She said, Well, now I have a new revelation. The Lord has shown me that you cannot be happy when you are married. It's impossible, because two people together, you are different. You don't agree. He's in the garage and you're in the kitchen and you don't communicate and many things. So what we decided what we need to be happy is to have a baby.

No. Well, they had a lot of babies and actually none of them seemed to do it. And she called me and she said, Well, it's impossible to really be happy when you have all children at home in Pampers. Some day when they are grown up, and some day when they are not teenagers because you cannot be happier if it had teenagers because they are making problem. They're always calling home. They want more money, things like that. And I wonder when we can be happy? At what stage, at what passage of life, at what phase? I believe that happiness is a now thing, and if we can't discover it now, even at Biola, we'll never discover it out there.

For me, it came real when I read this verse of Scripture in Philippians, and if you have your Bibles, you might want to turn to it too. I love it. In the New Testament. My friend calls this book of Filipinos, and somehow it doesn't seem right. But Filipinos chapter 4, beginning with verse 11, the apostle Paul writes from jail. He says, beginning with verse 11 from the NIV. I don't speak in respective need, for I've learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I've learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

And I believe no matter what your situation is, in spite of struggling over finances and tuition and the problems that you face now today that when you can begin to find the happiness and contentment right where you are, you're guaranteed of it tomorrow and in the spring and six years from now. Being born and raised at a difficult place in Philadelphia on the East Coast, I noticed that they don't refer to my area anymore as a ghetto where I was born as a slum. When I saw them referred to it on TV recently, when I was there, a newscaster said, It's a socioeconomically deprived geographical area. And it's a slum is what it is. And being born and raised there, my mom and dad were both alcoholics, so I kind of raised myself and really never thought that I would. I thought that someday somewhere there has to come an event or a person or a place to make me happy. And I never really thought I would find it.

At 17, I stumbled into a Billy Graham crusade and there for the first time heard the truth about God. And I thought, zip, this is kind of the magic I had in my head that God was sort of like a fairy godmother. And once you really got sincere and you got the right connection with Him.

Boy, you were home free. The bad things wouldn't happen to you anymore, and it was just going to be Rose Garden. And I went home on the subway and found that nothing had changed at my home. My dad was still drunk and I couldn't get in the front door because he was laying down there. And I can remember distinctly thinking as I went in the house. God, this is not what I signed up for down there at your deal.

I didn't get it. I guess? Maybe the other people did because they talked about having a new life. And it seemed to me that nothing was new, only the beginning of knowing the things God does inside of us that really begin to make the change happen deep inside before there's any difference, things may even get worse. And for me, they seem to. And I would wind up calling the police on my father for the very last time because he lived in the basement of our home and would emerge in great fits of anger and beat up the family. In those days, there were no terms like battered family and abused home. We just were like everybody else in my neighborhood and we'd call the police and they'd come out on domestic violence. And I decided surely I didn't have to stay in this situation. I graduated from high school, got on a bus and came out here to California because I knew how you people were out in California.

I saw you on television. You all smiled all the time. Never rained, had palm trees. And it was just fat rad man. I just couldn't wait to get out here. I knew as soon as I got out here and got my new life started that I'd be really rolling and humming and got my first job. And there where I worked, hadn't worked there very long as a little typist, a salesman who came through that place two times a year, raped me one night. And that was a very unexpected, totally unplanned event in my life. And it would occur to me that bad things do happen to good people and bad things

happen to Christian people, for which there are no easy explanations. That's why we have to find the way that Paul found. To find happiness and contentment, regardless of the circumstances.

I would go on from that experience. I would wait till I was 28 to marry because I was not very trustful of men and I didn't date and all I was one of by Biola's old maids. I have to admit it. I looked it too, but I was kind of hiding because nobody really knew my deep, dark secret here. And I kept it quiet. And then I married. And then I met my prince. And you know how they're supposed to come riding along, girls. We know. You know how your mother says, you say, how will I know? Oh, you'll know. Well, I expected that guy to come riding along in the white horse. And when he did, he had two children in the saddle with him when they went riding by. And it wasn't like I imagined it would be in my vain imaginations. And here I wouldn't wind up as Cinderella. But as the wicked stepmother was really a lot closer to the truth as I began married life, thinking, Well, this was supposed to be it. And this ain't it, either, because it was not very fun for me starting out married life.

And that's the trouble with us. We have glass slipper theology is what we've got. We have this funny idea that out there somewhere is the perfect fitting, mate. When I find the right church, when we get a decent pastor at our church, I'm going to be a spiritual giant. Just watch out world. Whenever I get married. For married people, this is for some of them. When I get the right babysitter. That's the answer to all my life problems right there. Or the right counselor or attorney. Here we go again. We're putting off again our happiness. We're chasing this thing around like rabbits chasing carrots, and we're never getting a bite out of it.

The Bible says hope deferred makes the heart sick. And I know so many heartsick Christians who've been made so vulnerable by chasing that baby around, trying on things for size and nothing ever fits perfectly. And the more we build up our expectations for something, the more we doom it to failure even before it arrives at us. Some of us are waiting. Still, some of us who are single are still waiting as I was for someday, my prince will come. Some enchanted evening. You will see a stranger. I spent most of my life peering across crowded rooms, waiting to see that person.

And I knew for me it would be so different from the rest of you. I wouldn't be a housewife. I'd be a domestic goddess. But guess what? It didn't turn out that way. I felt so incomplete before I was married. Then I got married and I was finished. And I thought right away, this Prince Charming dude is not cutting the mustard because I'm not happy. It still was the same thing again. I had this Snow White idea in my mind that when you get the right kiss, boy, you awaken to a new life every day with fresh breath. And it's glory. It's just glory. And I was not having any glory. I dedicated my book to my husband. I put to Hal. Not exactly Prince Charming, but a charming fellow who's a prince of a guy.

And that's closer to reality. I tell people who are married. Don't wait for him to turn into Prince Charming. Guys, don't be going around with this thing trying on every chick, you know, because none of them ever fit it perfectly. You're ideal. Even if they do, they'll grow out of it. And then you've still got the same time. Look at the size of these feet. It's true. Singles. Don't wait for your mate to be happy. Don't do it. Don't look for the right mate. You see them in those singles classes at church. Hi. Are you the one? Hi. Woo, praise the Lord? Hi.

Other people can smell that. There's a kind of an odor that says this person is waiting to fix themselves to me and suck the life out of me, you know, really. Don't look for the right mate. Be the right mate. Be. Becoming all that you can in God maturing, becoming the person Christ always wanted you to be. And then, as you're walking along the straight and narrow with Jesus, you're going to bump right into that person. You won't be able to help it. But please remember, especially you gals that great old proverb that says she who waits for her Prince must remember she will have to clean up after his horse. Oh, this is so true.

I think a man's home is his castle. Let him clean it. That's kind of the way I feel. But maybe you're not waiting for a prince or a princess to come along, a number ten, maybe you're not waiting for that. Maybe you're waiting for people to change. If the people who believed in you would give you money, if the people at home would get off your back. If only you could have some change, some prosperity come to you. Surely your whole life would change. Oh, my, I know these things. I believe the change comes in your life when you say something like this to yourself that can make a big difference. I remember the day I realized I said to myself, Lee, I hold the key to my own happiness. I hold the key to my own happiness. Would you say that with me?

I hold the key to my own happiness. Say it again. I hold the key. I believe this. This principle save my neck more than once. I believe that the key to your happiness and God has nestled deep down inside of your will. And it is the power of Christ in you to turn that key in different areas of your life that's going to make the big difference. Why do we think this key is in the pocket of somebody who's not with the program yet? And that's basically why we're so flaky because they

will not. How unfair it would be of God to put your key in somebody else's pocket? That person may walk away. I mean, what kind of a God is that to tease you? That your happiness is so intrinsically tied to another person that until and unless they perform, you can't be happy.

I don't believe that's true. We get this idea as Christians, it's a whole outside mentality that happiness is outside of us. Everything is outside. The house of the Lord. Come and go with me to my father's house. Where is the house of the Lord? God dwelleth not in temples made with hands but in fleshly hearts. But Jesus is the key to my happiness. There's only one problem with that. When I wasn't happy, I thought it was Jesus fault. He just wasn't turning it. What could I do? Jesus, you're the light of the world. He said yes, as long as I was in the world. But now you are the light of the world. But, Jesus, you have all power. All power is given unto me. Behold, I give you power. How different it is when we begin to change an outside mentality to an inside mentality for the Kingdom of God is where? Within you.

Happiness is an inside job. Happiness does not depend on what's happening, but what you do about what's happening to you because you hold the key. It's true. And I believe our happiness begins to roll in on us when we turn the key in three different areas of our lives. I believe we've got to turn the key to rightly dealing with the past, the present and the future. And I know even though you're young, you can have enough things under your belt and behind you in the past that can really rob you of happiness and contentment today. Unless you turn the key, I believe the key to the past really is forgiveness. And for me, I needed to forgive lots of I needed to forgive God, which sounds a little strange, but you wouldn't believe the number of people I need who

really subconsciously underneath it all hold God responsible for the things that have happened to them in the past.

Because he didn't warn them. He didn't intervene. He didn't help. They prayed. And what did God do? Zip. And there's something inside that says, God, I forgive you for not creating this perfect world in which good things go to the righteous people and the bad things go to the naughty people. It's not that kind of a mechanical world. Friend of mine said to me, My life is a performance for which I was never given a chance to rehearse, and a lot of us feel that way. Maybe you need to forgive yourself. More mistakes and failures. I had to forgive myself for leaving Biola before I graduated. Dumb and impulsive a chance for ministry, a chance to get out of the dorms and get out on my own. And I really did it.

Many things in our past. We make wrong choices. We get related with wrong people. If you have freely received forgiveness from God, then you have to freely give it to yourself also. I needed to forgive other people in my life and we know Jesus said, if you do not forgive others, you will not be forgiven. That's very clear in Scripture, so I remember the first time I made my list of people I needed to forgive on a long yellow pad and my father, my mother right down the line to the last name on the page was the man who had raped me as a virgin teenager and really literally altered the course of my life because I had become pregnant from that experience, which was so bizarre and the odds and everything. But nevertheless it was and I would leave the area and disappear and give birth to a baby in a county hospital 26 years ago.

And that baby would be the missing piece of my life who would be sent into the adoption process record sealed and that would be the end of that chapter in my life. I'll be talking more about that tomorrow morning and about other missing pieces we all have in our lives that we don't understand. I believe if people did things to you in the past that made you the way you are. Withdrawn and suspicious or jealous or unsure or whatever. That they are responsible for what they did back there. And God is keeping the books, so we don't have to keep account of evil. But if you stay the way they made you, then you're responsible because you hold the key. And because we serve a God who would never make us suffer all of our lives because of something that happened to us in the past over which we had no control.

That's the God of the Bible. And I believe the key to the present is a great key. The key of freedom, a new sense of freedom. Maybe you've never thought of it before. I believe freedom from guilt and responsibility for other people is a great sense of relief and freedom. I like what Irma Bombeck says. She says guilt is the gift that keeps on giving. This is so true. Many of us are laboring under an illegal sense of guilt and responsibility for things that God does not hold us responsible we but think we are. We go through life taking on responsibility for the actions and the feelings and the decisions of other people and how wrong that is. Singles. Hey, you're responsible to that person you're dating or courting or hoping to court, not for that person.

We are responsible to people, not for people, which is much more than semantics to me. I had a friend at a church where I used to go, and I can remember her saying, Well, Bruce and I are so close. We've been together three years now, and I just wanted to tell you because we're really running into problems because he's married, right? That's the problem right there. And she said,

Well, but I can't break it off because he's so delicate. He's been hurt so many times that if I did, he'd commit suicide or something. I don't know. And I felt like, honey, read my lips. You're responsible to him, not for what he chooses to do with the decision you make before God under God to them and not for them. As a wife, I'm responsible to my husband, not for my husband's actions, moods, decisions, choices.

I wish I could tell that to every divorced person who feels so guilty because they're taking responsibility for the decisions of another person. God never made us responsible for something we don't have control over. Am I the only one who's discovered that you can't make another person do something? We don't have that power. God never commissioned any of us to change another person because he never delegated that power to us. Christian Counselors, pastors to be, Christian leaders. Please know deep down in your spirit, before God, you're responsible to that person, not for what that person chooses to do with the great advice you give them. I used to feel like the world's worst counselor. When I would help somebody, I'd talk to them for a while. I'd pray with them.

I'd give them all this great advice and they'd blow it. And I think, Lord, I'm sorry. I should have given her those tapes. I thought about that, but I didn't, and I should have called her more so she wouldn't have done this. And we take on responsibility for the choices of other people. And this is totally illegal. But nevertheless, we do it because we think somehow that we've got their key and God has not given you anybody else's key. That's why, if anybody is depending on you for their happiness, some student here at school, somebody at home, maybe a boyfriend or a girlfriend. That just you're everything. Wooowee.

You got trouble, bud, because you do not have their key. My mother depended on me so much for her happiness and tried to make me feel guilty all the time. She'd always say things like, Well, I know you're busy for Jesus, and you can't help your old mother. And you couldn't even write her a letter once in a while. That's all right. I'm depressed. That's okay. That's okay. And I know you're not coming home for Christmas again. That's all right. I just won't put up the tree. Oh, I would feel so guilty. And people who try to make you feel guilty for their feelings usually do it on the phone and we usually accept it right over the wire. No wonder we don't call them. No wonder we don't write to them. What do you think we are, masochists?

We want this kind of treatment. No, the sooner we wean those people off of us and on to Christ, who is within them, who is the power to turn their own keys, the sooner they'll be healthier and happier. Maybe you are depending on somebody else. We're not supposed to do that. We're supposed to rejoice in ourselves alone. Ecclesiastes 3:22 says Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his own works. For that is his portion. And Galatians 6:4, Let every man prove his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone and not in some other person.

Yet somehow people are married depends so much on each other for happiness that they blow that relationship right out the tubes. I see many people who are dating, thinking about engagement and their lives are so intertwined, leaning on each other like parasites, like sort of retarded type people who are not whole in themselves. As that relationship dies, nobody can stand that kind of pressure. Romance is not supposed to bring us happiness. We are supposed to

find happiness inside by the power of the living Christ, married, single, divorced, widowed, student, whatever in whatever state we are in.

A friend of mine was counseling a man who told him that he had decided he was going to leave his wife and his three children because he just couldn't. Marriage would not allow him to be all that he could be. My friend said, you want to be all that you can be. Join the army. Marriage is not supposed to make you all that you can be. That's something we're supposed to do on our own. And I find singles continually making this mistake. What is true love? True love is when two people love each other, can live without each other and yet choose to be together.

Two whole people who are not leaning in some sick kind of way on each other to sap the life out of each other. That's sick friends. That is sick. And yet that's the way our relationships are. People who are hungry for love will eat any kind of garbage you know? It doesn't matter. That's not right. There is only one prince who said, I will never leave you or forsake you. He is the spouse. He is the bridegroom. He is the one to whom we are to be intrinsically wound for our happiness and living out life not looking for love in too many faces and looking for love in all the wrong places.

That's not right. Choose to love, not because that person makes you happy, but because you're happy and you want to share that with another person. Too many people are love addicts, love junkies. Really. They get high on it, you know, and without it, there's just nothing. How wrong that is, how unhealthy that is for any kind of a relationship. We can want that thing so badly that

God will finally in accordance with Psalm 106, he said, I finally granted their request and sent leanness to their souls.

We have to be careful, which doesn't mean that we can't have any goals that we can't hope for. A better place, a better Christian service, a better graduation, a better whatever. Without a vision, the people perish. But it does mean that you don't qualify for anything better in the future. If right now you're not carving contentment out of crummy circumstances. If you're not making lemonade out of the lemons that you walk around campus here with. You know those same sour people are out on the outside and they're waiting for you.

And this is where we learn right now today to deal with the difficulties of life, not always wanting something else. Happiness is not in getting what you want, but in enjoying what you've got. What do you have? I believe that the key to the past is forgiveness and the key to the present is freedom. We know the key to the future. The key to the future is our faith. Really. How is your faith? In what state are you experiencing a sense of rest and peace about yourself right now?

Stir up that gift of faith that is within you. Hebrews 3 and 4 say today as the Holy Ghost has said today, if you will harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, as in the day of temptation in the wilderness. God says, when your father's tempted me and proved me and saw my work 40 years long as I grieved with that generation and said, There are people that do earn their hearts, and they have not known my ways unto whom I swore in my wrath. They will never enter into my rest.

So while it is today, if you will hear his voice harden, not your hearts, because we see we could not enter in because they could not enter in because of unbelief. Let us therefore fear, lest we come short of a promise of entering into his rest because we did not mix it with faith. We've got to stir up our faith within us in our most difficult circumstances. Without that faith, it's impossible to please God. It's much more than a PMA. It's much more than. You know what faith in the living Christ is. We're supposed to walk by faith and live by faith.

But too many of us have become honestly, it's hard to say. But Christian idolaters. Colossians 3:5 says, covetousness is as the sin of idolatry. And there are many of us who hope for something and wait for something and lean on something and pray for something and put it on prayer chains and think of it in the morning when we wake up and pray for it at night before we go to bed. And that thing has taken the place of the living Christ in our lives. We're not hoping for Him anymore. We're not looking for him. We're looking for this thing.

Thou shalt not take to thyself any graven image. What is it in your image? Imagination? You have already formed as your answer. I am an official glass slipper buster, because I believe we've got to put to death those things in our lives. Everybody knows that verse in Hebrews 13:5 that said, And Jesus said, I will never leave you or forsake you, but few of us know the beginning words of that verse. He says, Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have. For he has said, I will never leave you or forsake you. Oh, yeah, we forgot about that. We've got to cast down vain imaginations and every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Be faithful now in what you've been given to do. In the little Christian service, the little things that seem to me nothing. But if you are faithful in those little things, I promise you God will make you ruler over much. If in the little things you have done them heartily as unto the Lord, you will begin to see that you don't feel as imprisoned by your circumstances. Paul wrote in Philippians 1, he said, because of my imprisonment. This is incredible. Some people have lost their fear of chains. Think of it.

And because of your imprisoning circumstances, in the midst of which you are determined to find God's will, you are determined to find happiness and contentment in the midst of that, others will lose their fear of chains that bind them. And it was Paul who wrote these words from jail. Now this was not the workout room at jail. It was not the weight lifting room or the TV room at the jail. It was the real original jail thing. And the Bible records that one night at the end of the cell down there, Paul was singing at midnight.

This is the day. This is the day, you know, there's other prisoners. They must have looked down there and said, Boy, that boy's dipstick ain't touching oil down there. The dude on the end because it's midnight and he's singing. Or else they said, you know, that guy Pablo down there. It doesn't seem to matter what they do to him. It doesn't seem to matter how crummy his circumstances are. He must have something inside of him.

He must have discovered the way to find happiness and contentment, whatever the circumstances. So must it be for us in our imprisoning circumstances? I believe our happiness is

unconditionally guaranteed by a God who wants to live and show himself in the midst of difficulties. And I can remember meeting that woman in Marie Calendars recently, who seemed to have it all together. I once got it all together, but I couldn't lift it.

And this woman just sat there with this little plastic Christian smile on her face. And as we were talking about difficulties in life, she said, you know, I don't understand because I haven't really had any of these things happen to me in my life. My mom and daddy were fine Christian people. I was born and raised in a Christian home, and I just don't understand these things because I married my prince and we have three lovely children live here in Mission Viejo. We have two cars and no problem.

I thought, Hang on, honey, just get a grip there. Get a grip. Because that lady was so plastic and so unreal. I did not ask for her phone number. Because I don't, when I'm in trouble, I don't want to call somebody like that. I mean, I want to call somebody that's has totally unexplainable, crummy circumstances and things in their life happen to them that don't seem to make a lot of sense. And yet in the midst of it have found the living Christ to be sufficient. Not that their chance for happiness is over in the past or somewhere out there in the future fairytale land. Not like Mary and Martha, who in John 11 called for Jesus to come because her brother was sick and Jesus waited three days.

Often God's silences are God's answers. And when he arrived three days late, Mary and Martha sat at the tomb and said, thanks a lot. You should come now. What we called for you three days ago. You couldn't take a cab. You're so slow. He's dead already. He's thinking. She said, Well,

it's in there. It's a little loose, but she was saying, for you, forget it because my chance for happiness it's over. He's dead. It's over. It's past. And Jesus said, Ah, but girls, remember how the Scripture says we will all rise? Remember in the resurrection? And they said, what, you don't think I'm a good Jewish person? I'm not feeding the Torah. I know. And someday in the future, out there, when we all get together, we're going to rise.

I know. But Jesus said, no, girls, you don't understand. I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, though he were dead yet shall he live. That's what it's all about. In the midst of our difficulties and our unexplained situations and circumstances, we are turning the keys as best we can to our happiness. We're not doing what God has to do, but we're doing what we got to do. And a friend of mine has a boat in the Newport Harbor that has this fantastic brass plaque on. It has my whole biblical philosophy. It says, Pray toward heaven and row toward shore.

And that's what we're supposed to be doing. Faith and works. God and man intermingled, each doing their part for happiness. If you have been very discouraged by the things that have happened to you in your past, although you may not have 40 years behind you, I know what that's like. Please be sure that you have sufficiently turned this key of forgiveness, maybe toward God, maybe toward yourself or another person, don't let it go anymore. Cut the umbilical cord that connects you to your past that keeps you not happy.

Turn the key of forgiveness so that the seasons of refreshing can come from the Lord, and the waves of emotional healing can begin to flow in your life. And if presently it seems like you live with and you have to go to school with difficult people know that you are responsible to them

and not for them. What a lifesaver that is. You will not carry around with you a bunch of ugly baggage of guilt all the rest of your life for things for which you are not responsible. And presently, if the future seems pretty disenchanting, check out your faith so that you too, may enter into His rest which doesn't mean there's this ironclad guarantee on the future.

Life is not fair, really. If life were fair, people once in a while would be able to fly over the pigeons. You know what I mean? Bomb those guys out right there, even out the score. But it doesn't work that way. Life is not always what we call fair. And the future, who knows what that holds? For me, I never imagined that my future shock would hold, picking up the phone two and a half years ago and be talking to that baby that I gave birth to many, many years ago. Who said, you've never met me? My name is Julie, though, and you're my mother. And she began to give me incredible revelations of what God had really been about all of these years.

I believe there is a purpose in the pain we go into when we really begin to see Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and forever. When we begin to wake up in the morning, tomorrow morning. What is tomorrow Friday and say, this is the day which the Lord hath made. I'm going to rejoice and be glad in today. We'll begin to squeeze satisfaction out of every difficult circumstance. We'll begin to carve contentment out of circumstances that don't seem to be very nice. And will all of us, Cinderellas and Cinderfellas will be getting free. Free from that fairytale thinking syndrome that robs us so that we can honestly find happiness and contentment in whatever state we find ourselves in. I'd like to pray as we close. If you would with me, father, we want to say thank you for this gentle reminder.

[audio abruptly ends]