

Torrey 1985 Do You Know What You Are Looking For?

By Muriel Cook

Step by step. Some are called and some are led, and those that are led not any less sure than those that are called. In fact, very few are called. But I think you have to call me just to keep me out of trouble just to give me a glimpse that he had a plan for my life. But I want to say to you, he's got a fabulous plan for every one of you, whether you know about it or not.

And I'll tell you, it changed my life. I didn't want for a minute to miss out on what God had in store for me. And I knew that was going to mean some change in my lifestyle. One, it was going to mean that I was going to have to get in the Word every day. I wasn't in the Word. The only time I prayed was when I was in trouble. The only time I read my Bible was when I was really over my head or hurting.

And I thought, now every day I do my hair and every day I do my makeup and all those things so I can read my Bible too. So I made a Covenant with God that I'd read my Bible every day, even if it was late. And then I knew it would mean a change of friends for me. Not that I couldn't have any more non-Christian friends, but those non-Christians couldn't be everything in my life as they had been before. You know, my confidantes, those that influenced me totally. But it was time for me not to be that intimate with them, but to have some intimate Christian friends.

And I can tell you that it was really tough. I had a special friend who was terrifically popular. And he said to me, I was just changing into the big high school. And he was telling me that he

could put me on the map if I wanted to stay with him at an all school party in the high school. And so I was real thrilled.

I didn't see anything wrong with it. We practiced the latest popular song. He was the most popular guy I have ever seen up to that point. And up to this present day, I've never seen anybody so popular when he walked into a basketball game, even though he wasn't playing on the team, the kids in the Bleachers charity. That's how popular he was.

And when he sang in the high school, they had this terrific auditorium that would seat 600 kids. And they would have all the lighting. And if he sang about bubbles, they had a bubble machine. And boy, it was terrific. And they screamed even way back in those days, they still screamed and they hammered their feet and everything when he sang.

And so he asked me to sing and do that with him. Well, I planned everything I was going to wear and hold it. And the night came, and I was terrified. But he held me up and we sang, it's a good thing I couldn't see the spotlight was on because there were 600 teenagers packed into that auditory. And when we finished seeing, they screamed, too.

I mean, they brought the house down. That's real heady stuff I want you to know. And so it was an encore they wanted. And we had to practice for an encore. He said, That's all right. You know, such and such a song. Another popular song. We sang it. And then the next thing I knew, the lights were up and the band was playing. The dance was started.

And I didn't know that they were going to have this other side of the party. And here were these guys lining up, tapped me to dance. And the first one was a 250 pound football player. And this friend of mine caught the look that I had on my face. And he called me aside. He said, "You're not going to tell anybody you're a Christian, are you?" I was standing there wondering if I could maintain my Christian testimony and be there. I'm not saying it's right. I'm not saying it's wrong. I'm just saying that was the question. But when he said, "You're not going to tell anybody," then I knew I couldn't stay.

And, you know, the evening, it started out so exciting. But I went home with a real heavy heart, and I thought, oh, it didn't just quite turn out like I expected it to. But when I went to class, when I started that school, I remember the first day I drove up on the bus and there were about 50 kids at the stop. And when I got out of the bus, I pushed back all these kids and went inside.

And somebody said, "Do you see all these kids standing out there? Yeah, they were all here to meet you." I said, "Me, how come?" "Well, didn't you sing with so-and-so?" Yeah, well, I really had it made because I had sung with him. So I got this terrific rush at school. Everybody wanted me their club. And they're this. And they're that. And there were twelve girls. Now they all belong--their daddies belong to the country club. And they were the richest and the most elite. There were eleven of them. And they wanted me to be one of the charter members of a sub-deb club they were going to have. And I didn't realize the catch.

I was thrilled. And I went, and, boy, they couldn't have treated me better. Oh, man, it was like I was special. That was the first meeting. Then the second meeting. They were planning parties,

and they planned one of those all night parties. And they were going to have it at somebody's house. Folks were going to be gone. And I saw the list of guys they were going to invite. And there were all these booze house.

And I knew that I was going to have to tell them that I was a Christian and that they had chosen the wrong person. I couldn't just make an excuse and say, "I can't come to the party." I knew that I was going to have to lay myself on the line. And I want to tell you that that was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. And I waited till the very last minute.

And I think my face was as red as fire. When I said, "I have something to tell you. I think you have the wrong person for your charter member. And I feel like I had to resign because I'm a Christian. I don't want to spoil the fun, but I won't be able to attend the party. So I'm going to resign." And when I did that, you would have thought that I had said I was a Communist. Really, that's the kind of reaction I got.

They were shocked. They were stunned. Here, they had just given me the red carpet treatment and I had done them in. I hadn't appreciated it. And they're thinking, I got my coat and I left. That was one of the hardest things, I can't tell you. But I had peace in my heart. And the next day when I went to school, it was all over the high school. Everybody knew and nobody would speak to me. It wasn't easy. I went for months without a date.

And do you know that the only girl that would sit with me at noon with some poor little old thing that nobody else would sit with? But I had peace in my heart. I'm not saying that it was any fun, but I had peace. And you have to look at the long term thing. That's what I was looking at.

I had determined that if the Lord wanted me to belong to him and to serve him, I wasn't going to do anything to disqualify myself for ministry. And that would mean, guys, a very big thing in my life were guys. And I couldn't date just anybody, any non-Christian. It had to be somebody that was really committed. And I certainly wasn't going to give my heart away to somebody who wasn't going in the same direction. And I had it really tough because the Lord had already shown me it was to be Asia, and it was to be China.

So that was really hard. I had to be prepared to go all by myself. And I want you to know that I was. And then the Lord brought this terrific guy into my life. His name is Norm, and a couple of you have met him. I see some smiles in the place. He is just unreal. He's asking me out, and I realized he was a Christian. He had only known the Lord six months, but he was a Christian. He was a growing Christian.

He'd been a juvenile delinquent. But isn't it amazing how the Lord kept me from meeting him before he became a Christian? You see, because I never would have walked across the street with him. But the Lord knows when to bring just the right person into your life at the right time.

But guess what? As we got to talking, even though there was this tremendous attraction, I realized he didn't have the same goals that I had. In fact, he was just dying to get out of high school so he could be a truck driver.

Now, there's nothing wrong with being a truck driver for Jesus. But I didn't exactly see myself as a truck driver's wife at that point. And I thought, "Well, I have these goals. If you're going to serve the Lord, you need a college education and you need to know how to work with people." And so I can't let my heart go out to this guy because I could lose it.

I knew I could lose it, and I had to hold it back. Well, somebody said, "How in the world do you do that when you got chemistry?" And we had it. How do you do that? Well, there are several reasons, not very popular reasons, but I want you to know that some of the most exciting young people at Multnomah School of the Bible have been in my office and have said to me, "My life is very complicated. I've got this problem with this guy or this girl and all these other people. How do I handle it?"

And that's exactly the way I handled it, was four things. First of all, decide that you're not going to touch. Oh, my, how boring can you get now, I'm not saying if you're in love and it's right. I'm not saying don't touch, but I'm saying if you're not in love, if you're not sure it's right and you don't know whether you should get involved or not, if you're not ready to give your heart away, then don't touch.

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It says in 1 Corinthians, chapter 7, verses 1 and 2, it's not good for man to touch a woman. Why? Because of immorality. And so let every man have his own wife. So touching should be for love and not for fun. Touching has to be an expression of love, which leads to marriage. And I wasn't sure that I should love him or could give him my heart. So there's a way that you can let somebody know with your eyes that you appreciate them, that you want to be with them. And I think people want to touch or hold hands or something. But if you start holding and kissing someone, that's an unspoken promise.

There is an unspoken commitment, and you know it. If somebody has kissed you or allowed you to kiss them and then they go off with somebody else, it hurts, doesn't it? Well, we're talking about keeping yourself from being hurt, keeping yourself from getting involved. And that's the way to do it until you're sure. And this let me remind you that after you say, I love you, what else do you have to give anyway but a kiss?

And I just like to say to you, girls make it more fun to hold hands with you than kiss any other girl in town. That's the way ought to be. And it's just such a treat to be with you. You know, I have the girls that come and say to me, yeah, but this guy spent so much money on me, I feel like I'm obligated. Are you kidding?

Don't you know they wanted to be with you? And if that's not enough, then that's tough. And I want you to know what the guys said to me. They say to me, it's a relief to know that some of what these girls are not expecting me to come off like a big Romeo or big lover boy. Then it's not

comfortable without either. A lot of times. It's so funny at Multnomah, and the girls tell me they get near the door and then they say "good night" so they don't have to face it.

Listen, the leading guy on our campus is absolute knock out. This great big blonde hunk and his sweetheart just came in to see me this week, and she said, he just told me. He said, "I just want to tell you that until I'm sure I'm in love with you, I'm not going to be touching you." Isn't that neat? Why not say that? "And when you do touch me, then that means that I'll know that you're in love with me. Or when I do touch you, that means or I let you kiss me. That means I'm in love with you." Oh, it just takes all the pressure out of it.

And I'm not saying this is 1940 standards. This is for today, and it keeps everything from getting complicated. The other thing is love talk. Stay away from love talk, because it's just that if it doesn't mean anything, if you're not sure, don't talk about marriage or love, you can say things that let that person know. You think they're great, they're special.

You enjoy being with them. You can say that in creative ways. But when you say something, mean it and so that person can trust you. Another thing is, don't pray together. Now. Isn't that a strange thing to say as a spiritual leader? Don't you guys sometimes feel--I know that guys get under pressure. They think as a spiritual leader and the girls talk so much about spiritual leaders, it almost makes you sick.

How can I be a spiritual leader if I don't pray with this girl? Oh, listen, that's enough to get you to the altar. What is two things? Praying with a girl and touching a girl is enough to get you to the altar. But, you know, it's not enough to keep you married happily for 50 years.

Those two things are very, very binding. I remember when I was here at Biola before, and I was talking about this afterwards. Unreal, nice guy came up to me and he said, I am so glad you told me not to pray with girls anymore, because he said, I've been praying with this girl. And every time I did, I had all these feelings. Wow. But he said when I got away from her, I realized I didn't love this girl. I don't even want to get serious with her. So what I'm saying to you is don't pray with her, especially in the car, in the dark.

And if you're all a bunch of you going skiing and it's bright and early in the morning and you want to pray, that's fine. You see the difference. You do see the difference. Now, what am I saying? Can I ever pray with somebody or can I ever touch someone or talk love talk? Listen, if you know this is of God, and if you know that this is right and you love each other, go for it. Because I don't want to be misquoted. Pray together every day, pray together every night. It'll seal your relationship.

It'll be terrific. But the way you hold your heart back until you're absolutely sure is not to do these things. So I didn't do these things. We dated for about nine months, and the whole time I prayed. Now he didn't know the direction I was going either. Lots of times God will direct the girl and she'll get her direction early.

I don't understand this, but it often happens, and the guys don't have direction yet. And I would just say to you, girls, hold your counsel in your heart, between you and the Lord, where God is leading you and what God wants to do with your life. You can scare these men to death by telling them you're called Africa or something.

Keep that in your heart. They can know you're totally committed to the Lord and that you're interested in full time service, but they get the pressure. So hold back on that. And I was holding back. I never talked to Norm about it at all. And he went off to another school. And no, I got to back up. I was praying to go to school. He graduated from high school and he wasn't interested in college. So I was holding my heart, and I was praying.

And one day we went to see Taylor University play a non-Christian school. Now, any of you know about Taylor University? Yeah, it's a good school. It's our school, but not any better than Biola. Seriously. So I was praying and we went to this ball game, and I was completely innocent when we went. But guess what? This non-Christian school just trumped the Christian school, beat the tar out of them and made them look really bad. Well, Norm was very competitive and he was terribly upset. He said "You mean this Christian school has such a poor testimony they let these non-Christians just walk all over them?" He said, "Do you think that if I went down there to that school, they let me play ball?"

The Lord was beginning to answer my prayer, and I said, real nonchalant, I said, "Well, why don't you find out?" So he sent away and got an application and they accepted him. And then he

said to me, "Will you be my girl while I'm gone?" Oh, I wanted to say yes, but see, I still didn't know where he stood. Besides that, I didn't know if he could write letters or not.

Now, if you guys have left some girl back home and you've said, "Be my girl" and you're not writing her, that's my private opinion of you. That's not fair. And I said, do you write letters? He said, "Well, I don't know. I've never written a letter in my life." He said, "Will you be my girl?"

I said, "I don't know." I said, "If you can write letters, I'll consider it. But if you can't, I can't be your girl." So he went to Taylor University and guess what? I got three letters a day for three weeks. Well, he couldn't quite keep that momentum up. So he wrote me every single day, and we were in different schools. And he wrote me every single day for three years now, almost too good to be true. But guess what? God was preparing us for something, we had no idea.

But during our married life, we've been separated between 50 and 60% of our time, and we've had to rely on letters to keep close. And the Lord has put us through the training. And we had no idea that that was what it was going to be. But we have been able to manage staying close as a married couple because we had all that experience. We learned how to trust each other.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Well, anyway, he invited me to his school after he'd been there for one semester. And they had a Torrey week. But it wasn't Torrey. It was called Youth Conference, and they had something like 1500 high schoolers there, and the whole college put it on for the high schools.

And he was one of the committee chairmen. And so the last day, we were all sitting in the gym. And I was sitting way up in the bleachers. And they asked everyone of the committee chairmen to come and give their testimony. And I saw him walk across the platform and he didn't look like a truck driver. He looked like a preacher. I mean, he walked like he knew where he was going, walked right up to the mic, gave his testimony. And then he said, "And God has called me to China."

Well, I almost fell off the bleacher. I was home, and I knew right then and there that it was right. And from that time out, I knew that God meant for us to be together. Now some of you say, well, how can I know what God has and how do I test it out?

I've got some good questions for you to write down to test out that person that you're dating. See if he qualifies or she qualifies. The first one, are you ready?

Does this person build me up spiritually and emotionally? Does this person build me up spiritually and emotionally? Does he bless you in other words, or does he depress you? When you're with that person that's Mr. or Ms. right, that person ought to make you at your best before God. Make you want to walk tall before God. Brings out all your best qualities. But I have kids come in my office and they say, you know, I really like this guy. I really think he's great, but I'm not at peace. I'm not at my best.

Number two, do we constantly quarrel and bicker? Ask yourself that. Do we constantly quarrel and bicker, or do your spirits meet? I dated a guy before I dated Norm. We quarreled all the time.

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There's just something about him that just brought out the devil in me, and it was really uncomfortable. And I must say to you that if it's that way when you're dating, it's going to be a nightmare after you're married and it should not be.

I see the marriage experience being like the Trinity in heaven. Can you see God and the Son and the Holy Spirit quarrelling? Should not be so. Are you really compatible or just physically drawn to each other? And if you're just physically drawn to each other and not really compatible, you will quarrel.

Third one, am I comfortable, at ease, and at peace about everything that is happening between us?

Next, are our goals and priorities the same? If God calls you to be a jungle missionary, you have to be careful the kind of girl you choose. She doesn't have to be a horse, but she has to be able to camp. She has to like it. She has to be able to go for long periods of time without luxury. And there are some fantastic girls out there willing to do that and able to do that.

But be sure. Do you have the same decision [audio cut off] I'm thinking of a couple. I know right now. Her Daddy was a doctor and she insisted that her husband become a doctor. Push, push, push.

And what about the social life that you like? Do you want to dress up and go out all the time? And he just does it because you're that way? He won't do it after you're married.

[Audio cut off] Attention every time. It's fun. Break the rules down on the Dean against dad at home and the rules. You know, biblical rules and social rules are there to safeguard marriage and the spirit of rebellion that is in that person now, that even draws you to that person.

But that spirit of rebellion will be transferred to you after marriage, and it carries over into every area. But guess who becomes the target? It's the mate. Once you're married, that mate becomes the target of all that rebellion. And these biblical and social rules that safeguard marriage won't be there to safeguard your marriage.

Is there any bitterness in this person? This is one of the most important ones. Is there any bitterness in this person? My husband was one of eleven kids and his father was an alcoholic and he was often beaten. And when he told me about it, it broke my heart. But I listen very [audio interrupted] to hear whether he had any root of bitterness in him because Hebrews 12:15 tells us that if there's a root of bitterness, it will defile everyone.

Everyone that he touches with his life will be defiled by his bitterness. And, you know, he was very sad, the way he was beaten as a child. It'll be carried into the marriage and it'll spread like a cancer all over the marriage.

Does this guy want a mom, a mother? He wants a mom, someone to cry on the shoulder all the time. Be careful of that, girls. I have never allowed Norm to call me mom or mother, except in

reference to the children, because I'm his wife. I'm a sweetheart. We don't have that relationship. Parent-child relationship.

We have an adult relationship between us. Or I'd like to say to you guys, does this girl you're dating just want a daddy? Somebody to make all the decisions, take care of her. She doesn't have a mind of her own. She's just a little smush.

And I want to say to you that be careful of the kind of guy that wants to be your daddy and dominate you. That'll never work in marriage. There is a parent in all of us and there is an adult in all of us. And there's a child in all of us. And lovers must relate to each other on an adult level or on child level when you're both children, when you're having fun, you can relate to each other as children, and otherwise you relate to each other as adults. Nobody comes off as daddy or mommy.

How does this person relate to other people? How does he relate to other people? He may be wonderful with you, but very cold and snotty or disrespectful to other people. Someone just came into my office and asked me what I thought about a certain guy. I said, Ask the guys, they'll tell you. Some of the young men on campus come to me and they say, We're so worried about some of the nicest girls on campus that are going with these crumbs and they don't even know it. But all the men know it. See, men know men.

And let me just say to you guys, women know women. And the way to find out is, are they well thought of by their roommates? By the people that they live with? By the people that they

associate with? And then two, is this person you're dating real lovely in public? And then when he gets you alone, he treats you like a crow? There are guys like that too.

Or I had a young man come to me and he said, you know, this girl, my girl just treats me like a dog in public, embarrasses me to death. But when I get along with her, she's just as sweet as honey. Forget that.

How does he relate to his family or how does she relate to her family? Does she have a problem with her father? If she has a good relationship with her father, then she'll probably make a good wife. But if she doesn't, that doesn't mean she won't make a good wife. It means she needs some counseling, though.

And how does this guy you're dating relate to his mom? Is he gentle with her? Does he respect her? Is he tender towards her? That's really important.

Is this person hard working, conscientious or lazy? You may say, "Well, I don't know, but he sure looks good sitting around in his jeans." All I want to say to you, he won't look good at all sitting around in his jeans. If the grass is up to your knees and it needs to be mowed after you're married, it just doesn't really make that much difference how they look if things never get done around the house. And if a girl can't keep house, I do all the premarital counseling on campus.

We have six weeks discipleship for all the brides at Multnomah. And the one thing they told me after they've gone off and got married and come back, I say, "What did I leave out?" And almost

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every one of them say, "We wish you had talked to us more about homemaking." But it's too late. I don't get them till they're already grown up and then they're going to get married. And I have them for six weeks.

I can't teach them how to be homemakers in six weeks in a school setting. So I want to say to you girls, learn how to cook and learn how to take care of a home. Of your room, it starts right there. And listen because it just doubles. It just doubles. When you get a man, you have to do it all for two. It's hard enough to do it for one.

But I think that a guy who's never held a job doesn't know how to work is just pitiful. It's just sad. And I wouldn't recommend that you get serious with a young man that doesn't know how to hold down a job and handle money. Do you know there are a couple of areas that cause more trouble in marriage than any two other areas? One is finances and can you guess what the other one is in-laws.

Is this person [audio cut off] fund? Of course he didn't have much money, but he didn't use any imagination. That's not balanced. And if a girl just wants to go out and have a dress-up every time you go on a date, that's not balanced either. But look at their whole life. If it's balanced, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically.

Is this person consistent and faithful to God? Is this person consistent and faithful to God? Do you know that it's only then can that person be totally faithful to one person in marriage? If that

person is totally consistent and faithful to God, then you can count on them being faithful to you in marriage.

I had a girl come to my office and say, "Boy, I really like this guy, but he's backslid." So he's backslid? "Yes." Well, how long has he been backslid? 15 minutes, half day? Oh, she said he's been struggling for weeks.

That is really sad when you know your heart isn't right with God. What about 1 John 1:7? If we confess our sins, that's for Christians, it's faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to class us from all unrighteousness. And that's the way we should be living. And as soon as we realize we're in a backflip state, we need to get right with God.

And if that person you're dating is constantly backsledding or out of fellowship, I wouldn't base my life on him or on her. It's a very poor risk. And sometimes we say, I wonder why God isn't giving me some neat relationship like you're talking about. Well, I'd like to have you now ask yourself these questions. How do you rate on this list?

How do you rate on it? You know, maybe the Lord is just holding back that neat person until you're rating better on the list before he'll bring that neat person into your life. Because that neat person might not be interested in you at this point in your life. If I were to ask you what you're looking for, every one of you would say, I want success and happiness, and I want love, and I want fulfillment. And I think that you can have all of these things if you're totally committed to Jesus Christ, totally committed to Jesus Christ.

I'm not saying it's without pain. You know, I feel that life, all of life, there is pain, but you can choose your pain. I hope you never forget this. You can choose your pain. Are you going to choose the pain of an uncommitted life or the pain of a committed life?

They both hurt. You may have to walk alone, even here at Biola, but in the end, the pain of the committed life pays off. Do you know that my friend who was a Christian that I sang with the big singer? He also came from a Christian home, and I used to hear him pray with his family of family worship. But he didn't have a committed life, and he was always playing on the edge.

And, you know, he got caught. He ended up marrying his high school sweetheart, too. And after about 20 years, we met again and with tears streaming down his cheeks, he said to me, "Why is our life so different?"

He was divorced. I could have told him. I could have said, you know, it was the choices that we made when we were young. It was too late to say that. And I say to you at this age and stage, you're making irrevocable decisions for your life, how can you know God's will? We'll quickly run through that, pray for God's guidance.

He goes with you. He wants you to know His will and God, who sent his son the Scriptures. Tell us will. He not also with him freely. Give us all things he's not going to hold out on you. What his will is that's Romans 8:32. Another thing is search the Scriptures.

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Do you know that 90% of all of God's will is already written up for us in the word of God? It's just the other 10%. We have to find out. He's put down all the principles. All we have to do is find out the other 10%.

4th thing is to think objective counsel. Are you counseling with someone that you admire, who has successfully married, who has a successful Christian life? By that, I mean, fruitful in the multitude of counselors, their safety. Ask questions, pick brains, take the opportunity, every opportunity you have to learn from models.

And then look at the open doors, explore opportunities. Look at the circumstances. Think about 20 years, 40 years down the road and you're going to have to begin to move. That's the 6th point. Begin to move.

C.S. Lewis said that not one square inch of the world is uncontested. You're going to have to get going. And then in Deuteronomy 31:6, it tells us be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or tremble for the Lord. Your God is the one who goes with you.

He will not fail you. And he will not forsake you. I believe we have some time for questions. I am brave to let you ask. After talking about this subject, do you have any questions I want to tell the girls.

And if you guys want to ask the girls to ask this question for you in May, in the women's session on Wednesday night, we're going to answer questions all Wednesday night. And the way we're

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going to do it is to have you write down questions anonymously now you can say anything you want to if we don't know who's writing it, can't you? So Tuesday night at the women's meeting, I will be accepting your questions and then we'll try to answer those on Wednesday evening. Shelley and I'll do that together.

So at that time you can certainly ask whatever you want. If there's no questions at this time, do we dismiss them? Okay, you dismissed.