

Are you really living? Rom 6:11 Torrey Conference 1980

By Muriel Cook

Torrey Memorial Bible Conference, January 1980. This is the second message in a series by Mrs. Muriel Cook of Overseas Crusades. The title of this message is Are You Really Living? From Romans 6:11.

Cook: The program says that we'll be talking about duo or duet from Proverbs 31. But guess what has happened? That wasn't the Lord's plan, and he's been talking to me about changing it, and I have to be obedient. And I didn't have any peace at all about talking about that subject. And so he said he wanted me. I'm sure I just got the message several times to talk on Romans 6:11. Are You Really Living?

And so that's what we're going to talk about this morning. What does Romans 6:11 say? Romans 6:11 says, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Consider yourself dead to sin. And as I thought about that, I realized this is talking to the Christian that it's saying there, consider yourself dead to yourself. Because sin and self are synonymous. Now, that isn't very popular to say in the world, is it? Because everybody's talking about the self. All the advertisements say, you deserve it, you buy it, you need it, you deserve it. If you don't watch out for yourself, nobody else will.

So when we talk about dying to self, it sometimes brings up a rebellion in us. But I'm not talking about dying to that self in you that was created in the image of God or that unique personality and characteristic traits that God gave you. I'm not talking about putting that down and dying to that. Well, what am I talking about then?

I'm talking about dying to that self in you that would rise up in rebellion against God. And I think, you know that part, the part that I mean, I don't know about you, but my biggest problem is me. I'm always getting me in trouble. And it's that self-enough that would rise up and just push the Lord right off of the throne and take over.

You know, when I gave my heart to Christ, I had a lot of sin in it, and I had a lot of struggle. And I thought, oh, boy, now I'm free, home free. I'm not going to get mad anymore, and I'm not going to feel jealous or be resentful or bitter or anything. And I was just marvelously, gloriously free after I was born again for two whole weeks.

And then guess what happened? I found out that I could get just as mad and just as resentful, just as jealous, just as frustrated and bitter and cold as I had before I got saved, before I gave my heart to Christ. But now I was more miserable than before. Do you know what I mean? Why was I more miserable now as a Christian than before?

Because I knew that it didn't please the Lord bit for me to get mad and bitter and frustrated and resentful and I knew I was disappointing the Lord and I didn't know what to do about it. And you know what happened in my life, my Christian life, I would be up and down in it. I thought, oh, boy, if I have this kind of problems, I need to get closer to the Lord, and I need to get stronger. And so I would go to conferences like this, and I would go to women's retreats. And while I was there, I would just sing. It'd be great, and I'd be fine. And I'd get home in a couple of days. I'd come crashing down in my spiritual life, and I would goof and I would do something wrong and self would be on the throne again. And frankly, I just started on a roller coaster ride, spiritually up, down, up, down. And, you know, that's the way I went to the mission field, on a spiritual roller coaster ride, because I didn't know how to get off or what to do.

I was 22 when I arrived on the island of Taiwan. And guess what? I found out that there are a lot of missionaries on the roller coaster ride, self being their number one problem. And what was their number two problem? Their coworkers, not the nationals, not the culture, not the language, but they're coworkers.

You say, oh, my goodness, no. Let me ask you, who's your number one problem? If you're really honest, I think you'll have to admit it yourself. And then what's your next biggest problem? Certainly not somebody that you have a class with that you never see all week. Is that person you're living with or working with?

Do you know what Galatians 2:20 says? All of our lives we've repeated Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ and is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And I quoted it glibly, and I didn't know a thing about what it meant. Do you know what it means?

You can see why I was really hesitant to talk about the subject. It's a hard subject to talk about, but it's talking about crucifying self, this self that would rise up in rebellion against God and the self that gets us in trouble all the time. And I had no idea really what it meant. And I'm just beginning to find out.

But when I got to the mission field, I looked around and I thought, there are some missionaries who are really stable in their Christian life, and they have just as many problems as I do, but they don't blow it and they don't blow up. And I've got to find out their secret. And I can still see myself not really telling them why I was coming over to visit and just sort of hanging in close. Trying to find out what it was that they had that I didn't have because I was up, down, up, down.

Well, I found out one thing for sure. That all of these stable missionaries that were able to go through anything and still be sweet and full of the spirit or controlled by the Spirit. They all had something in common. Do you know what it was? They were all reading their Bibles. They all were in the word of God, and it seemed to be very important to them. Well, I want to tell you and make a confession to you. I could go for days without reading my Bible. I said, but you're in missionary.

Last night with a girl, we mentioned that in Overseas Crusades, the organization that I belong to, we have a motto that says, Every Heart with Christ is a missionary. And what's the mission field? Every Heart Without Christ is the mission field. So does that make you any different than me? If you have Christ, you're a missionary, too. So please don't put me on a pedestal, because my place of Ministry was in Taiwan, and yours is at Biola right now.

We're all missionaries, and so we're just as subject to weakness those of us who work overseas as those who work in this country. And so I have to tell you, honestly, I was bored with the Bible, and I was ashamed to tell that to anybody. Well, you probably are saying right now, how can you admit it now? Well, I want to tell you I discovered something. It is not natural to be intrigued with the Bible. You are never going to naturally want to read the Bible. Isn't that a relief for some of you who are secretly bored? Oh, it's a relief to find that out. Well, so then what do you do about it? You read it anyway and you cultivate an appetite for the word of God.

You know, when I was nine years old, I got tuberculosis. Part of that, I think, was eating out of the same bowl. Everybody in China eats out of the same bowl. You dip your chopsticks in and you take the food out, put it in your mouth and put your chopsticks back in. And if anybody's table has TB, you're likely to get it. And I got it. And when I came back to this country, I really lost weight.

And I was just a little shriveled up kid. And the doctors became alarmed, and they put me on a diet. Guess what the diet was? Carrot juice, Yuck and roasted unroasted cashews. That wasn't too bad. And avocados, nine years old. Avocado diet. Well, I thought those were the most tasteless things I had ever tasted, and it was just terrible. So my mother was very wise, and she bought the most beautiful avocados she could find. And she held it up before me and she said, See, now, Muriel, this is a beautiful fruit. And look at the texture and the shape. And then she peeled it and she pulled the skin back and she sliced it. And she said, look, it's green. Next to the peeling, and it's cream next to the seed, and it's soft and it's beautiful. I said, Do I have to eat it? She said, Only one bite. So I took one bite. And the next day we peeled it again and sliced it again, and I took another bite. And then little by little, I took two bites, and then three bites. And guess what? I love avocado. I cannot go past the avocado stand without my mouth watering because I cultivated an appetite for avocado. And that's what you have to do with the word of God. It's never going to come naturally, that you're going to enjoy it or want it or relish it or be starved for it. And the more you need it, the less you're going to want it.

So you just got to get in there and start. I would love for you to get such an appetite for it that if you should go to bed at night and have not had a chance to read it, that you will feel empty. Say, listen, if you hadn't eaten all day, how would you feel at night? I know some of you guys have just been knocked straight out of your saddle. Couldn't make it, but we don't feel that way about the Bible, do we?

I would love for you to get to the point in your life where if you didn't have the word of God that day that you'd be so empty, you'd have to stay up just a few more minutes to read the word. And it's not going to happen naturally. You're going to have to work at it, and you're going to have to cultivate an appetite. And so I decided I was so sick and tired of myself and my up and down Christian life that I was going to do it. And I thought the best time was in the morning.

Now, I'm not telling you when the best time is. I'm not telling you how long to do it. I don't want to be legalistic. Nobody tells you it's better to eat breakfast at six than it is at seven or how much to have for breakfast, pancakes or eggs or what. You eat and anytime you need to during the day at the best time for you.

But for me, I thought it would be the best in the morning because of my schedule. Well, you should see me in the morning. And my husband is a little joke at our house. Norman will often say, okay, honey, put your feet down on the floor. Just put them down. Now stand up. Now lean

forward and your feet will follow. That's how knocked out I am every morning. So he helps me get up, and we go and read our Bible. He goes off and he reads his and I go someplace else, and I read mine. And, you know, I would come out of my room full of the spirit or what do I mean by full of the spirit? It's a biblical term, and I don't think it's very well uh explained.

I didn't know what full of the spirit meant for years, but I knew I was and I knew when I wasn't. Hey, do you know when you're not? Do you know when you're out of the spirit and in the flesh? Or do you know when you're full of the spirit? Now, let me tell you what it means. It means to be controlled. That's all it means. To be full of the spirit means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Isn't that neat and simple? Well, I would come out of the bedroom ready for the day, controlled by the Holy Spirit, all known sin confessed and having been in the word of God and blessed. And then I would go out to meet the day, and maybe it was 8:30, maybe it was 10:30, but it was inevitable that something would bring me crashing down. Often it would be someone on the telephone calling right during breakfast, and I do lots of counseling. And it would be invariably that woman that I had asked not to call during meal time, and I would feel anger rising up.

What do you do with a woman who just can't take a hint? I feel that anger and I've become angry and then frustration and so on and so on. And often I've stood in the middle of my kitchen floor and I just said, Lord, I don't have time to go back in the bedroom and get controlled and filled with the spirit. I'm all out of the spirit. Now what am I going to do? And my heart would long for the next day when I could go back into the bedroom and have that same feeling and controlling again. And I didn't know that reading your Bible isn't going to control, isn't being filled with the spirit. It isn't that that's going to keep you.

Well, why do we have to read our Bible then? Well, why do you wash your face every morning? You know, he talked about it, Dr. Robinson, that you have to look in the mirror, and the Bible is like a mirror. You look into the mirror and you see when your face is dirty or your life is dirty and you see what it is that God wants for your life. But it's not that that is going to go with you through the day to keep you in the spirit.

What is it? You see you cannot be full of anger and be full of the spirit. You cannot be full of frustration and full of the spirit. Or let's say it this way, you cannot be controlled by the spirit and controlled by anger at the same time. It means we have to be crucified. We have to crucify self. Well, I didn't know what that meant. Do you?

So I struggled with that and I thought, well, if it takes a crucifixion, I'm ready to have it. How about you? Are you ready to have it? Are you so sick and tired of yourself that you'd be willing to have a crucifixion this morning? We could have a mass one right now.

It could be terribly painful, but, I mean, we could get it over with. We could once and for all get self out of the way. Wouldn't it be neat? Well, why are you laughing? You know, it doesn't work like that.

You know what Paul said? He said I die daily. And it dawned on me it's a daily crucifying self-choosing to let Christ live his life out through me rather than my taking the reins and doing it. And you know something? I've got one over on Paul. He died daily. I have to die hourly, moment by moment.

Now, what do I mean? Okay, I come out of the bedroom controlled by the spirit. The phone rings. Same lady, and I feel anger rising. Is it ever going to stop this anger? No, it's not. Can you ever just kill anger and frustration and those things? No, you can't. And don't expect that from yourself. But it's at the moment that you feel the anger coming, that you send up the SOS, oh, Lord, I am getting out of the spirit or I'm getting in the flesh or whatever is easy for you. I'm blowing it, and I need you right now, your Holy Spirit, right now to control me as I talk to this woman on the telephone.

Now, what is that? That is the process of crucifying, because myself says I just want to be rude and get off the phone. My husband's going to be late for work. That's crucifying self. That's putting self-down, that's dying to self. And what I would do in the natural person to let Christ live his life out through me.

And it's the most exciting life, fantastic life. Do you know what he wants to do? He wants to take your unique personality, and he wants to speak his words through your mouth, think his thoughts through your mind and walk and act and move through you and live through you moment by moment. But he can't unless you're constantly dying to self and giving him the control instead of taking the control. For years I tried to get those puzzle pieces together, and I get one piece, and then I get another piece of truth, and I couldn't get it all fitted together.

And I thought, oh, I wish somebody had told me that when I was 20 or 18 even or 15. It would have been so much easier than having to wait until I was stumbling and bumbling around for years trying to get together. And that's why I wanted to share it with you. Now we know the problem, and we know that that's what God wants to do. But he never forces or pushes. We have to choose. We hear about choosing, but that's what we have to choose.

Now, I want to talk about some of the practical ways of putting this into practice. And one of the greatest battlegrounds for this is in the mind. The greatest battleground is in the mind. You know, lots of times we don't know that what we're thinking is sin. We don't realize that we're allowing ourselves to think wrong kind of thoughts that get us in trouble.

For example, we often thought, we often feel that what we think is private. I can think what I please about that guy. As long as I don't say it, nobody's going to be hurt. It's in the Privacy of my mind, and I just can't stand him. And that's the way it is. And as long as I don't say so, it's fine. But you know what? Out of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Not long ago, I was with a lovely Christian Lady, and she blurted out a curse word, oh, my goodness. And she went, well, whatever made me say a thing like that, I could have told her. She said, I don't talk like that. No, she doesn't. But she thinks like that. Do you ever give yourself a few dams and Hells when you get mad, just make it feel a little better. Oh, all mental, not verbal. They can't hurt anybody because I'm just giving it all I got inside on it, and it's not going to hurt anybody. But you see, that's where the battle is won or lost is in the mind. And we allow ourselves to think all kinds of wrong thoughts, and we think it won't matter as long as I don't say it. But it'll come out somehow, sooner or later.

And we don't realize that the scripture tells us in Ephesians 4:22-23, to lay aside the old self. That has to do with the old self. You know, the wrong kind of thinking, sexually, allowing ourselves angry thoughts, critical thoughts. That's the old self. It says, put it aside and let your mind be renewed. Be renewed in your mind.

We're not aware that our thinking is wrong. And two, Corinthians, ten verses four and five says, Bring every thought into the captivity of Jesus Christ. I understand it much better now than I used to. That means corral your thoughts and get them under the control of Jesus Christ. Sometimes I'll be working and I will not be careful with what I'm thinking. And I'll let my mind go. And guess how it goes. Always in a down spiral, that's human nature, always critical,

negative, and then fear and then depression. And suddenly the Holy Spirit will say to me, Muriel that's not the right kind of thinking. You're not thinking right. It's not pleasing me what you're thinking. And so get your thoughts corralled and realize that they need to be put under the Searchlight of the Holy Spirit. Does it please God what you're thinking about? You know, I go around now feeling like the top of my head is off. That's true.

Like it's just open because the Lord sees it all. And I'm trying very much to have my mind open before the Lord and clear so that he can check me or that he can know what I'm thinking. And I want my thoughts to be pleasing to him. Now, I want to say something else. I think that's what it means when it says, Pray without ceasing, because now all of my thoughts are addressed to the Lord. I don't literally say, Dear Lord, think think think. No, but I say to myself, Lord, seeing what I'm thinking. So as long as I'm careful to think his thoughts and let him think his thoughts through my mind, that's prayer, it's fantastic. You don't have to worry when you're praying, when you're not praying, praying all the time that way. So the battleground is in the mind.

Okay, now, we've been talking about the Holy Spirit in you, controlling you. Let's talk about what happens to the things outside that touch our lives, that we cannot control, those things that hurt us and affect us. And there are an awful lot of things like that that we don't have any control over. For example, what do we do when we have been put down or mistreated or overlooked, or what might be just a situation in your life where you realize you just don't aren't compatible with one of your professors, you're not doing too well in that class. It just doesn't like you, it seems, and that's painful, and that's hurtful. And we can spend a tremendous amount of time in resentment and in hurt over that. And we don't realize that that is sin.

We don't realize that we've got to give that hurt to the Lord, too, and die to our rights to be hurt or angry. And I would like to give you a passage of scripture and an illustration to illustrate what I mean. Hebrews 13:15 says, through him, Then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. That is the fruit of lips that give thanks to his name. What does that mean? That means give your hurts to Jesus. That is a way of crucifying yourself to be crucified with Christ. Well, how do you do that? We all know we're supposed to give our hurts to Jesus. Haven't you been hurt some time?

And some Holy guy comes along, says, Give it to Jesus. Just give it to Jesus, brother, you feel like punching him in the nose, don't you? How can you give it to Jesus when you're hurting? You don't even want to hear that when you're hurting. So I want to share with you the principle of

how to do it. And it's been the most helpful thing to me on this field. I don't think I could have made it without this principle. Do it as a love gift. What do I mean by that? Excuse me. Well, let's go back to where we started. Who's most important person in your life? Is it you or the Lord? Do you love yourself more and your rights more than you love the Lord? Do you love your right to be hurt or you said, of course, I don't like being hurt. Well, what happens to us when we're hurt? We have a morbid desire to hold on to that hurt, don't we?

It's so hard to let it go. We say we hate it, but we hold on to it like we can't let a hurt go. We can't forget it, we can't forgive. We just have a hard time letting it go because at human nature, we have a morbid desire to hold on to hurts. But the Lord wants us to put it down and to give it to him because he wants to heal us. And he can't, as long as we insist on holding it and to give it up, to give up our rights to be hurt and to be angry and to be resentful is crucifixion.

And it's really choosing to let God have control and not let yourself take control. So think of it this way, Lord I love you more than I love my rights. And so I offer this hurt to you as a love gift and make it a sacred offering.

Do you know that I have watched Chinese idol worshippers offer sacrifices to idols that cost them greatly? I saw one family offer food to their idol in one day and it cost them a year's salary. And, you know, I never saw any regrets that was their love gift to their God.

Listen, make it a sacred offering when you get hurt, to give that to Jesus, and don't you dare take it back. There's not one of you here that would be so rude as to give me a present for some reason. And then as I was leaving the gym, run after me and said, I decided I don't want you to have it, give it back, but we do it with God all the time. So when you give your hurts and you relinquish your rights, give it as a love gift and make it a sacred offer. It's talking about a sacrifice of praise. Actually, it's going to cost you something to give it up. You may not realize how much because as I say, we want to nurse it and hold on to it. So make it a sacred offering. Let me give you an illustration to illustrate it best I know how. And remember that missionaries are just like you are overseas missionaries. And so don't be shocked. Just get prepared.

If you're going into Christian work of any kind, you're going to find that your coworkers are your biggest problem on the mission field. We had a large mission station, many missionaries that lived on the same grounds. And my husband was the field director, and I had charge of the

grounds that meant that I hired people to look after the lawn and the flowers and so forth. And one day I was outside working with a gardener.

Well, now, on that mission compound, I had worked there for years. And then one day God sent a couple out. And it wasn't very long until I realized that the woman didn't like me. I was shocked. I didn't expect her not to like me. But it didn't take me very long until I didn't like her either.

You know that it's true. It's almost impossible to like someone who doesn't like you. And it's also true in reverse. It's almost impossible to not love someone who loves you. Love is irresistible. Some of my very best friends have been people who have pursued me and shown their love for me until they won me over. And it was so irresistible, they become my best friends. Remember, love is irresistible. And so she didn't like me, and I didn't like her. Now, is that a sin?

Well, you can't like everybody. We talked about love this morning. And in first John, it tells us about loving. You've got to love your neighbor, but it tells you what that love is. It says there in the third chapter first, John, that loving is caring about them and their welfare and giving to them when they're in need. It doesn't say you have to like everything about them. That's impossible. But, you know, the problem is that when we don't like someone, it's awfully hard to care about them when they're hurt or they're down. And it's a very fine line, isn't it?

We usually think, well, they deserve that. Boy, they got what's coming. Look at how she's been acting. That's not love. We don't have to like how she's been acting.

But if we start rejoicing because she's been kicked when she was down, that's not love. See the difference? Well, I was out on the grounds with the gardener that day. Pardon me, I have a frog. And I was out working with him. And this gardener wasn't a Christian. He was a Buddhist. And he wasn't young either. And often I thought, oh, I wonder if he'll ever find the Lord. Because he's already so set in his ways. He didn't speak English. So we were talking in Chinese, and suddenly a door opened. And guess what? Because this one little person on the ground was the one person that I didn't care too much about. I was very aware it was her door. Isn't that interesting? Isn't that the way we are? That's being very alive by the way, she came down and I sent up a little. So I said, Lord, here she comes now. Help me and control me, whatever she says or does. I never knew what she was going to say or do. And she stopped and I smiled and she said, Hi, I want to talk to you about the gardener. Well, a little yellow caution light went off and on inside my heart.

Blink, blink, blink, blink, blink. And I said, Lord, help. So I said, oh, yes, what about him? She said, well, he's not a very good gardener. Well, the yellow light turned red. Blink, blink, blink, blink, blink. Because I knew then that she was feeling critical of the man that I had hired. And I didn't like it, but I hadn't sinned yet.

So I sent out the SOS fast. I said, Lord, help me to be gracious. Now she doesn't like my choice. So I said, well, he's not so red hot, is he? What do you have in mind? I knew she had something in mind. I want to tell you the truth, I didn't want to hear it. It's the truth. I really didn't want to hear it. But that wouldn't have been Christlike, would it? And I knew it. So I said, what do you have in mind? She said, I know the neatest gardener, and I'd like to hire him. I said, well, who is it? They were hard to find. And she told me his name in my heart sank. I knew that neat gardener, too, and he was a super gardener, but he had a moral problem, and we had little children on the grounds and lots of young girls. And I said, what do you do now if I said that she was going to think that I was just being stubborn because she suggested it, see? Should I just accept him against my better judgment? No. Being dead to self and crucified with Christ doesn't mean that you can be walked on or let anybody walk on you. That if you know something that you should stand up for. Remember that Ephesians, chapter four, says, Speak the truth in love. And the problem is we aren't able to do it in love.

And that's why so often we don't say anything, and then we just boil over it. And you know what I'm talking about. There are things you need to be communicating to the girl that you're going with, but you can't say it in love. You're afraid you're going to blurt it out, and so you don't say it the things that you should be saying to your roommate. But if you're controlled by the spirit, you can speak the truth in love. And that's what keeps you out of trouble, keeping short accounts. You read that whole fourth chapter of Ephesians and you find out about interpersonal relationships. So I sent up another. So I said, Lord, I've got to speak the truth in love. Please help me to do it in love.

So I said, Well, I really agree with you. He's a fabulous gardener, and this guy isn't. But I said, I don't want to hire him because he doesn't have a good character. Wasn't that. Don't you think that was good? And then I thought it was a fine. So then I said to her, well, now let's compromise. If you don't like my gardener and I don't want to hire yours, let's just get rid of this and we'll try to find another one. I thought that was more than fair. But you know what she did? She said, the problem is not with the gardener. The problem is with you. And then all communication went out

the window, and she became very angry. And I stood there and I'm not kidding you. I shook all over with anger. Was that a sin?

I've always been taught that anger was a sin. But Ephesians Four also says, Be angry and sin not. Do you know what anger is? It's self-preservation. You see, I was just being run over, and my self-preservation was being exercised. Anger is a natural emotion, but it's what you do with it. And I was standing there and I said, Lord, don't let me sin at a time like that. Don't say a word. You will sin if you speak.

And do you know what made me more upset than ever was that that gardener, though he could not speak a word of English, understood human nature. And he realized that those two missionaries were not getting along. And that bothered me terribly. Well, didn't I have a right to feel bad about that? A right.

And I was so upset, I shook literally all over until she finished, and she turned and walked away. And I could hardly make my feet move, one in front of the other to get into my house with any kind of Grace at all. And I did. I managed it. And when I got in there, there were two Chinese ladies in there.

And I walked past them down the hall to my room. And I shut the door, and I threw myself on the bed and bawled. I said, Lord, that woman that you sent out here is impossible. Had I sinned? well, is it okay to tell God just how you feel? Yes, you better. I didn't know that. You see, I was taught that to be angry was a sin. And so I repressed it. And Christians so often repress things, and they say, I'm not mad. And then that anger goes down in your subconscious and it breaks out in resentment and projection and all kinds of ugly things that even the Lord has a hard time getting back so that he can deal with it.

So the world says, well, the healthy way is to express it. Why didn't you just tell her off? And you have to know that's not God's way to express it would have hurt her and hurt others. That's not God's way. Well, what do you do with anger? You can't express it. You shouldn't repress it. You confess it. Father, I am furious. That's what Moses did. You read the Bible? That's what they did. He said, Lord, these people you gave me to lead are impossible. And that's what I said about this woman.

[00:40:04.590] - Speaker 1

And I suddenly became very aware that the Lord Jesus was in the room with me. And I can't explain to you how it was because I didn't see him with my natural eyes, but he was more real to me than any of you here. He was there. And you know what? He had his hand out like that, and I knew what he wanted.

[00:40:31.110] - Speaker 1

Give it to me, Muriel. Give what to him that hurt. And you know what I did then? I sinned. I said, Lord, let me have it for five more minutes. I'm ashamed to tell you that. Why did I want to have it for five more minutes? Because I hadn't had long enough to savor it. You see, I wanted to go back over it, and I wanted to play the record again. And I wanted to think, how dare she talk to me like that?

[00:41:09.510] - Speaker 1

But you see, the Lord doesn't want us to go over the record again. Do you know why? Because every time we play the record, it makes a deeper groove and it makes it harder to forgive. And that's what it's all about, is forgiveness.

[00:41:28.870] - Speaker 1

I knew I should give it to the Lord, and I resisted it, and I grieved the Holy Spirit. You say you mean you lost the Holy Spirit? No, of course not. Roman says that you don't belong to God if you don't have the Holy Spirit. But you can grieve the Holy Spirit very easily. And the blessing of God goes off of your life. And the presence, the awareness, the manifestation is gone. And, oh, listen, guess what happened? It was gone.

[00:42:04.090] - Speaker 1

And suddenly all of the hurt that had happened to me the hour before came crashing down on me. And it became too hard to bear because I was there bearing it all alone. I had insisted on carrying it alone. You see myself. When the Lord says, Cast all your care on me. And I had said, I want to keep it. Let me say something to you.

[00:42:31.550] - Speaker 1

Are you hurting today? Do you know why? Is it just almost more than you can take? Do you know why? Because you've insisted on carrying it yourself. When the Lord has said to you, Give it to me, give it as your love gift, let me heal you.

I didn't have any guarantee that I would ever be free. And I didn't see how I could face the future. I'll tell you, I rolled off of that bed when I realized that I had grieved the Lord, and I asked God to forgive me and then to please help me to give that whole situation as my love give. And I gave it to him. What happens when you give it to him? That means you don't have any right to take it back and to talk about it or to even think about it if the battle is in the mind, if you let yourself even think about it. You got it all back in your lap.

And then I asked for Calvary love. What is Calvary love? Calvary love is when you ask God to love that person through you, and that person doesn't deserve it. Jesus died for us and we didn't deserve it. And he can give us Calvary love to love others and he will love them through us. And I tell you, I got up off my knees with real peace in my heart. I had given it to Jesus, but that was just the beginning of the battle.

I walked out into my living room about 2 hours later, I looked out my window. Now we had a great big window at our house that overlooked all the grounds. And there she was walking across the grass. And guess what happened? It all came crashing in on my mind. Everything she'd said and done. Now what do I do with that? Was that a sin? Do you know the difference between sin and temptation? That was temptation. Then I had to make another choice right at that minute. And I stood there and I put my feet apart on that living room floor and I said, Lord, I reject this in Jesus name. I gave it to you. I will not take it back. It is not mine to think about. I rejected in Jesus name and immediately got busy doing something else. And each time, all that day, that that thought reoccurred, I rejected it in Jesus name. All day. I had to do that for three days until it had no more power over me to hurt me.

And then and only then can you share it from the point of victory. If you tell your boyfriend, if you tell your best friend, it is going to make it harder for you to give it as a love gift. Well, why do we tell other people anyway? Well, we want sympathy, don't we? Sure. We really want the other person to say that lousy rat. How did they dare treat you like that? That's really what you want. That's padding self, stroking, or whatever you want to call it. It makes it much harder to give it than to the Lord is a love gift. And you know what you've done to the other person? You've brought them down spiritually. And in Ephesians four, verse 25, it says, Let no

unwholesome word proceed from your mouth except that which brings Grace and edification to the other person.

Those three days I couldn't tell my husband until I was free. And then I shared it with him and I blessed him. And now I can share it with you. Well, you said, sometimes I can't gift to that place by myself. I cannot give a love gift by myself. I need help. All right, then go to someone who's mature in the Lord. And girls, go to a woman or to your own husband. For those of you who are married and men go to a man and counsel with them and tell it like it is. I am having a problem with crucifying self. I have been hurt and I need you to pray that God will help me give it as a love gift.

Some would ask, has that situation changed? The Lord showed me what it means in the scripture is to pray for those who, despitefully use you, not because they need it so much. But don't pray that God will change that person that's hurting you. But ask God to bless that person. It says, bless those who persecute you. Ask God to bless them. And then you watch and see how God blesses them. If you start praying for change, you'll get your eye on the problem instead of on the blessing and you see the whole hurt will be back in your lap again. So ask God to bless that person. And you know, because of this, we had a mutual respect for each other.

God didn't take her out of my life for six years or longer. And it wasn't for 15 years before one day she took my face in her hands and she said, Muriel, I love you. It took a long time. It would have been unbearable for us both if we hadn't just let God control us moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day. As I've been talking, almost everyone in this room has been able to think of something that you're holding on to that's hurting you. And the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you and saying you've been holding on to resentment.

And he's saying, give it to me. I want to heal you. And you know, I hesitate to say this, but always in a room of people, there are always people who have been brutally hurt, molested, even raped, mistreated as a child by father, uncle, neighbor. And sometimes all you've been able to do is just try to push it out of your mind and hope that you could forget it. But it's still there. And I want you to know that you can give it to the Lord as your love gift and he can heal you. And he wants to he wants to set you free. And it has to do with forgiveness.

Many of you men have been hurt by a brother and you have felt put down in your family. You know what the problem is and some of you are really messed up and you know it. You're so

messed up that you don't know what the problems are in your life. And some of you are in the psychology Department trying to find out. And some of you are just reading everything you can get a hold of on human behavior trying to find out.

Let me give you a project sometime very soon like today, take your life in segments from one to six and ask the Holy Spirit to recall to your mind anything that is negative or hurtful that you can remember an experience no matter how small it is or a circumstance it might not be a person.

When I was brought back from China, I was put in a school in Kentucky with a poor school system and it took me years to be able to thank God for that. I resented that because it's been hard for me all my life. That foundation maybe there's some circumstance in your life that you wish could be different had been different, give it to the Lord even the right to wish that it had never happened give it to the Lord as your love gift. Do it from six through grade school take that section of your life and ask God to show you and then the high school years and then your College years the Lord is faithful take a blank sheet of paper and just write as the Lord reveals and each one of those hurts give them up as your love gift and forgive.

Forgive whoever was involved or whatever was involved in hurting you God wants to set you free he wants to do it today you don't need to go another minute bound and do you know if you're set free you can set other people free and there are so many in the world that are bound and hurting.

Let's bow our heads in prayer. Oh Jesus we put down our will we relinquish our rights help us to be specific to name the things that we need to let go of. Help us to make them a sacred offering of love to you today. We let it go right now. Thank you, father that you can cleanse us, heal us, restore us, and set us free in Jesus name, Amen.