

Do you know what you are looking for? Torrey Conference

1980

By Muriel Cook

I said if we just came for that, that would have been enough, really. But another reason I'm excited is because I believe that God has given me something that will just illustrate what he's talking about in a real practical way. And I didn't know what he was going to talk about. So that's fun too for me.

Some of you know, my oldest daughter, Shelley Cook, and her now husband Glenn Volkhart. And they have been married for two years. And they are down in Quito, Ecuador with HCJB as missionaries. And they have been there for one year. And I tell you, they love it.

And I know if she could be here, she would just be thrilled. And so I bring Greetings from Shelley and from Glenn to those of you who know her and then some of you know, Melay who is here for the most two years, I should say she came in the middle of the year so it would be a year and a half. And she holds a real soft spot in her heart for Biola. But she felt like the Lord wanted her to go back and go to a secular school. And sometimes he does call us to be a missionary in a secular situation.

And he called Melay back home. And she is finishing up her senior year at San Jose State. And she works as a hostess at the Marriott Hotel with the Great America Parkway. And she, it works in the Pinata Room, and they call her Miss Sunshine. She's loved her work and she has

opportunities to witness, and in fact one day her boss said to her, why, for Jesus Christ, are you so happy? And she said, well, that's the reason. And he said, what? She said, well, you said the reason. He said, what did I say? She said, you said for Jesus Christ. And she said, that's why I'm so happy. So she is really having opportunities to witness. And the exciting thing she found out that her boss is a backflip Christian. I don't know why God put Malay there, do you?

And then the best waitress in the restaurant is a Christian. And she had on a cross. And so Malay, after meeting her, said, does that cross mean anything to you? She looked Malay right in the eye. And she said, yes, I'm a Christian. And Malay said, well, I think we have something in common. And she said, I knew you were a Christian when you first walked in here. And she said, I've been praying that God would send another Christian here to help me to pray for the rest of these kids. They're all students, everybody's under 25, and it's kind of exciting. So I bring Greetings from her, too.

You know, you have heard that we are missionaries with overseas crusades. And I just want to say that being a missionary is the greatest thing in the world. We have had all kinds of fantastic opportunities to serve Christ. And that's what he was talking about today's service. In ways that we would never dream of. And many of you know about sports and bachelors and venture for Victory. Well, my husband played on that first team, and he's been playing for 25 years. And do you know, he's 50 years old and he could still play a whole game? How about that guys. And it's because he's played for Adventure Victory every year, or he coaches or directs a team and just imagine all over the world he's been able to play basketball and preach, and he's still 50 years

old. And by the way, he in his heart gave up athletics to be a missionary. God really has a sense of humor, doesn't he?

One of the exciting things that I did as a missionary was to teach beauty queens and models at a Chinese charm school. You never thought that was missionary work, did you? You know, one reason I did it was because they wouldn't go to Church. So I went to them and had a chance to share with them about Western customs. And one of our girls took third place in the Miss China contest. Very exciting my opportunities to tell them about Christ. You know, my life has been so wonderful for me and such a blessing, but there have been some specific reasons why God has blessed my life, and I want to share it with you today. And I want this to be a time of getting acquainted. Also, if you forgive me, I'm just going to be very personal and talk to you about myself.

You know, my parents were missionaries. You heard what Ron said up here, that I was the pride of Fuchsia, China. Well, what he really meant was that I was born in China and I came back to the States because of the war when I was six years old. And my parents were super people. But to live in our house, you had to be a Christian in order to be comfortable.

Now, some of you know that experience because you have come from Christian home and you got prayed for if you didn't give your heart to Christ. And everybody was worrying about you in our house because if you didn't know the Lord. And Besides that, we had family worship and we were expected to pray and all those things. And so by the time I was eight years old, I knew that

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I had to give my heart to Christ because there's just so much pressure and guilty feelings. And so when I did it, I thought, good, that's over and no problem.

But as I got older, I realized that even though my peet friends, my family rather were neat and I love them, I thought that they were missing out on some things in life that I wanted. And so I thought, well, it's okay for them to be so straight, but I would like to sort of branch out. So when I became a teenager, I became a cheerleader, and becoming popular was very important to me. And as you know, I soon got my eyes on other things other than Christ. And then I began to compromise, and I really lost interest in the Lord.

And I began to do things in order to do what I wanted to do and not upset my parents, I began a double life, a double standard. And I had to become very good at deception. I didn't really lie. I just didn't tell it all, or I just told it the way it would be acceptable to my parents. But because I was doing this, an erosion began to take place in my character, and it got easier and easier to do the wrong thing. And I began to cheat in school because, I mean, I didn't have time to study. And I began to sneak out at night. And God is so good that he just kept his hand on me because I was really headed for trouble.

You know, a few weeks ago, a fabulous young man sitting at my kitchen table, and he had been at Biola for a year. And he said one of the regrets of my life was the double life that I led at Biola College. He said, you know, I talk out of both sides of my mouth. He said most of the people had no idea. Most of the kids and professors especially, and the people at that school didn't know what I was doing. But he said I broke every rule.

And he said, you know, that I didn't learn anything? He said I cheated so much that a week ago I had to go back and talk to the administration. He said, I didn't learn anything. He said I didn't get anything out of it spiritually. And I wasted hundreds of dollars, and I have lots of regrets.

I could identify with him because that's the way my life was going as a young girl. Oh, one day our Church group decided that they would go get a bus load of kids, and they'd go up to another Church 100 miles away, where they were holding a big youth rally. And I said, well, sure, I would go. Do you know the reason I went? Because I was so bored with the guys at our Church. And I thought, well, there'll be a lot more new faces, and it'll be a lot of fun.

So that's what I went for to see the guys. And it's interesting how the Lord works in Saints out to get you places. So when I got to that Church, oh, my goodness, it was like the whole Navy and the whole army was there. We had a bunch of good looking new faces, and it was wall to wall young people. And I took a seat on the very back row.

Now, if you're sitting on the back row, it doesn't mean a thing, but it certainly was indicative of my condition. I wasn't interested in the meeting. I was only interested in the kids. And so I was looking around, and pretty soon the speaker got up to speak. And guess what? He was a missionary from China. Well, I kind of had a soft spot in my heart for China. And Besides that, he's a good speaker. And pretty soon, I forgot all the kids. He had the ability to paint word pictures and to describe the need in such a way that you felt like you could see it and feel it.

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And it just seemed like he had just gotten started. When he said, It's time to close. Let's bow our heads now. He said, with all these hundreds of young people, I believe that God has put his hand on many of you. And if he has, I want you to come forward and stand right here at the altar, and I want everybody to keep their eyes closed.

Well, even though I was living a double life, I knew how to pray, because in examination time I prayed in order to keep from failing. And so I said, Lord, with all these neat Christian kids, please send some to China. And then this missionary said, Amen. And I looked around, and I expected to see at least 50 kids. And guess what? There wasn't even one. Not one person had gone forward. And I was shocked, and I was stunned. And I let all those kids file out of that Church. And I said, God, I don't understand you. Why did you let this happen? Don't you even have one that you want to go to China? And then you know what happened to me right down in my soul? Well, that within me. I want you. It was such a shock. I knew it didn't come from me. And I put my head on the bench in front of me, and I said, God, I'm so crummy. I'm so creepy. How could you ever want me?

But he didn't have to say it again. I knew that he wanted me, and I knew that it was going to change my life, that he wanted me and that he could use me, and that he had something special for me. I knew it was going to mean a difference in the way I thought. And I was going to have to, first of all, give up my friends, not be unfriendly, but stop making these young people that were ungodly my very best friends. And it was going to make a difference in the way I read my Bible.

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It was going to make a whole lot of difference in my relationship to guys. And I knew that I wasn't even going to be able to date non-Christian guys. And I also knew that I wasn't going to be able to marry a man, even if he were a Christian, unless he was totally committed to Jesus Christ. And it didn't take me long to figure this out. As I was sitting there and I knew that the word of God was going to have to be the main number one thing in my life every day.

You know, I thought then that I was so special, and I didn't know then what I know now that God has that same kind of desire for every one of his children. But you see, it was kind of unusual that he revealed it to me so young. I think he had to kind of clunk me over the head in order to keep me from going in the wrong way. But most of us have to walk by faith, and that's just one step at a time. But it's just as true for you as it was for me that he has something fantastic.

That's what Stuart was saying this morning. That's tailor made for you. Isn't that fantastic? Well, it was going to mean a change in my life, I'll tell you. And the temptations that came to me after that were unbelievable. I had the most popular brother. Oh, I had four brothers, but there was one of them that was tremendously popular. In fact, he's been the most popular man even in his life after school that I've ever known. He has so much charisma, and he was leaving school, and he said, sis, you're going to come into my school, and I am going to roll out the red carpet for you. Well, I will worship him because he was just smooth and handsome and he could just move. He was a mover. And the thing about him was that he could sing.

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Now, not too many high school guys sing with ease, but he could sing. And he entertained the school for all their parties, and he sang in clubs all over the town. And when he would sing all the popular songs all girls would scream, and like they do to all these rock stars and just stamp their feet and carry on.

And we had in our auditorium terrific lighting system. We had a professional man who did all the lighting. So when my brother would come out, there'd be the lights. And if he sang about bubbles, it'd have a bubble machine, and it would be going with all the life. And so then he said, now, sis we're going to have an all school party, and I want you to come and you're going to sing a duet with me.

Well, I was scared to death, but it was tremendous opportunities. So I said, okay. And there was 600 high schoolers at that party. Can you imagine? Well, I was glad I couldn't see them all because all the lights were out and the spotlight was on us. It was time for us to sing.

And he swooped me up to put his arm around me, went to the mic, and we sang some current popular song. And no, the house went down. It really went down. And they yelled and screamed, and we had to do an encore. Oh, boy, I was shaking it before I knew it was over. And the house lights went up and the band started and the dancing started. And I could see there was booze, liquor, and everything else. And the guys were all lining up. They asked me to dance. And the first one, there was a big 250 pound football player. And I was looking at him, and I was thinking, what am I doing here? This is exactly my weakness. I don't want to get started all over

again. I don't want my heart to go out to this kind of thing. And I was looking at this guy and I wasn't answering him. I was thinking like this. And my brother said, sis, I want to talk to you.

He pulled me aside. He said, Please don't tell these people the way you feel. And I said, you mean I'm not supposed to tell him I'm a Christian? Well, he didn't exactly say that, but that's what he had in mind. And do you know, then I was sure I was in the wrong place. And another thing that bothered me that broke my heart here was my fantastic brother. And he was obviously compromising, obviously.

Well, I went home, and all the fun of that evening was gone. He could pray really effectively, I thought, at family worship. And he was a leader at the Church. I knew he was dating a non-Christian girl every night. I mean, when you're that popular, you can go out seven times a week with seven different girls. But it hurt.

Well, because of that introduction, I was just stampeded and pressured for all kinds of popular things. And one of them was a club, an elite club that the girls in that school wanted me to join. Now, I should have known right then and there that I shouldn't have joined it. And they invited me to come and be a charter member. So I went first meeting, talk about being served. That's exactly what I got.

And it was just because I was the sister of and I didn't really know the trap that was being set for me. But the next meeting, they began to plan a party. And the party was to be at someone's house where there would be no supervision, no parents. The parents were out of town, and all the big

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athletes were going to be there, and all the boozers were going to be there, and it was going to be an all-night party.

Well, I knew right away I couldn't go. And I knew I had to tell them that I couldn't go. And it wasn't just because I couldn't make it. I was supposed to tell them. And I knew the Holy Spirit wanted me to say, because I'm a follower of Jesus Christ. But I want you to know that that probably has been one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life was to tell that group of girls. It's interesting how sometimes God requires of us to do a very difficult thing in our youth. And I didn't remember anything else that went on at that meeting. All I could think of was I got to say it before I leave. And I waited at the very last minute to say it.

And just before they broke up, I said, I have something to say. By that time, my face was as red as a bead. And I was burning up inside. And I was uncomfortable. And they all looked at me and I said, I think you've chosen the wrong girl to be a charter member of your club. I said, I can't come to the party. I told them why, that I was a Christian and I didn't want to spoil their fun, and that I thought I should resign. Well, when I said I was a Christian, you would have thought I had said I was a Communist. I mean, the mouths went open. And in my generation, my generation, it was not popular at all to be different.

Not at all. And to be a Christian was way out, you know, that was dead silence. I got my coat and I got out of there as fast as I could. By the time I got to school the next day, it was all over school. I wasn't even that late. And in the hall in our high school, the guys would line up in the halls and they pinch all the pretty girls that walk by. Well, when I walk by, everybody, that's

true. They just turned their back and folded their arms. And you see, I had disappointed them. I was their idol because I was so and so sister.

And I hadn't lived up to their expectations. And they were finished with me. And so were all the girls. In fact, there wasn't anybody to eat lunch with except one poor little girl that nobody else would eat with because she wasn't popular for various reasons. I want to tell you something. It was tough, and I didn't have anybody ask me out for weeks and months. And I thought maybe for the rest of my life. And the only thing was that I felt clean. You know why? I didn't want to be disqualified. Oh, that was the biggest fear of my life. That for some reason I would be disqualified for God's best for my life. And that ought to scare us to death.

I was talking about life's critical choices. Well, what you decide right now will determine your whole future. It really will. I just talked to a young man last night on the phone, and he said to me, I'm so unhappily married. God called that young man the mission field. But he saw a beautiful girl in College. Oh, she was a Christian, but she didn't want to go to the mission field. And sometimes this man you think, doesn't matter if I'm going in the Ministry with the girls called to the Ministry or what, I can take her along. She can be a pretty asset. She'll just add to my Ministry because she's good looking and she's sweet. Of course she thinks she's sweet, but if she's not really with it spiritually, totally committed to serve God, you won't be able to either.

Now, most women know that if they are called of God to serve and the guy is not interested that they know they won't be able to. But it's amazing how many men don't understand that principle. And of course, he will not be able to be a missionary. This young man. And you know what's

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happened? He's not only not going to be able to be a missionary, but he's found out he has a very selfish wife and she isn't a good lover. She isn't a good mate. She's a disappointment, period. She obviously was not God's choice or purpose for his life.

And so I thought, at least I'm clean and there is a cost. But I found out that it's a short term cost in order to have a long range blessing. And then one day, guess what happened. Right out of blue, Norman Cook walked into my life and he's knocked out. He's a real man and I liked him and he liked me. It would sparks. Right off. But guess what? After talking to him about two or 3 hours on each date, after a couple of dates, I discovered something. We did not have the same goals.

Oh, yes, he's Christian. He was really saved out of a terrific past, and he was really a Christian, but he didn't have the same goals. He was out of high school and he's working and he didn't have any plans to go to College. Well, I knew that people who serve the Lord should have an education, and that's what I had to have as an education. And then I discovered he had no idea of how to serve the Lord, and he wasn't interested in working with people.

And so I thought, oh, boy, I can't get serious with this guy. So I figured out how to not get serious with him and still give him a chance. Or would I say God a chance to change him? And I'd like to say it to you, whether you're a Gal or a guy. And I have been saying it for years to other young people, and you may not agree with it, but it works.

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For one thing, if God has called you as a woman to serve him in a special way, such as being a missionary, I do not think it's a good idea to wear a plaquer. I am called to Africa. The men will run all of them the other way. Well, she's awesome, brother. I don't know about that.

And so I wouldn't say that you should go around making loud announcements about your call or your aims about where you're going to go and serve. Now, that means you're going to have to be specially strong to hold it in your heart and be wise about when you talk about it. Now, for men, I think you should state yourself early as soon as God tells you, let it be known. But it's different for women. And the other thing is then when you date, you need to find out what the other person is.

And so I found out that Norman really was not going in the same direction, but he was so fantastic. So I said, Lord, how do I keep from getting emotionally involved? And he showed me. And this is what you may not agree with. I did not allow an intimate an intimacy with him in the spiritual realm.

You mean you didn't talk about spiritual things? We sure did, but we didn't have any little quiet private prayer sessions where we held hands of prayer. You ever heard about that before? Do you know why I'm saying this? It really can bind you together with another individual to pray with them.

Now, if you want to have this, a little casual prayer about, Lord, please help us not to break our necks as we're going down the slopes, on the skis and so forth. That's one thing. But if these little

private, long prayer sessions and intimate in the car, in the dark kind of prayer sessions, I would say, no, don't pray together. Don't pray together until you find feel in your heart, hey, this is a person that I could love and I could marry.

I have seen people pray together and get so close that though they knew they didn't have the same priorities and they didn't have the same lifestyle, they couldn't break bond. Then there's another thing, and that is the physical. And this is not very popular to say it, but don't touch. If you start touching and expressing affection and you start praying, it's enough to take you to the altar. I'm not kidding you, but it's not enough to keep you married.

What? Well, I say it's not enough to hold you for a lifetime. So don't touch. In first Corinthians, chapter seven in verses one, two and three. I don't want you to think this is my idea. Paul said it's not good for a man to touch a woman. Why? Because touching is for marriage and otherwise it leads immorality. So you see, touching should be for love and love should be for marriage. And you need to get acquainted and find out whether you can love this person, whether you should marry this person. Otherwise, touching is for fun, and that's lust, and there's problems with it.

So don't touch and don't pray together. And you can stay a lot more objective and be able to keep cool emotionally. Now, I've prayed an awful lot for Norm. And I gave him a deadline in my head, I think this was in January. I met him and I said, Lord, I know I can't hold out any longer than September, because if I go any longer with this guy, I'm going to be in love with him.

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And I decided that God could certainly do it by December, I mean, September. So I prayed. And I did not manipulate. Don't you dare manipulate, because you will mess it up and nobody can do it better than the Lord. And one night somebody asked us to go to a basketball game.

You might know, since I was going with an athlete and we lived in Indiana and the game that I was being played by Taylor University, which was a Christian school, and another school that was not a Christian school, and they were playing against each other. And guess what? The non-Christian school just trumped Taylor University. It was a disgrace. Absolutely.

And Norman was horrified. He said, oh, brother. He said, that is a poor witness. And he said, even I could do better than that. Why, he said, if I went down there to tell you, do you think they'd put me on the team?

Oh, I thought, Lord, are you really trying to tell me something? I didn't say a word. I swear I didn't say a word. And he said, do you think they'd accept me down there at Taylor University? Because you see, what happens is all his high school years, up until his senior year, he's made straight Ds.

The reason for that is because he was such a wild guy. And then he found Christ in his senior year, he made A's and he wasn't too sure they'd make him into College. But I said, well, all he can do is try. And so he tried. And they accepted him, of course.

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And he went off to Taylor. And guess what? As I saw him go, I had real mixed feelings. Suddenly I realized he's going down there with all those Darling College girls and I'm going to lose him for sure. You're going to pray him off. And she said, what do you think about being my girl while I'm gone? Oh, I want to say, of course, but you know, I didn't. I said, well, do you write letters? It's pretty good to find out about these guys. And he said, I don't know. I've never written one.

So I said, Well, I could be your girl if I could be sure that you could write letters. And he said, Well, I'm not sure. I said, Well, I'm not sure either. And I said, we'll see. Oh, that was hard to say. But listen, don't let anybody walk on you. And that goes both ways. Absolutely value yourself. You are valuable to God. And so the first couple of days, of course, it's no time to get a letter.

About the third day in the morning I got a letter. And the next day I got two letters. And the next day I got three letters. And every day for three weeks I got three letters a day. I kind of got the point.

Well, I waited and I prayed. And at the end of the school year, he invited me to come to Taylor University to visit, along with about 1500 other high school kids. And that took some doing to have all those kids on campus, plus the students. And so they had made up different committees. And Norm was a committee chairman.

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And the last night of the conference, all the chairman's had to come up and give their testimony. And I was sitting way up in the gymnasium at Taylor University, way up by myself in the bleachers. And I watched him walk up on the platform. I tell you, he knows how to walk with his feet down. And I thought, what a guy.

And then he gave his testimony. And at the end of his testimony, he said, And God has called me to China to be a missionary. I hadn't heard anything about it. I almost fell off the Bleacher. And sitting right there at that moment, I knew, well, God has done it all and it's all okay. And I didn't do anything about it. He passed the test.

And it's been a fabulous life together, really. You know, my brother that I love very much, not long ago, with tears streaming down his cheeks, he said, sis, there's such a difference between us. Why? We had the same beginning. He married his high school sweetheart and it ended in divorce.

And he said, You've been so happy. But it was too late to tell him why. I couldn't say a word. You know what it was? It was our choices. We made different choices. It's too late. All right. Norm passed the test. And I want you to know that there are questions that one needs to ask themselves if they think they have found the right one. Are you ready for some of those questions? You need to ask yourself.

I had the dubious joy of meeting several people that broke up the last week I was here at Biola. Everywhere I went, people said, we broke up last night. And it kind of made me feel funny. But

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this last summer, I met a girl who graduated from Taylor, not Taylor Biola. And she had been engaged. And she said, I broke it up. And I want you to know I'm so glad, she was free.

Okay, number one, this question, does this person build me up spiritually and emotionally? This person that you think that could be the right one? Does he bless me or depress me? Number two. Okay, number one, does this person build me up spiritually and emotionally? Does he bless me or does he depress me? You know, it's amazing how many people tell me they're in love and they look like they've bitten the dust. Second question, do we constantly quarrel and bicker, or do our spirits meet? Think about that. Do we bicker?

Are we really compatible or just physically drawn to each other? You can be powerfully drawn to a person and not be compatible at all. Question number three. Am I comfortable, at ease, at peace about everything that is happening between us. Question number four. Are our goals and priorities the same? It's just amazing how many people have different philosophies about seeing the doctor.

If your parents have always taken you for annual checkup or if you got sick, they took you to the doctor and you got your teeth checked and you've been taken care of, be sure you find somebody else who feels the same way. It can be very distracting to have a whole different set of priorities. And I have met girls who have had to live in ways that they never dreamed because the guy didn't think it was important to have modern conveniences, at least when it came to washing machines and dryers. Cars yes. So find out if you've got the same priority and goals.

Question number five. How is this person with other people? You may have the sweetest little girl in the world when you're alone, but what is she like with other girls? Is she respected? Now I had four brothers and they used to say to me, now, sis, when a guy asks you out, you ask us first because we can tell you all about him. And so just tell him that you'll let him know. How do other men feel about that man? They're pretty good judges. If he's well received with guys, you don't have to worry about how he affects the other females. It's important. How is he at a party? Does he embarrass you? Can you be sure that you can go anywhere and be proud of that person? How is that person with other people? How does he relate to his family? And I know you have heard that before many times. If you find out that he cannot stand his mother and father, be careful. If he's really pained and he's got bitterness or he's got any kind of big war going with his parents and vice versa, be careful.

One of the things that attracted me to Norm was that as he told me about his family, he told me he had an alcoholic father. And immediately my Daddy was a Minister and immediately I became a little alarmed and he said, oh, he's the greatest guy alive when he's not drunk. And he told me all the different times that his father had beat him as a kid. He said he never told me he loved me and he said I never knew what it was to feel his hand on me in love. It was always a fist. And he said so many times he would beat me. So all I could do is just go to bed. Well, I want you to know my ears were way out trying to listen to see if there was deep resentment and there wasn't. Listen, he is healthy emotionally, even though he had that kind of past. He honored his father as well as he could in whatever area he could, and there was no bitterness. And if there is, be careful. That's a real danger for your future.

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Is this person hard working or lazy? It's just amazing how some of the best looking people are slobs. Really. Well, you see, but they look so good laying around. No, they might look good laying around now, but they stopped looking that good later.

I think one of the greatest things about a man, and of course, a woman is like to work and like to work hard and take pride in work. And I think that goes by long with what Stewart Brisco was saying this morning about service. And if you don't like the work, you can learn. No, you can. You can take joy in it, just like we have to have the chairs out. Well, you don't want to move the chairs. I frankly don't either. But, you know, it's like if you start, your emotions will catch up and you will begin to enjoy it. And we're going to talk about will and emotions this week.

Number seven. Is he consistent and faithful to God? Is he or she consistent and faithful to God? Only then can he totally be faithful to one person in marriage. Is he consistent and faithful to God? I'm not saying he's any big Saint, but he has established a prayer life or this girl is in the word and she knows when she makes mistakes and when she falls, but she grieves about it and she's in process. She's growing a growing Christian consistently faithful to God. It's only then that that person could be totally faithful to one person in marriage. It's amazing how many ways we can become unfaithful in marriage without being an adulterer.

Another thing is that person might love themselves, as Stuart was talking about this morning, more than they love God. And therefore, there is very little room to love anybody else. Let me ask you, do you know what you're really looking for? And some of you may say, oh, sure, I'm looking for happiness and I want success and I want love. Who doesn't? And I want fulfillment.

And I want to say to you that you can have all these things, but you've got to find God's will for your life.

And you say, well, how do I find God's will for your life? And I thought what was said this morning was fabulous, and I just want to go on with that. There are ways, simple ways. And I'd like for you to take this down to. It'll help you think about it, to find God's will for your life. And the one thing that Stewart said this morning was find out who you are and how you made. That was good, wasn't it? Understand that he's not going to have you going to music if you cook, can't sing. All right.

First thing, totally to be totally committed to Jesus Christ. That's the first step to finding God's will for your life. Lord, I am just going to totally commit my life to you and seek to have no will of my own in the matter. To seek to have no will of my own in the matter. You know, even Jesus struggled with that. It's going to be hard. Jesus struggled with that when he says, not my will, but your will be done. So it's not going to be as easy as it is as it sounds. But you may say, well, that's painful. It is painful. But we have pain in this life and we either can have the pain of the divided life or the pain of the committed life. We might as well suffer for Jesus and receive blessing than suffer because we sinned or we miss the blessing.

Number two, pray for God's guidance. And as was said this morning, God is more interested that we find his will than we are ourselves. And it is totally unthinkable that God would send his son to die for us and then play cat and mouse with us all of our life and play games with us and not reveal to us his will. He's very anxious for you to find his will and do a scripture study, a word

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study on guidance. It's so exciting. There is no well, maybe I will show you the way. If you lean not on your own understanding and acknowledge Him all your ways, he shall direct your path.

You know, in creation, God has created everything with a pattern, with purpose. And it's unthinkable that we who are his highest creations should be just left angry with no purpose. And we know that just couldn't be. God has a plan. So seek and pray to find out what it is.

Three, search the scriptures specifically and in principle. Do you know that about 90% of God's will has already been revealed to us in the written word of God? For example, it says in second Corinthians that you are not to be unequally yoked together. So don't pray about it. You don't need to pray about it. You already have the answer. It's right in the word. It says no. It's amazing how many things we pray about that are already specifically stated in the word of God. Search the scriptures specifically and in principle.

Number four, seek objective counsel. In the multitude of counselors there is safety. And as was said this morning, take aptitude tests. What do you like to do? What have you been really prepared for and explore opportunities.

And the fifth one is open doors. What is the situation anyway? Norm has done a lot of recruiting and he was in personnel. And he said one time a man came to him. He said, I'm called to mission field. Well, Norman said, how about your wife and how many children you have? He said, I have a wife and five children. They don't want to go. But he said, I'm called. Well, God didn't call him. Things are all messed up.

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At least he wasn't to go, was he? Because circumstances were wrong. God would have to work it out so they could all go with one heart and so look at the circumstances. If the lights are green, that's fine. They should be green, not red.

And the tasks for tomorrow depends upon the faithfulness of today. Or I could say the joys of tomorrow depend on the faithfulness of today. The Lord will open the circumstances. You look for them, but you'll be faithful today. And C. S. Lewis has said, not one square inch of this world is uncontested. You can't just sit back and say, well, Lord, open the door. You've got to push the door open and keep trying. And then the 6th point is begin to move, get started and go. My dad used to say, you can't push a parked car. Not really. You can't guide a park car. I guess that's what he said. Can't steer it and God really can't guide us unless we're moving in the right direction. Get going, get moving.

And God promises to direct you. Let's go back. Totally committed to Jesus Christ. Absolutely. Is the beginning of finding God's will for your life. Point two, pray for God's guidance and expect that he will reveal it. Point three search the scriptures. Point four, seek objective counsel. Five, look at the circumstances. Watch for open doors. And point six begin to move. And I'd like to close with a scripture verse from Deuteronomy thirty-one:six that I think is precious.

Says, be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or tremble. For the Lord your God is the one who calls you. Who goes with you. The Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. So we pray.

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Father, we're so glad that you have every day of our lives planned. Please help us to understand that we need to cooperate with you and that you have a wonderful life for us. Lord, you've been talking to some of us here. We have been living some of us a divided life, the double mind.

There's a lot of self-hate, disrespect for ourselves. Father, I just pray now that you will help those to have the courage to do what they know they should do. To confess sin, to give over

themselves completely to you to make things right. Father we want your blessing in our lives. In

Jesus name, Amen.