

Jabez Revisited

By: Bruce Wilkinson

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Host: Torrey Memorial Bible Conference, Biola College, January 1979 this is a tape by Bruce Wilkinson entitled Jabez Revisited.

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Bruce: Did you happen to write that? You did. She wrote that. Mercy. How are you this morning? Great. Do you ever feel like a frog? Frog? Yeah. Frogs feel slow, low, ugly, puffy, drooped, pooped. I know, one told me. Frog feelings come when you want to feel bright, but your kind of dull. You want to share, but you're selfish. You want to be thankful, but you feel resentment. You want to be big, but you're small. You want to care, but you really feel indifferent.

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Well, one time or another, each one of us has found himself on a lily pad, floating down the river of life, frightened and disgusted, but too froggish to budge. Fairy tale, you say? Well, once a time there was a frog, but he really wasn't a frog. He was a prince who looked and felt like a frog. You see, a wicked witch had cast a spell on him, and only the kiss of a beautiful young maiden could save him. But since when do beautiful young chicks kiss frogs? So, there he sat, unloved prince in frog form. But miracles do happen. And one day a beautiful young maiden ran over and grabbed him and gave him a big smack. Crash. Boom. Zap. There he was. Handsome prince. You know the rest.

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They live happily ever after. Sermonic observation. So, what is the task of Torrey week? To kiss frogs, of course. I hope that this week has been a kiss of God on your life. We all feel like frogs sometimes, and we all need a time of God's visiting in our lives. I had so many students talk to me about this past intercession week and saying how much hard work it was and wondering how they did in their schoolwork and their classes. And they were kind of nervous and anxious. And it made me remember something that Dr. Howard Hendrix handed out in class. And he said, I finally found a way to grade how a student is doing. And he said, I want to read you a course evaluation guide to student performance. And I want you to sit there and try to figure out for yourself where you fit in this. I think it will finally answer, really what kind of potential do you have?

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There are five areas I want you to evaluate yourself. First one is quality of work. A. Leaps tall buildings with a single bound. B leaps tall buildings with a running start. C can leap short buildings if prodded. D bumps into buildings. E cannot recognize buildings.

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Two Promptness. A is faster than a speeding bullet. B is as fast as a speeding bullet. C would you believe a slow bullet? D misfires frequently. E. Wounds self when handling guns.

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Three initiative. A is stronger than a locomotive. B is as strong as a bull elephant. C almost as strong as a bull. D. Shoots the bull, smells like a bull.

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Four adaptability, I get a kick out of this. A. Walks on water. B keeps head above water under stress. C. Washes with water. D. Drinks water. E. Passes water in emergency.

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Five communication. A. Talks with God. B talks with angels. C talks to self. D. Argues with self. E loses argument with Self.

[00:06:23.430]

Many of you know that I taught at Multnomah School of Bible in Oregon, and many times people compare Multnomah with Biola. And a student sent me an article he wrote about Biola from Multnomah. How many of you ever heard the story the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day? This is a Multnomah version of a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day from a student.

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"When I went to sleep, the heater was off, and the clanging woke me up at 05:17. a.m. Before I get back to sleep, John stepped on my arm while climbing out of bed. There was a line when I got to the shower and the hot water was cold, I ran out of socks, so I wore a dirty white one and a striped, red one. I had a feeling it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

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At breakfast there was only chocolate milk for my Cheerios and the eggs had green peppers in them. I hate green peppers. I spilled my orange juice on the girl next to me and we watched as the glass rolled off and broke on the floor. I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. I think I'll go to Biola.

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It started to rain on my way to class and I stepped on four grapes and a slug. You had to live in Portland to know that. We had a pop quiz and I guessed Nebuchadnezzar for the left-handed judge. Then I missed a page of notes when I dropped my pen and forgot an adverbial modifier in my grammatical layout. Who cares for adverbial modifiers anyway? I knew it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

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I didn't sign in at chapel and I forgot that we weren't supposed to sing the fourth verse of hymn 64. The missionary didn't have slides and I fell asleep during prayer and my Bible crashed to the floor. Dave stepped on my coat, and I almost told him that he was a terrible, horrible, very bad Dave.

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The lunch line was very long, and they ran out of peanut butter for my banana. The ketchup dropped on my sweater, and somebody put sugar in my saltshaker. The only thing in my mailbox was a pink slip. Do you know what a pink slip is? Go to Multnomah.

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I told the registrar I was having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. She just smiled and told me, you're on probation. I said I was going to Biola. I lost my frisbee in a tree and then my keys when I fell off a branch into some bushes. My proctor told me that I had three days to cut my hair and to turn down my stereo. I told my cactus I'm having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. I had to be dad at dinner, and I dropped my books in the library and Kathy said she wouldn't go with me to the game. John stayed up late typing a paper and I read genealogies for devotions. I told God I had a very terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. He said, some days are like that, even at Biola.

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You've been a lot of fun this week. David Bernham and I had a chance to share again this morning over three big pancakes, two eggs, sausage, orange juice, coffee. And we both said we were getting more out of the week than we were giving because, believe it or not, youth students minister to us.

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You know, I think roots are a very important thing. And the older I've grown, the more I've talked to my father and my mother to find out what my grandparents and great grandparents were like. Because the older you become, the more you want to know what is my heritage, really, that really makes who you are. This is our Torrey Memorial Bible conference. A few weeks ago, I read the latest book on RA Torrey, not even thinking of this conference. And then the day before

I left, I thought, why don't I bring the book and think about reading some of it? I like to read to you some of this conference's roots.

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This book radically spoke to my life. Here's how RA Torrey got a call to preach. In the middle of the night, he awoke smothered with a feeling of deep despondency. Life seemed to hold no hope for him, and in desperation he sprang from his bed to the washstand and opened the dresser drawer. I'm going to end this whole miserable business. Where is my razor? But God held his trembling, fumbling fingers, and that moment's relapse, he dropped to his knees in the darkness beside the open window and began to pray. God, if you'll take away this awful burden, I will preach. And immediately a strange peace settled over him and he fell into a restful sleep. And that marked the call to preach in RA Torrey's life, almost at the end because he didn't want to give in.

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How did RA Torrey live? What an example, there had been stirrings in the heart of Reuben Torrey concerning faith ever since Moody's meetings in New Haven. In one of his sermons, Moody mentioned, faith can do anything. The thought lodged itself securely in Reuben's mind and he said to himself, that is so. No man has ever accomplished anything for God. Anything for God who did not have a mighty faith. I am going to have a mighty faith. He tried to work up a great faith. But he had little success and was forced to confess I'm making no headway at all. But as he came into further contact with the scripture, he learned that faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God. It was only then that he began to discover the meaning of real faith.

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His sinking concerning faith was further stimulated by reading George Mueller's Life of Trust. Mueller drew his attention to the absolute and direct trust and the promises of God for daily needs. Then he quotes Mueller, I would just observe that we never contract debts which we believe to be unscriptural. Therefore, we have no bills with our tailor, our shoemaker, our grocer, butcher, baker but we buy and pay in ready cash, the Lord helping us. We would rather suffer probation than contract debts. I am well aware that many trials come on the children of God on account that they act not according to Romans 13:8.

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Reuben confessed that Mueller's book made a profound impression on him and completely took him out of listen to this and completely took out of him the ambition to be a worldly renowned minister in a great metropolitan church. That ambition left. It radically altered his entire concept of the Christian life and ministry. And he became personally convinced in the fall of 1888 that he should trust God completely and directly for all the needs of himself and the family. He resolved to go no further in debt and to pay up the old debts as soon as possible. The decision was known only to his family and the venture was marked by intense conflict. And then he quotes what Mueller said in a letter, it was an awful struggle but I settled it in my study that from that very hour I would obey everything I found recorded as being the Christian duty in the word of God that I would go wherever God asked me to go, say whatever thing God asked me to say and never ask anyone for a penny of money but just to look to God to supply as he might see fit. And from that day on to this I have been in bula land.

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And God began to continue to work in Reuben's life. Soon he wrote a letter later on and said this it soon became evident that the Lord wanted me to give up my salary which he had been paid with great irregularity by his grace. I did this January 1, 1889, one year later. I proposed to take the whole mission work, rent, gas, everything as a faith work and on January 1 we began with no pledges for the future. Reuben noticed at that time on the money came but not from the old, expected sources. At times he personally went without a meal or had just a few pennies in his pocket, but never did he fail to have the needs of his family, or the mission met. The circumstances were almost always remarkable and usually the money was just enough, just enough to meet the present needs. He testified that he never enjoyed such a sense of security and freedom from care and anxiety as he found at this time. I think Jesus said something like that.

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Thus, Reuben learned by personal experience that no sin, listen, no sin or no barrier can be allowed to come between the soul who trusts and the living God who provides. He learned the same truth that George Mueller did years before who said it is not possible to live in sin and the same time, by communion with God to draw down from heaven everything that one needs for life that now is. And that's why so few people live by faith. So, few people live by faith because they will not live in complete obedience. Torrey did. And that's why the conference is named after a man.

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What did he say was the key to the Christian life? He was giving a mission down in Australia. He said this he said there were seven keys. Things haven't changed. Number one be sure that you build all of your life and service on Jesus Christ. Number two maintain open and constant confession of Christ before the world. Number three put away every sin out of your life. Boy, if you've heard that once this week, you've heard it a hundred times. Number four surrender absolutely everything to God. Five read the word of God and study it every day of your life. Six pray often. Seven go to work for Christ. Do they sound familiar?

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They're the same things that every one of these different speakers here have said all week long because they are the secrets to the spiritual life, and they just haven't changed. Was Torrey without problems or sin? Was he human? Boy was he ever human. Listen to this. I like this. It shows he was a true man. Dr. Torrey had accepted an invitation to a Midwestern rural city for a revival series upon the terms that a 2500 sea tabernacle should be built for the meeting. Upon his arrival, he found that they had built a hastily erected tent which wouldn't even seat a thousand people.

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His response to the situation and the inviting committee was very chilly. He charged; you are dishonoring God by failing to live up to your contract. And on the spot, he predicted that a rainstorm would come the following day and ruined the service. Despite retorts that had never rained at this time of the year the unbelievable happened the next day. A downpour drenched the audience and ruined the tent. Services continued in one of the churches until the tent was

repaired and enlarged. Now listen to the response as God convicted Torrey of some sin. Dr. Torrey, however, was deeply ingrained with his deeply ingrained sense of obligation could not resist pointing out the responsibilities of the committee for the tragedy that happened and eventually this nettled them to the point of withdrawing from the whole meeting, sensing I love this. Sensing his own fault in the matter, at a private session of prayer with his coworker, Harkness, confessed confessed the sin of criticism and asked for a great victory. The entire course of the meeting changed from that point on, and the committee praised the work highly at the end.

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What was his philosophy of ministry? I think it could be boiled down to this sentence, I want to use my strength while I have it for the largest glory to God. Our talents are a sacred trust for which we must answer to our master when he comes again. What are you doing with your talents? To bring greatest glory to God. If he would walk in here, what would he say? How did he feel about the school when he worked here?

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It's pretty interesting what he had to say. Times have changed. The Institute program was organized on the same pattern as Moody Institute which had been established some 23 years earlier. Students began to come on the basis of come when you can and leave when you must. They spent approximately 4 hours in the classroom. The course was two years duration consisting of a fall, winter and spring term and a diploma was presented upon successful completion of the course of study. In noting some of the philosophy of a Bible Institute, Dr.

Torrey had it as his aim to give the students a thorough knowledge of the Scripture and its doctrines to train them in aggressive Christian work and to develop their spiritual life and character.

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In Dr. Torrey's estimation, a standard liberal arts education should not be included. Institute work was for students desiring specialized training in biblical and practical studies. Such a program would appeal additionally to return missionaries, pastors desiring refresher courses, college and seminary graduates desiring supplementary training and laymen and women. Furthermore, the Institute sought to unite theory and practice in Christian work. Each student was assigned some phase of Christian work and was required to give reports of his activity. Significant emphasis was also given to training in manners and Christian character building. In Dr. Torrey's estimation, their dining room training is a very important part of their education at the Institute. Visiting your dining room was quite an experience.

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How do you feel about inerrancy? You know, anything that's going on across our country. That's the number one battle today. He did not view the issue of evolution as the vital port of controversy with the liberals. Furthermore, he felt that the cause of fundamentalism would be hindered if the major emphasis was given to secondary issues. He believed the vital point for conservatives was the inerrancy in authority of Scriptures. And boy, was he right on.

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He was here twelve years the last year he was here. And the last thing I want to read to you is what happened the last year he was here. It blew me away. Dr. Torrey could look back over some twelve years spent with the Institute with a sense of genuine satisfaction. In 1924, that's how many years ago? 55 years ago, mercy, there had been a total of blank enrolled in the various courses. How many do you think were enrolled in the various courses in 1924? Guess. 50, 200, 2431. And now listen to the part that blew me away. Over 60000 people were dealt with personally, and approximately 9000 people trusted Christ that year.

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What's happened? 9000 people. I don't know what to say. I'm not usually without words. The first love that for which this school came into being is to transform the world for the cause of Christ. How are the roots doing in your life? This is the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. It's not Biola. It's the Bible institute of Los Angeles. And by God's calling, it was started to sweep the country for the cause of Christ. And as I travel across the country and speak in all kinds of schools, I see the same thing happening. And that is schools all over the country are losing their first love.

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And it happens the exact same way everywhere. From the evangelistic, on fire campus, that led 9000 people to the Lord in one year, and the whole city flipped over because of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Till today, an outstanding Christian liberal arts school known as Biola. And I dare say that less than 100 people have come to know Christ. From what some of you have been talking to me about, which is the higher calling?

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Some of you have come to believe that the Christian life is steps you go through, rather than something that just flat out overwhelms your life. And perhaps it's the faculty's problem for not exemplifying it, and perhaps it's my problem for not praying about it. But before God, I challenge you, students to go back, to go back. This issue God hasn't called me into full-time work. Well, then why don't you beg him to call you into Christian work? That's right. Get on your knees and beg him to call you into Christian work. Covet it.

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As you know, some of you, we have been called by God to start a school ourselves. And I never knew all the struggles there were with the government until we started to start. And it has blown me away, because the lines gang are being drawn like they've never been drawn in our history. That Christianity and humanism. I mean to tell you, there's going to be a battle coming like you have never heard of. And they're saying to schools all across the country that you cannot teach that the Bible is the word of God, you cannot teach that it is true and that it is the truth. There is no truth. And so, all across the country, schools are hiring people who don't believe inerrancy. Don't believe that this is true, and say why do we have chapel? Why do we have mission conferences? Why do we have Torrey?

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And I hear you saying that sometimes. That's your roots and the world is making evangelicalism pour right into its mold. And God forbid that happens. God forbid it, and God forbid that you

take second best. In spite of the heavy things I've been saying, God has been alive across this country in a way that in our history as a country, there has never been a time like today. I don't think that anyone has seen more of the country than all the teachers have walked through the Bible.

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Because we're in churches by the hundreds, from Roman Catholics where priests and nuns and hundreds of Roman Catholics get together all day long to study the word of God to all the different denominations, to fundamentalists, to charismatics. But hundreds of churches, and we're seeing what's happening. And gang, there's never been a time in history when it's come so close for an outbreak on our country like today.

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Dr. Billy Graham and Hudson Armerding, the President of Wheaton last year, a year ago December, invited 80 men and women from around the world to come together to talk about what's the future of evangelicalism. And they brought in the president of NASA, and he came the lecture to us about what's going to happen with science and technology in the future. Then the top leading energy consultant, who was nowhere near a believer, came in and said, this is what's happening with energy. And we had all the world's greatest consultants come in and lecture to us, 80 men from around the world who've led Christian organizations. This is what it's going to be like. And then after each man lectured, we broke up in the groups of 15, and we worked, and we prayed for two and a half hours. So, what, now that we know that. It blew me away and it began to fire my bones.

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This year they had the second one. This year they just invited 75 people. And the greatest thing that I heard all week was from my roommate, it's amazing how God works. I roomed with a man who is the outstanding scholar on revivalism in our country and great awakenings. I didn't let him sleep much, and he didn't either. Boy, did he snore. I'd go, I got to sleep that way. He stopped snoring. And I asked him one night, I said, tell me, what are the steps in a great awakening? And what he told me has finally put our country in order, for me, and it finally told me where walks of the Bible fit and where I fit, and what God was trying to do if he followed those same things which he did in the past. There are five steps. Just listen to them.

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And you will see, like I have, what's happening. Don't write them down. Just listen. Biola students. Hello? Hello? Unbelievable. The first step is there's a great mass evangelism around the world, around the country, in which thousands and tens of thousands of people come to know Christ as their personal savior. Hey, gang. That's happened here in United States. Never in the history of the United States, since 1400s have so many people come to know Christ. And that's been building for the last 30 years with Billy Graham and Campus Crusade and a whole slew of things that God raised up to evangelize, mass evangelism and churches. Thousands and millions of new believers. 40% of the people who live in the United States says, I have been born again. Excuse me, shouldn't say that.

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And by their fruits, though, you'll find out who they are later on. But something happened. That's the first stage, a mass evangelism that's already well in progress. Stage number two, there'll be an outbreak of Christian literature, like a big spring of them coming out. Do you know, I know four presidents of Christian Publishers as personal friends. All four of them have said there's never been a time in Christian publishing like today. You go to any Christian bookstore, and it's glutted with brand new good books. Why are there all these books anyway? Well, if you read any of them, you know they're not meat, they're milk. They're all surface stuff. Why are they surface? Why are they milk? For all the new believers, for all the millions out there that are in diapers that's already been here, gang, that's in process.

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We had one of the greatest exciting confirmations that that's going on in the country when we started a little magazine last January, 12 months ago, called The Daily Walk. That little magazine tries to take people through the Bible in a year on a daily basis. It's a study guide. It tries to apply it to your life. And last January, we printed 2000 of these magazines in one year's time. In twelve months, there are now 800,000 people. That's the fastest growing magazine in the United States. And it's not Reader's Digest, it's about the Bible. And that blows my mind. Do you understand what that says about our country? 200000 to eight? That's 50000 new people a month.

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I'm not excited about that it's our magazine. I'm excited that the magazine is about the word, and we're in that second group, and that blows my mind. And the third stage is happening in colonel form, all over. First, mass evangelism. Second, Christian literature. And the third explains to me

why God called Walk to the Bible. The third stage is there'll be a springing up of new Bible colleges and seminaries.

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There's probably a dozen across the United States already that I know about. There's a slew of them in California that you all know about, and they're grown. And you find the Bible colleges and seminaries from two generations ago are going down like crazy, and they're wondering, what is going on? We can't find students then down the road, a brand-new bible college is packed jam with students, and it's two years old. What happened? The fire left the first school, and all of a sudden, from evangelism, from bible study, from people, it became academics get to grades, man, because grades are important in heaven, and they last for eternity. People don't. After I got out of bible college and seminary, I kept hoping, would somebody ask me what I got in my grades? Nobody ever asked me. Nobody will ever ask you. They could care less.

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They want to know, what kind of person are you? When I went to Dallas, Dr. Hatton Robinson, head of the preaching department, we became friends. He took me over to the corner one day, and he said, hey, Bruce. He said, only neurotics get straight A's at Dallas. Don't get straight A's. It wasn't hard to keep that.

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But, you know, there's some truth in that. You go to school to be different, not to learn as much as to change. Do you understand? But when bible colleges all over the country, between a man

of God that's turned on without a PhD, and a man who has a PhD that's not turned on all over the country, they're saying, sorry, let's go. And he goes into the classroom, and he doesn't turn anybody's heart upside down.

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And that's the world's value system. It's great when you can find them together, but many times you can't. Number one, mass evangelism. Number two, Christian literature. Number three, new schools. I pray. I pray God will put the fire in this one. There is fire in places all around this campus, and there is a fire in some of the leadership of this school. Go back to your roots. Go back.

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The fourth one, the fourth stage, which has not come yet, and that is across the United States, there may be if God so desires, and if his children so plead with him, there will be individuals who will have revival, and they will forsake sin at any cost, and they'll start living by faith, and they will have personal revivals individuals all over. That's just starting, just barely starting. It's not happening in very many places across the country as I get to see it, but it's just starting. It's almost like a little cloud, just you're wondering, is that going to grow or is it going to not? It's just starting. I prayed for a year that it would happen here. That's what Torrey would have preached about, but he'd have done it so much more eloquently than I can.

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He has said, my school needs a revival. He just said, my school needs a revival. We have lost our first love. And the fifth step happens when the fourth one has happened. All across the country. As more and more individuals begin to have revival in their hearts, pretty soon their impact begins to be felt. And when enough impact begins to be felt, and some people have fruits like Dr. McGee was saying so eloquently last night. That's when society begins to change, and that's when national revival takes place. And the fifth step is when society's institutions and structures just turn upside down. They said when Torrey would come for revivals in the city, all the taverns would close, some places for three and four years they never dared open their doors again. Because Godliness is different than worldliness.

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You the 2000 kids at the Bible institute of Los Angeles. What are you closing? What are you closing? I've had an interesting time asking people, what does Biola mean? I don't know. Biola is a school here in Los Angeles. What is it? What is Biola stand for? What do you mean stand for? What's the name of it? Biola. Subtle, isn't it? That second cherish, that says I have the outward form. We teach Bible, but there's no fire.

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I don't think we'll get to Jabez today. I don't know if I'll ever be back here again. I've said some pretty strong things today. I don't need to come back here again. And I've said everything I've said to you, I've said to you as students, because you are Biola. And if revival is going to come to this school, it almost always comes through the students. And my challenge to you gang is want the fire.

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I must say something else. There are a few things in my life that have changed me more than going on the mission field for a summer. There are few things in my life that has changed me more than going on the mission field for the summer. And the hundreds of kids that I've challenged and spoken to across the country about that and who have gone, I've yet to find one person, just one, who said the summer was a blowout, it was a waste. Everyone that I've ever met that came back and really threw themselves into the summer, came back and said that changed my life.

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Without even building to that gang, without even attacking your heart with that truth, I want to challenge you. Unemotionally from one Christian to another. You need to learn to walk by faith and you need to be sold out. At least try it for a summer. This next summer it will be something if all of you together, all 2000 of you went out, that you never doubted the money. I don't know of a person who went out for a summer to serve God who somehow didn't get back in school.

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God says I owe no man anything. No man who gives up anything for me will not receive tenfold back again. Don't just work to earn money. That's the way the world sees life. He didn't. Somehow God used that man all across the world step out, commit yourself to something that's too hard for you to do by yourself. Stop doubting God, total surrender, abandonment of sin and then work for the cause of Christ. Will you step out this summer? Will you abandon all your

nice, neat plans and the job that makes 6.50 an hour at UPS? Will you drop them, give them away? Just say, I'm going to try serving the Lord this summer and let him worry about the money. I'm going to give myself all summer long.

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My wife and I learned a great lesson about this. When we were in seminary, we won a free trip, a free weekend to a resort place. They gave you \$50, and a free weekend and they tried to sell you property. Well, we were seminary students. We didn't have any money. But boy we saw that as a great vacation. So we went, and it was halfway between Dallas and Houston, right down here. They had two golf courses, a slew of lakes, and we had a ball. And then they took us around us and sold this property. With no money we bought a piece of property. Can't believe it. And then I was so sold on that property that I said to the guy who was selling me the property, I said, boy, I'd like to sell here for a summer. Have you ever sold? No. Would you like to sell a property? Yeah, I would. Well, why don't you have an interview? All right. So, I talked to the head boss. He said, come on back down, we'll have an interview.

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So, two weeks later, my wife and I took out a loan and bought myself my first suit in school, bright blue one. New pair of shoes, went down there for the interview and they had three bosses in this great big place, and they said, you want to sell real estate, right? Right. Have you sold real estate? No. You think you can? I think so. Well, you know, we work Sundays. I won't. What did you say? I said, I won't. He says, don't you know that's when we sell almost all of our real estate on Sundays? I won't. He said, well, how are you going to make it? I'll make it.

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In fact, I said, if you just give me a try, I think I'll sell more property than you will without working Sundays. Please, God, please. And they laugh. You know this young cocky kid with the bright blue suit. Sure. We'll give you three weeks to try it and then you're gone. The great boys. I learned how to pray, and I began to sell property because I began to be so honest with the people that have blew them away. I said, listen, this property here, it won't double in two years, like everybody else around here saying, but if you hold onto it for ten years, it'll make more than you can in the bank. And if you can make that kind of long-time commitment, it'll be a good investment. If you can afford it, it'd be great.

[00:53:15.450]

It was hilarious. I sold the first 19 people that walked in the door. Pretty soon the head, the President. What are you telling these people? The truth. What do you mean to tell them the truth? I'm telling them the truth. Some guys used to go out to the back of a lot and say there's even a low spot. There's going to be a lake in here. I couldn't believe it. I found this out. That person got fired and boy the testimony. That summer we made so much money it was ridiculous. They asked me to stay. They said, the rate you're going you make a quarter of a million bucks a year net.

[00:54:01.570]

What did you say? We paid off all of our bills and gave away thousands of dollars. A quarter of a million bucks a year. What could I do for that? Then Dallas Seminary offered me a job, \$450 a

month. \$250. What did you say? Right. By the time we got to that point the next summer we had used all that money, so we didn't have any left. A lot of people had some needs and we prayed. We said, God, either you're a God of great miracles and if you are, I want a part of it. I'm leaving it. I'm leaving the ministry because I'm not going to be a mediocre Christian. So, we said no to the salary to selling real estate and we said yes to Dallas. Those big numbers boggle my mind today. That's one of the best decisions we ever made.

[00:55:28.230]

Money is irrelevant in the work of God many, many times. God will not, God will not let you down if you step out for Him. The question, I guess, that you have to ask yourself is the same one everyone else has to when they get to your age. And that is, what are you going to commit your life to? What is it being successful? Man, that's simple to do? Or is it going to be to let God run his fingers right all over your life?

[00:56:11.530]

I'm going to ask you to commit yourself this morning. I never used to ever ask people to raise their hands or stand up or anything. A year ago, I never did it. In fact, I was ticked off of people who did. And then God really spoke to my life and said Wilkinson, the reason why you speak is not that people understand, but they'll change. That's why I ask you to make a commitment because I'm committed to change. I want to challenge you as best as I know how, to go this summer. There are ten fields around the world who've written into your SMU saying, send us a team, like the team went to Trinidad. Send us a team. Europe, Japan, the Philippines, the Virgin Islands, you name it. Go step out on faith.

[00:57:15.030]

If you'll do that this summer, if you'll just flat out abandon yourself for God next summer on the foreign field, to nail that decision against the wall and stand up and come down here. Right here. Don't be afraid. What are the rest you're going to do? That's so exciting. Stay home, go to summer school, work in a factory. What are you going to do? What are you going to do? Give in. Come join them. Well, this is great. There are more. Give in. Let God rule. Give him your summer. No strings attached. No strings attached.

[00:58:51.250]

I loved it when I read that Hudson Taylor came back from China and said, God, I need some men. I need 200 men. God, give me 200. Men. Men. Men, where on earth are you? Come on, men. God gave him 200 men.

[00:59:16.090]

Come on, men. Trust, commit, sellout. Come on, women. I can see the fight in so many faces. God melts hearts, gang. He melts hearts. I'll stand here as long as people keep walking. I wish Torrey was here to close in prayer, don't you? Mercy. Let's pray. Why don't you all in the front, get on your knees. Let's commit them and you to the Lord.

[01:00:30.830]

Our Father, we have times talking when we see your spirit convict men and women. And we think of RA Torrey and how he challenged people all across the world and how that challenge

just hasn't changed in 55 years. The challenges sell out to God. Lord, for those men and women here in the front, thank you for speaking to them. And we would, great Father, just commend them back to you. Would you put your hand of blessing under lives? God, would you hammer through this first step? Only you and that person will carry through this decision. Will you bless their lives? Would you use them mightily this summer? Would you keep Satan out of their lives? And Father, we pray for Myron and Jim and Dan as they lead now. Give them great courage. Give them great vision. Give them a broken heart of God. A broken heart.

[01:02:24.170]

And Lord, may you take this beginning and now multiply it in this student body, as these lives are seeds inside of the ground of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. May you multiply this faith ten and 100-fold. God, I'm just overwhelmed by your goodness and by everything that you've given to me. And how that every time I've given up something I grasped ahold of and gave to you, you blessed me a hundredfold. Thank you for this morning. It's just so wonderful. Bless the rest of this day. Cause men and women all over to form prayer groups together, wed hearts together, break hearts some more. Convict men and women of sin some more. Make them hunger for righteousness some more. Bring back the joy of the Lord as only you can do that, God. Bring it back as you've started today. In Jesus name, amen.