

EXPERIENCING GOD

UNIT

8

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

Adjusting Your Life to God

A YOUNG COUPLE'S SACRIFICE

When a need arose in one of our mission churches 40 miles away, I asked the church to pray that God would call someone to move to that community to serve as the lay pastor of the mission. A young couple responded. Because the husband was attending the university, they had very little money.

If they took up residence in the mission community, he would have to commute 80 miles a day to the university. I knew they couldn't afford to do it. I said, "No, I can't let you do that" and named several reasons why that would not be fair.

This young couple was deeply grateful that God had saved them. The young man looked at me and said, "Pastor, don't deny me the opportunity to sacrifice for my Lord." That statement crushed me. How could I refuse? Yet I knew this couple would have to pay a high price because our church had been obedient to start new missions.


We had prayed for God to call a lay pastor, so I needed to be open to God's answering our prayers in an unexpected way. When this couple responded with a deep sense of commitment and personal sacrifice, our church affirmed their sense of call, and God provided for their needs!

DAY
I

YOU CANNOT STAY
WHERE YOU ARE
AND GO WITH GOD.

Critical Turning
Points:

1. Crisis of Belief
2. Major Adjustments


God's
revelation is
your invitation
to adjust your
life to Him.

Adjustments Are Necessary

Many of us want God to speak to us and give us an assignment. However, we are not interested in making major adjustments in our lives. Biblically, that position is impossible. Every time God spoke to people in the Scripture about something He wanted to do through them, major adjustments were required. They had to adjust their lives to God. Once the adjustments were made, God accomplished His purposes through those He called.

Adjusting your life to God is the second critical turning point in your knowing and doing the will of God. The first turning point was the crisis of belief: you must believe God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. Without faith in God, you will make the wrong decision at this first turning point. Adjusting your life to God is another turning point. If you choose to make the adjustment, you can move on to obedience. If you refuse to make the adjustment, you will miss what God has in store for your life.

- 1** If you have faith at the crisis of belief, what else is required as a demonstration of that faith? Fill in the blank below.

Reality 5: God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and _____.

Once you have come to believe God, you demonstrate your faith by what you *do* (your actions). Some response is required. This action is one of the major adjustments we will focus on in this unit. Your obedience will also be part of the action required. Your adjustments and obedience will be costly to you and to those around you.

FAITH ► ACTIONS
ACTION = ADJUSTMENTS + OBEDIENCE

- 2** In your own words summarize what is stated in the preceding box.

Adjustments to God

When God speaks to you to reveal what He is about to do, that revelation is your invitation to adjust your life to Him. Your faith will be most clearly demonstrated by your actions. Actions you will take include the adjustments you must make to be in a position to obey the Lord. Once you've adjusted your life to the Lord, you act in obedience. Then God accomplishes through you what He has purposed to do. Adjustments prepare you for obedience. You cannot continue life as usual or stay where you are and go with God at the same time. This truth is demonstrated throughout Scripture. For instance:

- Noah could not continue life as usual and build an ark (see Gen. 6).
- Abram could not stay in Ur or Haran and father a nation in Canaan (see Gen. 12:1-8).
- Moses could not stay on the back side of the desert herding sheep and stand before Pharaoh (see Ex. 3).
- David had to leave his sheep to become king (see 1 Sam. 16:1-13).
- Amos had to leave the sycamore trees to preach in Israel (see Amos 7:14-15).
- Jonah had to leave his home and overcome a major prejudice in order to preach in Nineveh (see Jonah 1:1-2; 3:1-2; 4:1-11).
- Peter, Andrew, James, and John had to leave their fishing businesses to follow Jesus (see Matt. 4:18-22).
- Matthew had to leave his tax collector's booth to follow Jesus (see Matt. 9:9).
- Saul (later Paul) had to completely change directions in his life to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (see Acts 9:1-19).

These men had to make enormous adjustments! Some had to leave family and country. Others had to renounce prejudices and change their values. Others had to leave behind life goals, ideals, and desires. They had to yield everything to God and align their entire lives to Him. The moment they made the necessary changes, God began to accomplish His purposes through them. Each one, however, learned that adjusting one's life to God is well worth the cost.

- 3** Your Scripture-memory verse for this unit speaks of a major adjustment that must be made to be a disciple of Jesus. Write Luke 14:33.

- 4** Have you come to a place in your life where you are willing to yield everything to God in order to follow Him? Yes No

- 5** In the previous unit you studied the fifth reality in the sequence of God's working through His people. In this unit we will look together at the sixth reality. To review and preview, fill in the blanks in the realities below.

Reality 5: God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a _____ of _____ that requires _____ and _____.

Reality 6: You must make major _____ in your life to join God in what He is doing.

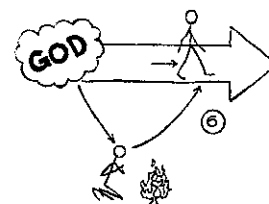
You may be thinking, *But God will not ask me to make major adjustments.* Scripture shows that God most certainly requires adjustments of His people. He even required them of His own Son: "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). Jesus emptied Himself of position and wealth in heaven in order to join the Father in providing redemption through His death on the cross. That was a major adjustment!

If you want to be a disciple—a follower—of Jesus, you have no choice. You must leave where you are to follow Him. You must make major alterations in your life to



Adjusting one's
life to God is
well worth
the cost.

REALITY 6



ADJUST

Isaiah 55:9

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

follow God. Until you are ready to make any change necessary to follow and obey what God has said, you will be of little use to God. Your greatest single difficulty in following God may come at this point of full surrender.

We tend to want to skip making adjustments and go directly from believing God to obedience. If you want to follow Him, you don't have that choice. His ways are so different from yours (see Isa. 55:9) the only way you can follow Him requires an alignment of your life to His ways.

6 Elisha and the rich young ruler were invited to join God and His activity. Read about them in 1 Kings 19:15-21 and Luke 18:18-27, respectively; then answer the following questions.

The LORD said to [Elijah], "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet." ...

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant (1 Kings 19:15-21).

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:18-23).

a. What adjustment was required of each?

Elisha: _____

Rich young ruler: _____

b. What was the response of each?

Elisha: _____

Rich young ruler: _____

The rich ruler desired eternal life, but he didn't want to make the necessary adjustment to Jesus. He considered his money and wealth to be more important. Jesus knew that people cannot love God completely and love money at the same time (see Matt. 6:24). Jesus asked him to put away what had become his god—his wealth. The young ruler refused to change his priorities, and he missed experiencing eternal life. The rich young ruler's love of money and his greed made him an idolater (see Eph. 5:5). He missed coming to know the true God and Jesus Christ, whom God had sent. He wanted to gain eternal life, but he refused to do what was necessary to obtain it.

Elisha responded much differently. He had to leave family and career (farming) to follow God's call. You may have heard the phrase *burning your bridges behind you*. Elisha burned his farm equipment and killed his oxen, cooking the meat and feeding the people of the community (see 1 Kings 19:19-21). He was not about to turn back! When he made the necessary adjustments, he was in a position to obey God. As a result, God worked through Elisha to perform some of the greatest signs and miracles recorded in the Old Testament (see 2 Kings 2-13). Elisha had to make major changes on the front end of his call. Not until he took those actions did God work through him to accomplish the miracles.

7 As you come to know and do God's will, in what order do the following responses come? Number them in the correct order. Refer to the seven realities on the inside back cover if you need help.

___ obedience ___ adjustments ___ faith

When God invites you to join Him, the task will have such God-sized dimensions that it will cause you to experience a crisis of belief. Your response will require faith. Faith will be demonstrated by action. The first thing you will do is adjust your life to God. The second step will be to obey what God asks you to do. You cannot go on to obedience without first making the necessary adjustments. The order is (1) faith, (2) adjustments, (3) obedience. No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life that is wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him!

8 Do you want to be someone who is wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to God? Answer carefully! Yes No

9 Begin memorizing your Scripture-memory verse for this unit and review your other verses.

Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

Ephesians 5:5

"Of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

When God speaks to me to reveal what He is about to do, that revelation is my invitation to adjust my life to Him.

Adjustments prepare me for obedience.

I cannot stay where I am and go with God.

No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life that is wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him!

DAY
2

GOD IS INTERESTED
IN ABSOLUTE
SURRENDER.

Kinds of Adjustments

What kinds of adjustments are required to position your life to be used by God? Trying to answer that question is like trying to list all the things God might ask you to do. The list could be endless. However, I can point you to some examples and give you some general categories of adjustments God might ask of you.

Adjustments may be required in one or more of the following areas.

- In your circumstances—job, home, finances, and others
- In your relationships—family, friends, business associates, and others
- In your thinking—prejudices, methods, your potential, about your past, and others
- In your commitments—to family, church, job, plans, tradition, and others
- In your actions—how you pray, give, serve, and others
- In your beliefs—about God, His purposes, His ways, your relationship with Him, and others

The list could go on and on. The major adjustment will come at the point of acting on your faith. When you face a crisis of belief, you must decide what you believe about God. That mental decision may be easy. The hard part is adjusting your life to God and taking an action that *demonstrates* your faith. You may be called to attempt things only *God* can do, whereas before you may have attempted only what you knew *you* could accomplish.

1 List at least four areas in which God may ask you to make an adjustment of your life to Him. I have given you one.

- a. *beliefs* _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2 Now go back and write one example for each area listed. For example in the area of beliefs you may have to make an adjustment to believe that nothing is impossible with God.

3 Read each of the following Scriptures. What kind of adjustment was (or is) required in each? Match the Scripture on the left with the correct adjustment required on the right. Some may call for more than one type of adjustment. Write a letter or letters in each blank.

Scriptures	Adjustments
____ 1. Matthew 4:18-22	a. In circumstances
____ 2. Matthew 5:43-48	b. In relationships
____ 3. Matthew 6:5-8	c. In thinking
____ 4. Matthew 20:20-28	d. In commitments
____ 5. Acts 10:1-20	e. In actions
	f. In beliefs

Sometimes an adjustment may involve several of these areas at once. For instance, Peter's experience with Cornelius probably required adjustments in Peter's relationships with Gentiles, his thinking and beliefs about what is religiously pure, his commitments to the traditions of the Jews, and his actions regarding fellowship with Gentiles. Being able to place a title on an adjustment is not as important as identifying what change God wants you to make to Him, His purposes, or His ways. The primary adjustments I see in the Scriptures above are 1-a; 2-b or c; 3-e; 4-b, c, or e; 5-c or f. You may have seen others.

Some people have asked whether a *major* adjustment is always involved in joining God's work. Anytime you go from where you are to where God is working, from your way of thinking to God's way of thinking, from your ways to God's ways, or from your purposes to His purposes, a *major* adjustment will be required. Now, you may make adjustments at one point in your life that will prepare you for joining God at a future time. When the time comes for obedience, you will have already adjusted to God and you will not sense a major adjustment is required.

4 Write *major* or *minor* beside each adjustment listed below.

- _____ a. Moving from my way of thinking to God's way of thinking
 _____ b. Moving from my purposes to working on God's purposes
 _____ c. Moving from my way of doing things to God's ways
 _____ d. Moving from my human values to God's values

Did you write *major* beside each one? The distance from where we are to where God is in any one of these areas requires a major shift. The adjustments may be gradual over time so they don't seem so major at once, but these are all huge adjustments.

Absolute Surrender

God frequently requires adjustments in areas of your life that you have never considered or been open to in the past. You may have heard someone say something like this: "Don't ever tell God something you don't want to do. That is what He will ask you to do." God is not looking for ways to make your life difficult. However, He intends to be the Lord of your life. When you identify a place where you refuse to allow His lordship, that is a place He will go to work. He is seeking **absolute surrender**. God may or may not require you to do the thing you identified, but He will keep working until you are willing for Him to be Lord of all. Remember, because God loves you, His will is always best! Any adjustment God expects you to make is for your good. As you follow Him, the time may come when your life and future may depend on your adjusting quickly to God's directives.

You don't adjust your life to a concept. You align your life to God. You alter your viewpoints to resemble His. You change your ways to be like His ways. After you make the necessary adjustments, He will tell you what to do next to obey Him. When you follow Him, you will experience Him doing through you something only He can do.

5 Describe at least one adjustment you have made in your thinking as you have studied this course. For example, someone might respond, "I had to accept the fact that I cannot do anything of Kingdom value apart from God. Instead of doing things for God, I am now watching and praying to see what God wants to do through me."



Any adjustment
 God expects
 you to make is
 for your good.

- 6** Read the following statements that were made by godly men. Under each statement describe the kind of adjustment the person made or was willing to make. For example, one adjustment David Livingstone was prepared to make was to live in poverty as a missionary in Africa rather than to have wealth as a physician in his homeland.

David Livingstone (medical missionary to Africa): "Forbid that we should ever consider the holding of a commission from the King of Kings a sacrifice, so long as other men esteem the service of an earthly government as an honor. I am a missionary, heart and soul. God Himself had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician. A poor, poor imitation I am, or wish to be, but in this service I hope to live. In it I wish to die. I still prefer poverty and missions service to riches and ease. This is my choice."¹

Adjustment: _____

Jim Elliot (missionary to Quichua Indians in South America): "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."²

Adjustment: _____

Bob Pierce (established World Vision and Samaritan's Purse): "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God."³

Adjustment: _____

Oswald J. Smith (missionary statesman of Canada): "I want Thy plan, O God, for my life. May I be happy and contented whether in the homeland or on the foreign field; whether married or alone, in happiness or sorrow, health or sickness, prosperity or adversity—I want Thy plan, O God, for my life. I want it; oh, I want it!"⁴

Adjustment: _____

C. T. Studd (missionary to China, India, and Africa): "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to give for Him."⁵

Adjustment: _____

Some adjustments these men made or were willing to make include the following.

- Livingstone considered a missionary work in Africa a high honor, not a sacrifice.
- Jim Elliot was willing to give up his life for heavenly reward. He was killed by South American Indians as he sought to spread the gospel to those who had never heard about Jesus.
- Bob Pierce was ready to be brokenhearted so he could be like the Father.
- Oswald Smith wanted God's plan for his life so much that he was willing to be content with any pleasure or adversity.
- C. T. Studd was open to make any sacrifice for Jesus' sake.

- 7** Draw a star in the margin beside the quotation that is most meaningful to you.



"If Jesus Christ
be God
and died for
me, then no
sacrifice is too
great for me to
give for Him."
—C. T. Studd

8 Think about the level of commitment that is reflected in that quotation. If you are willing to make a similar commitment to the lordship of Christ, spend a few moments in prayer expressing your willingness to adjust your life to Him.

You cannot stay where you are and go with God in obedience to His will. Adjustments must come first. Then you can follow in obedience. Keep in mind that the God who calls you is also the One who will enable you to do His will. In the remainder of this unit we will study the second and third points below.

Obedience Requires Adjustments

1. You cannot stay where you are and go with God at the same time.
2. Obedience is costly to you and to those around you.
3. Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through you.

When you are willing to surrender everything in your life to the lordship of Christ, you, like Elisha, will find the adjustments are well worth the reward of experiencing God. If you have not come to the place in your life where you have surrendered *all* to His lordship, decide today to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him (see **Luke 9:23**).

From Cannibalism to Following Christ

A pastor approached me with a wonderful testimony while I was in Hawaii speaking at a pastors and staff retreat. He and others regularly took a mission trip to the mountain region of Fiji. He showed me a picture that astounded me, so I asked him to tell me the story behind it.

In the picture a man, smiling broadly, was pointing to some rough boards nailed together and a diagram of the seven realities of *Experiencing God* with words in his language over each of the realities. Behind him was a modest, thatched-roof building with open walls. The pastor told me that this man was the chief of his people. At one time in their past this tribe had been cannibalistic and had even eaten a missionary. Now, years later, they had repented and come to faith in Christ. This man in the picture was not only their chief but also their pastor. He was teaching *Experiencing God*. What an adjustment these people had made to God!



You cannot stay where you are and go with God!

Luke 9:23

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

God is interested in my absolute surrender to Him as Lord.

I adjust to a Person.

Adjustments are well worth the reward of experiencing God.

The God who calls me is also the One who will enable me to do His will.

Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

DAY
3

OBEDIENCE IS
COSTLY TO YOU.



You cannot
know and
do God's will
without pay-
ing the price of
adjustment and
obedience.

Obedience Is Costly, Part I

You cannot stay where you are and go with God. You cannot continue doing things your way and accomplish God's purposes. Your thinking cannot come close to thinking like God. For you to do the will of God, you must adjust your life to Him, His purposes, and His ways.

1 In this unit we are looking at three statements about adjustments and obedience. Personalize each one from your perspective by writing in the blanks *I* and *me* instead of *you*.

1. _____ cannot stay where _____ [am] and go with God at the same time.
2. Obedience is costly to _____ and to those around _____.
3. Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through _____.

Look at the second statement: obedience is costly to you and to those around you. You cannot know and do God's will without paying the price of adjustment and obedience. Willingness to pay the price of following His will is one of the major adjustments. At this point "many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him" (John 6:66). Many churches will not know and experience the fulfilling of God's purposes through them because they are not willing to pay the price of obedience.

While I was pastoring a wonderful church in California, I received a call from a tiny congregation in Saskatoon, Canada, that said they would have to disband their church if I could not come as their pastor. As Marilyn and I prayed, we sensed God was moving our family from our comfortable church setting to an extremely challenging assignment. After driving for several days to move to the new church field, we finally arrived. We had barely eaten lunch when a car pulled up with six men in it. They were from a community 90 miles away. They said they had been pleading with God to send them a pastor who would start a church in their community, and they asked if I would be their pastor too. For the next two years every Sunday I would teach Sunday School and preach at my home church. Then I would drive 90 miles and teach Sunday School and preach at the mission church. Then I would drive 90 miles back and preach at our evening service and then teach adults in discipleship training. Every Tuesday afternoon I would also drive to our mission and lead them in a prayer meeting. There was a cost in accepting God's invitation, but the times of fellowship with those dear believers and with my Lord as I drove those highways for countless hours were a tremendous reward.

We say Christ is Lord, and He can interrupt our plans anytime He wants. We just don't expect Him to do it. We assume He will affirm everything we are doing and never ask us to change anything we have planned. If we want God to go down the channels we have already established and protect our personal plans and programming, we are in trouble. When God invites us to join Him, we will have to make major adjustments. Such a response can be costly.

- 2** Read Acts 9:1-25 and describe the adjustment Saul had to make. Describe the cost He had to pay to follow Christ. _____

- 3** Why do you think a cost is often required to follow Christ? _____

Saul (later named Paul) had to make a total about-face in his life direction. He went from persecuting Christians to proclaiming that Jesus was the Christ. God will ask you to follow Him in ways that will require adjustments in your plans and directions. For Paul the adjustment was costly. It even put his life at risk. You will also have to pay a price for following Christ.

The Cost: Enduring Opposition

- 4** As you read the following paragraphs, underline some of the costs of obedience. I have underlined one for you.

In Saskatoon our church clearly sensed God was calling us to start new churches all across our province. Not everyone understood or agreed with what we were doing. Some actively opposed us at almost every mission church we started. Though we were totally convinced of the awesome spiritual darkness in Canada, some people did not see it. In Regina, the capital of our province, a full-page article appeared in the paper condemning us for daring to start a new church in this city of 150,000. In our efforts to have a Bible study in Humboldt, a delegation of leaders from another church group came to my office and urged me to stop. They said our efforts were of the devil and they would oppose the Bible study. In Deschambault our pastor was met on the street and cursed by a witch doctor. From Prince Albert I received letters condemning our efforts. In Blaine Lake we were told our prayer meetings would fail.

Some in our own denomination felt we were foolish to attempt new mission churches when we were so small ourselves. We were told not to ask the denominational office for help if we got into trouble with salary support for mission pastors or other staff workers. Those who had not been with us when God spoke to us saw our efforts as presuming on God. I soon discovered that every step of faith could be interpreted as presumption by others. Only obedience and God's affirmation of our obedience would reveal that we were doing God's will.

Later, as mission churches grew, flourished, and became self-supporting, some of our critics realized this work was indeed of God. Some were even encouraged to take these same steps of faith in starting new work themselves. God helped us remain faithful to Him, with a heart full of love toward others, but that was costly.

- 5** List some of the costs that we had to pay in starting new churches.

- 6** Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 on the following page and underline some of the costs Paul had to pay for following and obeying Christ. I've underlined one for you.

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands (2 Cor. 11:23-33).

Sometimes obedience to God's will leads to opposition and misunderstanding. Because of his obedience Paul suffered much for the cause of Christ. The beatings, imprisonments, and danger listed in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 sound like more than one person could bear. He concluded one letter by saying, "I bear on my body the marks of Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). Paul had not had these experiences before he began to do the will of his Lord. Obedience was costly to him. Even so, Paul could still say, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Phil. 3:10-12).

The Apostle Paul revealed the adjustments he made to do God's will when he said, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). Your adjustments and obedience to Christ may be difficult as well.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

Obedience is costly to me and to those around me.

I cannot know and do the will of God without paying the price of adjustment and obedience.

I must adjust my plans and program to what God is doing.

7 Have you ever had an experience in which your adjustment or obedience to God was costly? Yes No If so, briefly describe that experience and the cost you had to pay. _____

David Livingstone was a 19th-century missionary from Scotland who gave his life making Christ known in Africa. Perhaps his prayer may inspire your own commitment to pay the cost of following Christ:

Lord, send me anywhere, only go with me.
Lay any burden on me, only sustain me.
Sever any tie but the tie that binds me to Thyself.

8 Practice quoting or writing your Scripture-memory verses.

Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

Obedience Is Costly, Part 2

DAY
4

One of the most demanding adjustments to doing God's will is deciding to obey even when obedience is costly to those around you. You as well as those around you may have to pay a price for *your* obedience.

1 Answer the following questions. Read the Scripture passage if you do not already know the answer.

a. When Moses was obedient and told Pharaoh to let Israel go, what did it cost the Israelites (see Ex. 5:1-21)? _____

b. When Jesus obeyed and went to the cross, how did it affect His mother, Mary, as she watched Him die (see John 19:17-37)? _____

c. When Paul was obedient in preaching the gospel to the Gentiles at Thessalonica, what happened to Jason (see Acts 17:1-9)? _____

OBEDIENCE IS
COSTLY TO THOSE
AROUND YOU.

When Moses obeyed God, the workload of the children of Israel was increased, and the foremen were beaten. The Israelites paid a price for Moses to do God's will. When Jesus did the Father's will and died on the cross, His mother had to suffer the agony of watching her Son be cruelly killed. Jesus' obedience put Mary through a heartbreaking experience. His obedience brought fear and pain to the disciples. For Jesus to do God's will, others had to suffer. When Paul followed God's will in preaching the gospel, others were led to respond to God's work in their own lives. Jason and some others were arrested by a rioting mob and were accused of treason because of their association with Paul. Frequently, Paul's obedience to God's will endangered the lives of those who were with Him.

You must not overlook this element in knowing and doing the will of God: God will reveal His plans and purposes to you, but your obedience will impact you and others around you. When, for instance, a couple surrender their lives to missions, it may cost those around them, such as their church and elderly parents, as well as the church where they have served, more than it affects them. Yet not obeying God would be much worse.

2 Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

1. You cannot _____ where you are and go with _____ at the same time.
2. Obedience is _____ to you and to those _____ you.
3. Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through you.

Check your answers on page 163.

When Marilyn and I committed ourselves to do mission work, one of the great prices we had to pay was what it would cost our children for me to be gone so much. Our oldest child was eight when we moved to Saskatoon. Our youngest child was born a few months after we arrived. I was gone from home much of the time the children were growing up. Marilyn also had to pay a high price by rearing all five children during my frequent absence.

I have heard many Christians say, "I really think God is calling me to serve Him, but after all, my children need me. I can't put my family through that." Your children certainly need your care, but do you suppose that if you obediently responded to God's activity, He would provide for your children? We did!

We believed God would honor our obedience to Him. We trusted that He would show us how to rear our children. We believed the Heavenly Father, who loves His servants, could take better care of our children than we could. We were convinced that God would show us how to relate to our children in a way that would make up for the lost time with them. I could not let God's call become an excuse for neglecting my family, but when I was obeying the Father, I could trust Him to care for my family.

We baptized three persons the first year we were in Saskatoon. After 2½ years of hard and demanding labor, we were averaging 60 in attendance. Marilyn said to me, "Henry, Richard came to me today and said he really feels sorry for you. He said, 'Dad preaches such good sermons. He gives an invitation week after week, and nobody comes forward to make a decision.'"

I went to Richard and said, "Richard, don't ever feel sorry for your father. Even if God lets me labor for 10 years and see very little results, I will hardly be able to wait for the day when He brings the harvest." I had to help Richard understand what was taking place. I explained God's promise of a future harvest in **Psalm 126:6**. God worked through me at that moment to teach my son a deeply meaningful spiritual truth.

I remember a time when Marilyn hit a low point. She had grown discouraged. The next Sunday after I preached, Richard came down the aisle to make a decision, saying, "I feel called to the ministry." Behind him came another young man. Marilyn had spent many hours ministering to this young man who had grown up in a troubled home. He said, "I also believe that God has called me to the ministry." Then he turned and said, "And a lot of the credit goes to Mom Blackaby."

Another young man stood in that same service and said, "I want you to know that God is also calling me to the ministry. And I want you to know that it is due largely to Mom Blackaby." At a crisis time in his life, our family had ministered to him and encouraged him to seek God's will for his life. Marilyn had done much to show him love. At this critical time for Marilyn, God encouraged her.

Psalm 126:6

He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him.

Ultimately, all five of our children sensed God's call to vocational ministry or mission work, and all five are serving in full-time Christian ministry today. Only God could have done such a beautiful work with our children. You can trust God with your family! I would rather entrust my family to God's care than to anyone else in the world.

3 Can you recall an experience when your family had to pay a high price for you to do God's will? Yes No If so, briefly describe the experience. _____

4 Can you recall a time when you chose not to obey God because of the high cost to those around you? Yes No If so, briefly describe the situation. _____

5 What are some things you know about God that could help you trust God to care for your family? List several. _____

Let Christ Communicate with His People

If you ever ask God's people to seek the mind of the Lord, be prepared to accept what they tell you. Honor what they say. I have seen some leaders ask a church, a committee, or group to pray and seek God's will in a matter. The people expressed what they sensed God was saying. Then the leader would say something like "Now let me tell you what God wants us to do." If the people of God are the body of Christ, Christ is the Head. The whole body must come to Christ for an understanding of God's will for that body. We must learn to trust Christ to communicate with His people.

6 Suppose your church began praying for a special financial need, and a retired person sensed God wanted her to give half of her four-thousand-dollar life savings to meet that need. How do you think you would respond? Check your response.

- a. I would refuse her gift and ask the more financially secure people to give instead.
- b. I would receive the gift, thank God for answering prayer, and weep about the high cost she had to pay for our church to do God's will.
- c. I would receive the gift, but I would try to find a way to replace the money as soon as possible.
- d. I would ask her to pray for two more weeks to make sure this is what God wanted her to do.

I had to face this situation. One of our new missions needed a building. The financial agency we were working with required that a certain percentage of the cost be paid as a downpayment in order for us to obtain the loan. The mission was extremely small, so I asked our church members if they would be willing to pray about the possibility of contributing toward the downpayment. They agreed to pray and watch to see how God would provide. Ivah Bates, one of our diligent pray-ers, was a widow. In addition to a small pension, she had a total of four thousand dollars in the bank to last for the rest of her life. She gave a check for two thousand dollars to the building fund.



You can trust
God with
your family!



We must learn
to trust Christ
to communi-
cate with His
people.

Because I was her pastor, many emotions went through my heart. Although I was leading our church to do what we believed God wanted us to do, my heart ached when I saw what it was costing our dear people to respond. I talked with Ivah's daughter. She said, "Don't deny my mother the right to give. She has always trusted her Lord. She wants to do that now too."

Some pastors or finance committees say, "We can't ask our people to give too often, or it will hurt our ongoing budget giving." I learned never to deny God's people the opportunity to contribute. I never tried to pressure or manipulate people to give. That was not my job. Instead, I created the opportunity and encouraged them to contribute only what God led them to donate. Most of God's people will cheerfully do God's will. Some of them will respond with generosity, counting it an honor that God has allowed them to sacrifice for Him. Some will have life-changing experiences as a result of such an opportunity.

7 Do you know of a situation in which a person or a family had to pay a high price because your church followed God's will?

Yes No If so, briefly describe the situation. _____

8 Complete the first two statements; then check your answers on page 163.

a. You cannot stay where you are and _____

b. Obedience is costly to _____

c. Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through you.

Hudson Taylor, a great man of prayer and faith, responded to God's call to go to China as a missionary. Because his father had already died, he had to leave his widowed mother to go to China. By the end of his life in 1905, he had been used by God to found the China Inland Mission. There were 205 preaching stations, 849 missionaries, and 125,000 Chinese Christians—a testimony of a life absolutely surrendered to God. Hudson Taylor described something of the cost he and his mother experienced as he obeyed God's will to go to China as a missionary.

9 Imagine that you are Hudson Taylor. Your father is dead, and you realize that you may never see your mother again on earth. Slowly read Taylor's account of their parting and try to imagine the emotions they must have felt.

My beloved, now sainted, mother had come to see me off from Liverpool. Never shall I forget that day, nor how she went with me into the little cabin that was to be my home for nearly six long months. With a mother's loving hand she smoothed the little bed. She sat by my side, and joined me in the last hymn that we should sing together before the long parting. We knelt down, and she prayed—the last mother's prayer I was to hear before starting for China. Then notice was given that we must separate, and we had to say good-bye, never expecting to meet on earth again.

For my sake she restrained her feelings as much as possible. We parted; and she went on shore, giving me her blessing! I stood alone on deck, and she followed the ship as we moved towards the dock gates. As we passed

through the gates, and the separation really commenced, I shall never forget the cry of anguish wrung from that mother's heart. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what "God so loved the world" meant. And I am quite sure that my precious mother learned more of the love of God to the perishing in that hour than in all her life before.

Praise God, the number is increasing who are finding out the exceeding joys, the wondrous revelations of His mercies, vouchsafed to those who "follow Him," and emptying themselves, leave all in obedience to His great commission.⁶

10 Based on this brief account, answer the following questions.

- a. What did it cost Hudson Taylor to adjust his life to God and obediently go to China? _____
- b. What did it cost Hudson's mother for him to obey God's will? _____
- c. What did they learn about God's love through this experience? _____

Leaving home and family on a dangerous mission was a costly step for Hudson Taylor to take. His mother loved the Lord so much she was willing to pay the price of releasing her son to missions. Both of the Taylors had to pay a high cost for obedience. Yet they both experienced God's love in a way they had never known before. History reveals that God rewarded the faithfulness of His servant Hudson Taylor. God used him in miraculous ways to reach interior China with the gospel of Christ.

11 How will you respond to God when He calls you to a sacrificial commitment? Check one: Yes, Lord! No, that costs too much.

You may think the last question is a little premature. Not really. That is what the lordship of Christ is all about. You should be able to answer the last question without knowing anything about what God may call you to. Your whole life should be lived with the attitude of "Lord, whatever You may ask of me today or in the future, my answer is yes!" Come to the place in your life where you are willing to surrender all to Him.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

My obedience is costly to those around me.

I can trust God to care for my family.

Don't deny others the opportunity to sacrifice for their Lord.

I need to trust Christ to communicate with His people.

Lord, whatever You may ask of me today or in the future, my answer is yes!

Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 5

OBEDIENCE
REQUIRES TOTAL
DEPENDENCE ON
GOD TO WORK
THROUGH YOU.

Total Dependence on God

Another adjustment that is a part of knowing and doing the will of God is your coming to a total dependence on God to complete what He wants to do through you. Jesus said our relationship with Him would be like a vine and branches. He said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). When you are God's servant, you must remain in an intimate relationship with God in order for Him to complete His work through you. You must depend on God alone.

The adjustment requires moving from doing work for God according to your abilities, your gifts, your likes and dislikes, and your goals to being totally dependent on God, His working, and His resources. This is a major adjustment, and it is never easy to make.

1 Fill in the blanks to complete the statements we have been studying in this unit.

1. You cannot _____ where you are and go with _____ at the same time.
2. Obedience is _____ to you and to those _____ you.
3. Obedience requires _____ on God to work through you.

Check your answers on page 163.

2 Read the Scriptures in the margin and below. Notice why you must depend on God to carry out His purposes. Answer the question that follows.

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

1 Corinthians 15:10

"By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

"The Lord Almighty has sworn,
'Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will stand'" (Isa. 14:24).

"Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10).

"I am God, and there is none like me. ...
My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please. ...
What I have said, that will I bring about;
what I have planned, that will I do" (Isa. 46:9-11).

Why must you totally depend on God to work through you? _____

Without God at work in you, you can do nothing to produce Kingdom fruit. When God purposes to do something, He guarantees it will come to pass. He is the One

who will accomplish what He intends to do. If you depend on anything other than God, you are asking for failure in Kingdom terms.

Once a church asked, "O God, how do You want to reach our community through us and build a great church?" God led them to start a **bus ministry** and provide transportation for children and adults to come to church. They did what God told them to do, and their church grew into a great church.

They were flattered when people from all over the country began to ask, "What are you doing to grow so rapidly?" They wrote a book on how to build great churches through a *bus ministry*. Thousands of churches began to buy buses to reach their communities, believing the method was the key to growth. Later many sold the buses, saying, "It didn't work for us."

It never works. He works! The method is never the key to accomplishing God's purposes. The key is your relationship with a Person. When you want to know how God wants you to reach your city, start a new church, or be involved in His work, ask Him. Then when He tells you, don't be surprised if you can't find any church that is doing it that same way. Why? God wants you to know Him. If you follow someone else's plan, use a method, or emphasize a program, you tend to forget about your dependence on God. You leave the relationship with God and go after a method or a program. That is spiritual adultery.

3 Answer the following questions by checking your responses.

- a. Where do you usually go to find out how to accomplish God's purposes for your life or for your church? Check all that apply.
- 1. I go to the bookstore or library to find a good book on the subject—one written by a person who has a reputation for success in the area.
 - 2. I talk to people or churches that are successful.
 - 3. I contact the denominational office and ask which program to use to get the job done.
 - 4. I spend time in prayer and the Word asking God to guide me (us) to do things His way.
- b. Which of the following is most important for you to know in seeking to do God's will? Check one.
- 1. What God wants to do where I am
 - 2. A successful method
 - 3. What program will work best in my situation
 - 4. How other people or churches are succeeding in the Lord's work

Good books, successful methods, creative programs, and others' success cannot take the place of your relationship with God. They never do the work. God does the work. Apart from Him you can do nothing (see John 15:5). By focusing on anything other than God as the answer, you rob yourself and your church from seeing God at work. You keep yourself and your church from knowing God. That is a great tragedy for many in our day. May God deliver us from that.

Does that mean God will never lead you to develop an organized program or follow a method? No. *But only God has the right to tell you what to do.* Don't take the initiative to decide for yourself what you will do. Wait before God until He tells you what His will is for you.



*It never works!
He works!*



*Only God has
the right to tell
you what to do.*

4 Read the following Scriptures and circle the word *wait* in each one.

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait in expectation” (Ps. 5:3).

“We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield” (Ps. 33:20).

“Wait for the Lord
and keep his way.
He will exalt you to inherit the land” (Ps. 37:34).

“I wait for you, O Lord;
you will answer, O Lord my God” (Ps. 38:15).

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isa. 40:31, KJV).

5 Why do you think you should wait until you have heard a word of direction from the Lord? _____

Matthew 7:7-8

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

You may think of waiting as a passive, inactive time. Waiting on the Lord is anything but inactivity. While you wait on Him, pray with a passion to know Him, His purposes, and His ways. Watch circumstances and ask God to interpret them by revealing His perspective to you. Share with other believers to find out what God is saying to them. As you wait on the Lord, actively ask, seek, and knock (see **Matt. 7:7-8**). While you wait, continue doing the last thing God clearly told you to do. By waiting, you shift the responsibility of the outcome to God, where it belongs.

When God gives you specific guidance, He will do more through you in days and weeks than you could ever accomplish in years of labor on your own. Waiting on Him is always worth the effort. His timing and His ways are always right. Depend on Him to guide you in His way and in His timing to accomplish His purpose.

The Holy Spirit Helps You Accomplish the Father's Will

The Holy Spirit will never misunderstand the Father's will for your life. The Father has a purpose to work out through your life, and He places His Spirit in you so you don't miss it. The Spirit's job is to guide you according to the Father's will. Then He enables you to do God's will. You are completely dependent on God for the knowledge and ability to accomplish His purposes. That is why your relationship with Him is crucial. That is why you need to wait until you have heard a word from Him about His purposes and ways.

Jesus is your example of One who never failed to know and do His Father's will. Everything the Father purposed to do through His life, the Lord Jesus did immediately. What was the key to His success? He was always rightly related to the Father! If you

walk in a consistent relationship with God's provision for you—the provision of His Son, His Holy Spirit, and His own presence in your life—then you should never come to a time when you do not know God's will. Nor should there be a time when you are not enabled to carry out His will.

In Jesus we have a picture of a solitary life in a love relationship with God, consistently living out that relationship. He is the perfect example. You and I quickly realize we are a long way from that. True! But the Christ who lived His life in complete obedience is fully present in you to enable you to know and do His will. We need to adjust our lives to God and consistently live out that relationship with absolute dependence on Him. He will never fail to lead your life into the middle of His purpose and enable you to do it.

- 6** On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the intimacy and quality of your walk with God? Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Why did you rate it as you did? _____

- 7** What, if any, adjustments do you think God wants you to make to renew a consistent, right relationship with Him? _____

Adjustments in Prayer

When our church received a directive from God, I often experienced a crisis in my prayer life. I learned more about prayer at those times than at almost any other time. Only prayer could bring about certain things, and God often waits to act until we ask. The crisis was this: was I willing to pray until God brought it about? **Mark 11:24** has challenged me about the relationship of faith and prayer.

- 8** Read **Mark 11:24** again and write the promise in your own words.

This verse is sometimes used to teach a name-it-and-claim-it theology. *You* decide what *you* want. *You* name that in *your* request and claim it, and it's *yours*. That is a self-centered theology. Remember that only God takes the initiative. He gives you the desire to do His will (see **Phil. 2:13**). His Holy Spirit guides you to pray according to God's will (see **Rom. 8:26-28**). The God-centered approach is to allow God to lead you to pray according to His will—in the name and character of Jesus. Believe that what He has led you to pray, He Himself will bring to pass. Then continue praying in faith and watching for it to come to pass.

When God encounters you, you face a crisis of belief that may require major adjustments in your life. You need to learn how to pray. However, realize that prayer will be exceedingly costly to you. God may wake you up in the middle of the night to pray. Times may come when you pray into the night or even all night. Becoming a person of prayer will require a major adjustment of your life to God.

Another cost will come as you try to guide the people around you to pray. Many churches have never learned how to pray. The greatest untapped resource is the prayer of God's people. Helping your church become a praying church will be a rewarding experience., but prayer will be costly. Every church needs to be a praying church!

Mark 11:24

"Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Philippians 2:13

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Romans 8:26-28

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- 9** Is your church known in your community as a house of prayer? Is your church a praying church? Which do you think is true? Check one.
- Our church is widely known as a praying church.
 - Our church is becoming a praying church, but we have a long way to go.
 - Our church prays some but not very effectively. We need to become a praying church.
 - Honestly, our church doesn't know how to pray. Our church needs to become a praying church.

10 What, if anything, do you think God wants to do through you with regard to prayer in your church? _____

11 Review your Scripture-memory verses and be prepared to recite them to a partner in your small-group session this week.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through me.

It never works. He works!

The key is my relationship with a Person.

He will do more through me in days and weeks than I could ever accomplish in years of labor. Waiting on Him is always worth the wait.

I must believe that what He has led me to pray, He Himself will bring to pass.

My church needs to be a praying church!

A Leper Pays the Cost for His People to Experience God

A local church that responds to God's leading is God's strategy to change a lost world. It often begins when God moves in the heart of one member. This happened in the life of an Indonesian pastor on the east coast of Java. The pastor, who knew English, studied *Experiencing God*, and his life was dramatically changed. He wanted all of his people to have the opportunity to study this material as well, but they did not know English. He began the long, arduous task of translating the entire course into the language of his people. Missionaries saw him sitting at a manual typewriter three or four hours every day translating. Because he was a leper, his hands were badly marred, and he couldn't sit still long. But his pastor's heart kept him at his typewriter day after day until his people could have the material for themselves.

When I heard this, I wept. I asked the missionary who told me the story if she could get a picture of the man at his typewriter, showing his hands. She said he was very humble and might not let her. Several years later at a large meeting in Salt Lake City, I saw the missionary running toward me holding a picture. "I've got the picture. It is for you!" I have it hanging in my prayer room, where I can pray for this dear pastor and his people and be reminded of how precious to God are His people in every local church.

Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?



ADJUSTING YOUR LIFE TO GOD

SESSION 8

DVD Message Notes

1. As long as God knows where I am, He can cause anybody in the world to know where I am.
2. The safest place in all the world for your children is the center of God's will.
3. *Repent* means you are going in the wrong direction. You need to turn around and go in a different direction. The whole kingdom of God is right next to you.
4. It is impossible for you to stay where you are and go with God at the same time.
5. A call of God requires major adjustments.

Your Notes

Unit Review

Fill in the blanks to complete the statements we studied in this unit (p. 163).

1. You cannot _____ where you are and _____ with God at the same time.
2. Obedience is _____ to _____ and to those around you.
3. Obedience requires _____ on God to work through you.

Which of the following is the best way to find God's directions for your life or your church? Check only one (p. 173).

- a. A good book c. God
 b. Other people d. A denominational agency

Answer the following.

1. Why must you totally depend on God to work through you to accomplish Kingdom purposes (activity 2, p. 172)? _____

2. Why should you "wait on the Lord" (activity 5, p. 174)? _____

Check your answers, using the pages cited in parentheses.

1. David and Naomi Shibley, *The Smoke of a Thousand Villages* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), 11.
2. Elisabeth Elliot, *Shadow of the Almighty: The Life and Testament of Jim Elliot* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1958), 247.
3. Franklin Graham with Jeanette Lockert, *Bob Pierce: This One Thing I Do* (Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1983), 220.
4. Shibley, *Smoke*, 90.
5. *Ibid.*, 98.
6. J. Hudson Taylor, *A Retrospect* (Philadelphia: The China Inland Mission, n.d.), 39-40.

Scriptures Referenced

- Mark 8:34-38
 Matthew 10:37-39
 Matthew 4:13-25

Testimony

Debbie Stuart

Sharing Time

- One of the most meaningful statements or Scriptures from this unit's lessons and your prayer response to God. Choose one from pages 159, 163, 167, 171, and 176.
- Adjustments you have made in your thinking during this course (activity 5, p. 161)
- The quotation that was most meaningful and why (activity 7, p. 162)
- An experience in which costly adjustment or obedience was required (activity 7, p. 166)
- How your church would be seen in regard to prayer and what God may want you to do regarding prayer in your church (activities 9-10, p. 176)

For Makeup or Review

Audio and video downloads are available at www.lifeway.com.