

# *Life Lessons*

## **“Passion and Preparation”**

*“I would rather win souls than be the greatest king or emperor on earth; I would rather win souls than be the greatest general that ever commanded an army... My one ambition in life is to win as many as possible. Oh, it is the only thing worth doing, to save souls; and men and women, we can all do it.”*

These are the words of one of the greatest soul-winners of Christian history – R. A. Torrey. On one worldwide evangelistic crusade ministering in Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Great Britain from 1902 – 1905, **Torrey led over 100,000 people to faith in Christ!**

But before you grab a stack of tracts and rush to your neighbor’s house, you also need to consider these facts. Torrey trained himself at Yale School of Divinity, and the Universities of Leipzig and Erlangen in Germany. Furthermore, you need to know Torrey became President of Moody Bible Institute and founding President of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Torrey served as pastor of the historic Moody Church of Chicago, the People’s Church of Minneapolis, and the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles. That’s still not all... Torrey founded a Christian Publishing Company and the Montrose Bible Conference Center. Beyond that, he was the author of many great Christian books still in print today, seventy-five years after his death!

**So what is the point?**

***There is no better partner  
For passion  
Than preparation!***

If God wants you to do anything, He wants you to do your best (Col. 3:23). You can’t do your best unless you’re prepared.

**Now, here is the real kicker!** During his first two years at Yale, Torrey was a hard-drinking, hard-partying, gambling, dancing, smoking pagan. When asked what brought the change, he said, **“My mother was praying 427 miles away. I got over the sermons, the arguments, the churches, and everything else, but I could not get over my mother’s praying!”**