

A: Even before I was 20 I felt a desire to try to fill this need, but the idea crystalized in my mind at Princeton Seminary, when I was between 22 and 25 years of age.

Q: Can you mention any particular circumstances that were important in leading you to a conviction that your life should be devoted to training men to serve the Lord?

A: As a college student I saw many of my fellow students led away by unchristian teaching from a previous desire to devote their lives to the service of Christ. This showed me the great need of efforts to produce an opposite effect on the lives of earnest young men. This idea was further crystalized when I was a student at Princeton Seminary. At that time there was a great amount of excellent material presented in many of Princeton's classes. Its teachers were outstanding scholars but few of them had any teaching ability.

I remember a course in church history that was taught by a professor who possessed a remarkable ability to take the most interesting subjects and present them in an extremely dull fashion. Since I had had considerable background in history I knew many interesting facts that this professor did not bring out. While walking with one of my classmates I described to him some of these interesting facts and he said he would love to take a course I would teach in church history. This helped to build up in my mind a desire to teach the evidences of the Word of God, not only with solid scholarship but also in such a way as to put the truths into the minds and hearts of the students.

Q: Could you mention some men who were particularly important in your development?

A: Probably the single greatest influence was Dr. R. A. Torrey, the dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Dr. Torrey was a graduate of Yale University who had done graduate work in Germany. With his excellent mind and fine training he had devoted his life to practical Christian service, including pastoral work, world-wide evangelism, and the training of Christian leaders. Dr. Torrey's influence on my life was very great.