

# Great Resolutions

Program Forty One

## Dora Yu: A Molded Vessel

Our God is the sovereign Potter who has authority over we His children who are made of clay. In this age of grace, He is molding vessels of mercy and honor according to His purpose and plan. He uses all persons, environments and matters to work in and upon us in order to form and perfect useful vessels for His expression and testimony. Such a molding work was done on Dora Yu, a particular vessel of mercy that we will consider in this program.

Dora Yu was aware that the Lord's molding hand was upon her life and circumstances from the time she was born until her last days. In her autobiography, *God's Dealings with Dora Yu*, one can see the faithful working of the Spirit within, and also see how the Lord used many "instrumentalities" without to gain what He desired in our sister.

The molding began at a very young age. Dora was born in 1873 in Zhejiang, a province of southeastern China, where her family lived on an American Presbyterian

mission compound. Sovereignly, missionaries from the West had arrived in that area of China thirty years before her birth. They brought the gospel, the Bible, and the Lord's name to the people. Dora's mother and father were both led to the Lord as a result of the work of the missionaries. Dora's father did not get saved until he was 40. He subsequently gave up his medical career to study to become a pastor.

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Dora said, “As I look back now, I praise God for the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home.” Dora's father moved about because of his work. Dora spent much time outdoors and became a lover of God's handiwork in nature and also of her family and her God. From a young age she learned to pray by herself. “Christ was a very real person to me,” she wrote “and I loved Him.” Her years of education were a combination of learning at the mission



CORNER OF A ROOM WHERE MANY OF GOD'S DEALINGS  
TOOK PLACE.

school and of being taught by her father at home, where she received much tender and loving perfecting. Dora initially resented the perfecting, but years later she appreciated that her parents pointed out her defects and shortcomings so she would not live her days in the sinful nature of the flesh. She learned that whom the Lord loves He disciplines (Heb. 12:6).

### **Knowing the Lord's Divine Love**

Dora left home at the age of fifteen to study medicine. It was only three months later that her father was taken to the Lord. Her mother followed him within two years. These losses produced a profound sense of loneliness in Dora which was only overcome by time, by her fellowship with the Lord, and by some shepherding she received.

At the age of nineteen Dora accepted a proposal of marriage. However, when she considered the implications of the step she was about to take she found herself unwilling to marry and prayed earnestly to be set free from the engagement. She did not want to share her will with another and she was concerned that her heart of love to the Lord would be divided. As she wept and prayed, she vowed that if she were released, she would be the Lord's servant for the rest of her life. Dora wrote that when she was finally willing to consent to the Lord's will - whatever it was - her loving Father set her free.

Her time in medical school was trying, she was lonely and needed medical attention due to her frail health and she was still mourning the loss of her parents. Her program was prolonged from five years to eight because of the lack of adequate faculty. She felt condemned and a sense of darkness and death. Her sins were too great to be forgiven she felt. Seeing her struggle, an older sister

helped lead Dora to find peace by coming to the loving Savior. Even though it was difficult for Dora to open up to another, she and the sister prayed together, and Dora cried out in prayer on her own. The Lord led her to take the way of confession and eventually appeared to her with His divine love and restored her soul to a sense of peace and joy. She testified, “Oh, the glory and joy that filled my heart then! I cried out to the Lord and said, Lord, is this Thy love? I have never known it before. His love so filled my heart that all the condemnation and fear was expelled. Words failed me to express the joy and gratitude which filled my heart.”

### **Time of Trials**

Dora lived in this heavenly joy for a year and half, but eventually drifted back into the world. Her sweet fellowship with the Lord and the joy of His presence decreased as her ambition, pride and self-confidence increased. By her own admission, she “was occupied with earthly things instead of with God Himself.” After graduating from medical school, and without seeking the Lord’s guidance, she decided to go to Korea with a missionary friend. She later recorded that even though she left China “without permission from the King,” her loving Father and the Righteous Ruler of the universe kept her in His own hands and taught her many things. How sweet that the Lord uses even our mistakes

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to gain us more. She said, “I did not appreciate the hand of love which drew the plan of my path, for I fought hard against the instruments held by the Almighty God instead of acknowledging Him in all things.”

Those days in the new environment of Korea were difficult for Dora. She needed to learn another language, which she said was not her gift. At the same time, she struggled in her Christian life. She was in fear of passing through the great tribulation because of her lack of being ready for the Lord’s return. Her health worsened and her doctor gave her no hope of a complete recovery. Eventually she reluctantly felt compelled to return to China. “I could not reconcile myself to being laid aside and not being allowed the active service which I felt to be the one thing that could please God and show my love for Him, not realizing that He has far more delight in “obedience” than in “sacrifice.”

In the midst of her trials, Dora’s only sibling, who was the mother of six children, became seriously ill and her case seemed to be fatal. Dora felt almost crushed under the weight of this and poured out her heart in prayer asking the Lord to bear this heavy burden. She was so grateful to the Lord when her sister recovered. But spiritually and physically, Dora herself was still not well. “Nobody but God knew the sufferings I went through in those days; the physical and the spiritual affected each other until I became a perfect wreck.” But the faithful One brought her through. Dora said, “Finally I said to God that if it was His will, He must make me strong.” From that day she began to improve. The Lord raised her up and after further struggles and learnings she obediently returned to China with a heart once again filled with peace and joy. She had lived in Korea for six years. Later she testified, “We must

come to the point where we can “rejoice in the Lord” in health or suffering, popularity or desolation, in happiness or sorrow.”

Through all her environmental dealings Dora was being humbled under the mighty hand of God (1 Pet. 5:6). Her experiences taught her to cast her anxieties upon God. She mattered to Him, and He lovingly and faithfully cared for her in order to perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground her according to His purpose (1 Pet. 5:10).

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