

Interview with special guest Tori Kelly

Miles McPherson / October 15, 2017

Ice Breaker: Pastor Miles said that although his favorite vacation spot on Earth (Hawaii) is wonderful, it is completely inferior compared to what awaits us in heaven. What is your favorite vacation spot and what makes it so good?

Encouragement: Today, Pastor Miles interviewed Grammy nominated singer-songwriter Tori Kelly. As a young teenager, her recording contract was dissolved. After singing on the American Idol show, Simon said her voice was "annoying". Tori thought she was a failure, but God had other plans. Pastor Miles asked for a show of hands for the question: Have you ever felt like you were a failure?

- * Did you hear a lie from the enemy in your head after a failure?
- * When did you realize it was a lie?
- * Did the lie have an effect on your relationship with God?
- * How did you get the relationship back?

Pastor Miles described life as a roller coaster - lots of ups and downs. His encouragement was this: If God called you for something, man can not destroy it. The miracle is coming *if* you surrender to Him.

Break into groups of 2. Pastor Miles asked see Tori's engagement ring - a diamond does not shine by itself; it needs light so it can reflect the light to look beautiful. Tori told us her fiancée points her to Christ. We were reminded to use the gifts God has given us to glorify God. Share with each other:

- * Is there someone in your life who points you to Jesus?
- * Share what your daily prayer life is like.
- * Do you have a devotional or prayer routine with God?
- * Tell one another: God is not mad at you.

Scripture:

Read: Revelation 12:10-12 Pastor Miles opened the services by reading from these passages. Before the creation of man, a war broke out in heaven and Earth is now the main battlefield and man is the sought after prize between God and Satan.

Focus on verse 11. What are the 3 keys to victory in this battle?

How can we proclaim testimony over others to combat the lies of the enemy?

How can we transform from having our physical lives being so precious to us to finding life by losing it for Jesus? (Mark 8:35).

Read: Philippians 3:7-9 Tori read this passage during the service.

What 'things' is Paul describing that was once valuable to him?

What 'things' here on Earth have you (or do you) consider valuable?

Paul had an impressive past. He was a superstar among the Jews. Then he had a personal encounter with Jesus who took him down so he could be built up.

What was (or still is) the hardest 'thing' for you to let go and surrender to Christ? Why?

Tori shared that her desire for perfection sometimes causes her to try and do things to try and earn God's love. Pastor Miles said God can't possibly love us any more, so there is no need to try and earn more.

Why do we feel like we have to overcome our failures or sin by doing things to earn back God's love?

What is the real solution to getting right with God after we sin?

Prayer:

At the end of the service, Tori sang the Revelation song. That song's writer, Jennie Lee Riddle had a need to SEE and HEAR all creation worshiping God. With Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Revelation 4 as the inspiration, she asked the Holy Spirit to guide her in creating a song.

Read: Read Ezekiel 1:26-28

Randy Phillips of Phillips, Craig and Dean said this about why his group recorded the Revelation song: This song captures the moment of looking up into Heaven, peeling back the curtain of eternity so we can peek in. If you keep your eyes on the events and news of the world, you'll always be nervous. Look to the awesomeness of God instead.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us and focus on the awesomeness of God.

Next Steps:

Tori shared that her Mom and Jordin Sparks (another singer-song writer) Mom were prayer partners. Do you have a prayer partner? If not, who could you ask to be a prayer partner? Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in reflecting God's light this week. What gift or talent has He blessed you with that you can use to glorify God?

What gift do you have to honor God this week?

How are you going to reflect that light or gift to honor or glorify God like the angels do?

Visit Saturday Morning prayer at your local campus as a group.

Tori Kelly Hallelujah clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoDmeUMchN0>

Tori Kelly Don't You Worry About a Thing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Skq4lQmt58o>