A Faith That Remains: Building to Last

Priscilla Shirer on Abiding in Jesus, Enduring Life's Storms, and Passing Faith to the Next Generation

Priscilla Shirer | Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | Host: Mark Burns

Program Summary

In this Tuesday edition of Mark & Friends, Mark Burns presents Part One of Priscilla Shirer's keynote message from Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026 in Chicago, themed "Generation to Generation: The Unstoppable Gospel." Priscilla opens with the story of a single house left standing in Gilchrist, Texas, after Hurricane Ike in 2008. She asks what makes a life of faith able to withstand storms and urges believers to prize faithfulness above fame, recognition, or momentary success. Turning to John 15 and 1 John 2:12–14, 28, she explains that remaining or abiding in Christ is not a brief weekly visit but a steady relationship. A tea bag left immersed in water becomes stronger, illustrating how consistent communion shapes spiritual strength. She then explains John's stages of spiritual growth, beginning with children learning to know their Father. Before rushing to ministry achievement, believers must establish a foundation of intimacy with God. Part One concludes as Priscilla begins a family safari story, which continues in Wednesday's broadcast.

Key Takeaways

• A faith that lasts must be built before life's storms arrive.

• Past difficulties can teach lessons that prepare us for future challenges.

• Faithfulness and integrity matter more than fame, followers, or applause.

• Abiding in Christ means remaining consistently connected, not merely visiting Him on Sundays.

• Priscilla's tea-bag illustration shows how staying immersed produces a stronger result.

• 1 John 2:28 calls believers to remain in Christ with confidence in view of His return.

• Spiritual maturity involves stages of growth, not instant achievement.

• The beginning stage of discipleship centers on knowing the Father personally.

• Intimacy with God should precede attempts to teach, lead, or accomplish great things for Him.

• A spiritual legacy passes from generation to generation through consistent faith and example.

• The call is not to perfection, but to a faithful, enduring walk with Jesus.

Scripture References

• John 15:4

• 1 John 2:12–14

• 1 John 2:28

• Psalm 78:6

• Hebrews 12:1–2

• 1 Corinthians 15:58

• Joshua 24:15

• Jude 24

Quote of the Day

"I'm less impressed with the famous. I'm impressed with faithful." — Priscilla Shirer

Broadcast Notes

Mark opens with John 15:4 and introduces the Moody Bible Institute Founders Week 2026 keynote. Moody Radio host Stephen Tabor provides the conference background, theme from Psalm 78:6, and introduction of Priscilla Shirer. She recalls attending Moody as a child with her parents and learning from examples of ministry integrity. Her opening illustration is Hurricane Ike's devastation of Gilchrist, Texas, where she describes one house surviving amid widespread destruction. She uses that image to challenge believers to construct lives that will remain through hardship. She contrasts faithfulness with fame, integrity with instant gratification, and a lasting walk with God with momentary enthusiasm. John's repeated word "abide" becomes central, illustrated by the difference between dipping a tea bag briefly and leaving it immersed. Reading 1 John 2:12–14 and verse 28, she urges believers to remain in Christ in light of His return. She then explores the stages of spiritual maturity, beginning with children getting to know their Father before striving to produce or lead. She starts recounting a family trip to Cape Town and a safari, stopping at the introduction of an African impala; Mark previews the continuation on Wednesday. The hurricane figures and other historical details are retained as Priscilla's illustration from the broadcast rather than separately verified claims.

❤■ Practical Applications

• Read John 15:4 and ask what it means to remain in Jesus throughout the day.

• Identify one storm that taught me a lesson I should not forget.

• Consider whether I value faithfulness more than visibility or applause.

• Replace a once-a-week spiritual routine with a small daily practice of prayer or Scripture.

• Use the tea-bag picture to ask whether I am staying immersed in God's presence.

• Thank a spiritual parent, mentor, or elder whose example has endured.

• Ask whether I am rushing into doing for God before spending time knowing Him.

• Tell a younger person one story of God's faithfulness in my life.

• Pray for perseverance and integrity in the responsibilities God has entrusted to me.

Today's Challenge

For seven days, begin with John 15:4 and spend ten unhurried minutes with the Father. Each evening, ask: "Did I remain in Christ today, or merely dip in and out?" Then encourage one person from another generation with a testimony of God's faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for inviting me to remain in Jesus. When storms come, help me stand on the truth of Your Word rather than on recognition, success, or my own strength. Teach me to value faithfulness over fame and integrity over applause. Forgive me for the times I have dipped in and out of fellowship with You while rushing to accomplish things in Your name. Draw me into a deeper, steady relationship with You. Help me know Your voice, trust Your character, and receive Your love before I try to give or lead. Strengthen my faith so it will endure through every season, and let the example of my life encourage those who come after me. Keep my eyes on Jesus and teach me to abide in Him. In His name, Amen.

About Today's Speaker

Priscilla Shirer is a Bible teacher, speaker, author, and co-leader of Going Beyond Ministries with her husband. She holds a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and has written numerous books and appeared in Christian films including War Room, Overcomer, and The Forge. In this Founders Week 2026 keynote, she challenges believers to cultivate enduring faith and pass a faithful example to the next generation.

About Today's Host

Mark Burns is General Manager of the WLUJ Family of Stations and Great News Radio Network and host of Mark & Friends. For decades he has served in Christian radio and ministry, sharing biblical teaching, testimony, and encouragement to help listeners grow closer to Jesus. In this edition he introduces and concludes a special Moody Founders Week conference presentation.

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We're glad you're here. We're glad you're here. Fellowship is sweeter.

Knowing you're near. It's so good to see you. We hope that it's fair.

Everyone loves you. We're glad you're here. Reading from John chapter 15, verse 4, Jesus said, remain in me as I also remain in you.

That was John chapter 15, verse 4. Oh, magnify the Lord with me. Let us exult his name together. It's Tuesday, October 27th, 2026.

And welcome to Mark & Friends. Today we're sharing a special message from the Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week Conference in Chicago as held last week. Bible teacher and author Priscilla Shirer challenges us to build a faith that will withstand life's storms and to remain faithful to Jesus through every season.

Here's the opening and introduction to Founders Week 2026. The older and older you get, you'll look around you and realize that everybody ain't building houses to last. That the reality is folks aren't staying.

They're not remaining, that the construct of their houses are not strong enough to withstand actual storms. Welcome to Moody Radio's special coverage of Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026. This historic Bible conference is coming to you from Chicago, Illinois.

I'm Stephen Tabor, inviting you to stay with us for the keynote message from Priscilla Shirer. Founders Week began in the early 1900s by founder D.L. Moody to provide people with opportunities to hear from Christian leaders, preachers, and missionaries. Today, Founders Week is the nation's largest, longest-running free Bible conference.

All sessions can be viewed at foundersweek.org. This year's theme is Generation to Generation, the Unstoppable Gospel, taken from Psalm 78:6, which says that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children. The keynote message from Wednesday evening's session was Priscilla Shirer. Priscilla holds a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and is a New York Times bestselling author with over two dozen books.

She is also an actress and has appeared in several films including War Room, I Can Only Imagine, Overcomer, and The Forge. Priscilla and her husband lead Going Beyond Ministries, which provides spiritual support and resources to churches. Here's Priscilla Shirer.

What a pleasure. What a privilege it is to be with the people of God tonight at Moody. It is great to be here.

I have feelings. I feel a way about being here. And the reason why is because I remember being here when I was 10, 11, 15, 19, following my mom and my dad around the campus.

They would be here talking with the publishing about dad's books or about radio ministry as the Urban Alternative has been carried on Moody Radio for so many years, and so I'd just follow along after them. And there are so many conversations I overheard between dad and Joseph Stoll and Erwin Lutzer and others, and I learned what integrity in ministry looked like from being in and around this campus. And so it feels like a gift to me to have the opportunity to participate in Founders Week.

Thank you for having me. Let's pray together because I'm looking forward to seeing what God wants to say to us tonight. Amen.

Lord, I thank you. I thank you that your word is alive. I thank you that it is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword.

Father, I thank you that you have given us the gift this evening to be at each other's presence where legacy exists. So I thank you for people like Pam McCray who have been here for so long serving God's people and have had such a hand in people's lives like mine. Thank you for the folks who have remained who show us that following you is worth.

We honor you, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

It was in September of the year 2008 that there was a Category 2 hurricane named Ike that swept through areas of the southern portion of the United States, but it hit Texas particularly hard. 100-mile-per-hour winds that ripped through a small town that is called Gilchrist. It devastated everything in its path, and that particular town was one of the worst hits.

Gilchrist is a very small community that sits on the shoreline there. There are about 200 homes, a place that is peaceful. A lot of people go there in their retired years so that they can live what they expect to be, a very calm, peaceful, settled, serene season of life.

That's what they expected. And then in 2008, the storm came. The aftermath of the storm was completely devastating on this little community where, again, there were about 200 homes that sat there, perfectly manicured landscapes that were in front of them and opportunities for people to enjoy the beauty of the neighborhood.

But then in 2008, Ike came. People that went to the community and the neighborhood the day after the storm said that they could barely recognize what the neighborhood had been because it didn't look anything like it had just 24 hours earlier. And of the 200 houses that had once existed in this community, only one remained.

The landscape is odd to look at. It's unbelievable to see what looks like nothing more than a swamp 24 hours after a storm. And it begs a lot of questions when you see a landscape like this one because it really does make you want to ask, what is it about this house that made this one house be able to withstand a storm that 199 others could not withstand? And if I had a little time this evening, I'd talk to you about the fact that the owners of this particular house had been through previous storms.

And when they had been through these previous storms, they'd learned enough lessons to realize that they were going to have to make an investment of time, of money, of energy to retrofit their house so that it would be prepared for future storms. Because what good is going through all that pain unless you learn some lessons afterward? But what I'd rather do this evening is to get you to consider not just the geographical landscape of Gilchrist community after the storm, but I want you to just think and picture with me for a moment how unfortunately that landscape, when we think about it, looks like the landscape of many of our lives. That the reality is when we look at the relationships that are around us, I'm talking about the people that said they were going to go the distance with God.

The people that said that they were committed to what God was assigning to their life. The folks that came down to the altar with you and gave their lives to the Lord and said that they were intending to honor Him. That they wanted to build a house of faith with themselves, their family, their ministry.

The reality is that the older and older you get, you'll look around you and realize that everybody ain't building houses to last anymore. That the reality is folks aren't staying. They're not remaining.

That the construct of their houses are not strong enough to withstand actual storms. We used to look around at the landscape of the church, y'all, and we would see grandmothers in the house of God. We would see grandfathers in the house of God.

I'm talking about spiritual mothers and fathers. People who had gone the distance and had decided that they valued faithfulness over fame. That they valued integrity over instant gratification and success.

But sadly, if we're not careful, we'll look around and realize that everybody's house is not built to last. Where are the saints who will remain? Where are the saints who've decided that come hell or high water, I have determined that as for me and my house, what we're going to do is we're going to serve the Lord. That even if the political landscape changes, if the cultural landscape changes, if there are shifts in the economy, if it plummets no matter what, I have decided that my feet are firmly planted on the truth of God.

That I have set my face like a flint towards heaven. That I have fixed my eyes on Jesus who is the one, who is the author and the finisher of our faith. The one, y'all, who really is able to keep you from falling.

And to present you faultless before the throne with exceeding great joy. I came tonight to tell you to stay. I came to encourage you to remain.

I came to implore you brothers and sisters by the mercies of God to decide not to just follow Jesus in one season of your life. To not just decide when things are up, but also determine that even when they're down, I have decided that Jesus is worth serving. We are desperate for examples of people who stayed.

Folks who put their hands to the plow when they have decided to follow Jesus. We are seeing across the community of faith these virtues harder and harder to find. People that are valuing staying.

Because spouses are leaving, parents are giving up, dreamers throw in the towel on the dream God gave them, ministers are quitting what they said was a calling. How do you quit a calling? We're desperate for examples of people who have weathered some storms and their house is still standing. And y'all, I gotta tell you that the older and older I get, the less impressed I am with the famous.

I'm telling you, I'm impressed with faithful. I'm impressed with people who've just stayed. They've just remained.

They may not be famous, but they've remained. They may not be rich, but they've remained. They may not be applauded by the masses, but they've remained.

They may not have millions of followers on Instagram or have best-selling books, but they ain't even worried about that. They try to be steadfast and immovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord. May that be our goal.

May that be your goal no matter what season of life that you may be in, whether you're a current student here at Moody Bible Institute or you're one of the alumni that raised your hand, whether you're in the seventh decade of your life, the fifth decade of your life, or you barely have the taste of Similac off your breath. Decide you're going to stay. Decide you're going to be committed to following Jesus.

I want to encourage you about remaining in a leaving culture. This word, remain, shows up in Scripture by a particular author, John. John writes about remaining.

He often, in many translations of the Bible, uses the word that we most identify and are familiar with, abide. John, he wrote this gospel where over 40 times he uses the word abide, most notably in John chapter 15, which was my mother's favorite passage where he says abide in me and I in you. Then he comes around in three letters, three epistles, and he says this word again and again, abide, remain, stay.

In fact, scholars call these three little letters, 1, 2, and 3 John, something of a remaining trio, a staying trifecta because he keeps encouraging and imploring believers to remain, to be steadfast, to stay. Abide simply means to hang out over time consistently. One of the best illustrations that I've ever heard of that particular word, abide, it came from one of the best preachers I have ever heard, my daddy.

He said it's kind of like some tea drinkers like him will have a cup of hot water, they put a teabag in it, and they dip the teabag in and out, up and down. Then there are others who drink their tea completely differently like me. They let the teabag abide.

It just stays. It just hangs out in the water. My teabag will sit in there while the water is there, and it's just enmeshed and immersed one with the other.

And the tea is getting integrated into the water, and the longer you let the teabag stay, the stronger the tea will become. But if it's dipping in and out, it will be a weakened version of the tea. Not because there's anything wrong with the teabag or the water, it just didn't stay.

So if you dip in on Sunday, but you're dipping out on Monday, if you dip into your relationship with the Lord or your commitment with Him when you're around certain people, but you dip out when you're around others, then you'll find your house has no strength. So John implores us to remain. I want to read to you from 1 John 2. I'm going to read verse 12 through 14, and then verse 28.

John says, I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you on account of His name. He says, then I am writing to you, verse 13, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. Verse 14, it's almost like it was so important he's nearly repeating himself verbatim. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one. And then verse 28. Now, little children, here's our word.

Remain in Him. Abide in Him. Here's why.

So that when Jesus appears, we may have confidence and not shrink back from Him in shame at His coming. John says, I'm encouraging you to remain, to stay in verse 28. Little children, remain.

Be consistent. Have integrity and character and consistency. Be faithful in your relationship to the Lord, and also the calling, the assignment that He has on your life.

And he says, the motivation, the reason why you're going to want to remain, verse 28, is because Jesus is coming. He says you're going to want to have some confidence when He comes. And He doesn't mean in theory.

I'm telling y'all the trumpet's going to sound. I'm saying that He's going to step out on the clouds. I'm saying that Jesus is on the way.

In fact, time is getting short. And Jesus is on the way. And brothers and sisters, listen to me.

When Jesus comes, every single one of us are going to have to look our Savior in His face and give an account for the time, the talent, the treasures that He has entrusted to every single one of us and whether we were faithful with what it was that He gave to us to serve His purposes. We're going to have to answer whether or not we had a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And then He's going to ask me, and He's going to ask you, is your house still standing? Were you faithful? Not perfect, but consistent and faithful.

Did you have integrity in your relationship with Him? Did you have integrity with the assignment that He entrusted to you? He's going to check our lives to see if our house is still intact. And He's not going to ask me about your house. And He's not going to ask you about my house.

Each one of us is going to have to give an account. And so John says, the reason why you're going to want to be faithful is because Jesus is coming back. John, in his writing though, he clearly specifies that there are seasons.

You will have noticed it in verse 13 and 14. He says there are stages of development. There is progression in our staying, in our spiritual growth, in our abiding.

He writes to little children. Then He says young men or young women. And then He says fathers.

He acknowledges that there's a continuum of staying. There are stages of growth and maturity and development. There are seasons that you will go through.

And if we look at verse 13, you can see what all those stages are and the encouragement that He gives to each of us in each one of those seasons. He says at the bottom of verse 13, I am writing to you little children. He's talking about when you're a baby, fledgling stage, like you just got here.

You just started your relationship with the Lord. You just started the ministry. You just started the marriage.

You just started building the business or the endeavor that the Lord has entrusted to you. He says I'm writing to you when you're in the fledgling stages of growth. I am writing to you little children.

He says here's why I'm writing to you, verse 13, when you're in this stage. I'm writing to you to implore you to come to know the Father. He says your whole job when you're in this season, this stage, this beginning process, in whatever assignment the Lord is entrusting to you or even just coming to know Christ as Savior in your walk with Him.

He says I'm writing to you in this stage so you will know that the whole goal of this stage is to get to know who your daddy is. The only way you're going to have or that I will have a firm foundation that will allow our houses to stay upright when the winds blow and the skies open and the rain falls. When the storm comes, the only way our houses of faith will have any chance of remaining is if we have a firm foundation of intimacy with our Father.

He says don't skip this stage. Get to know who your Father is. Here's what babies do.

They don't produce, they don't generate, they don't give. They lean back on the chest of their parent. They get to know the voice of their father.

They become well acquainted, build depth of relationship with the one who gave them life. Don't skip this stage. Don't grow up too fast.

Don't start giving before you've actually taken an opportunity to receive. Don't start teaching what you actually haven't had an opportunity to experience and mature in your own life. John says don't skip just getting to know who your daddy is.

This is the good part. As was mentioned, I have three boys, and they're in their grown-ish stage of life right now where they think they're grown, but they still need your money. Anybody know what I'm talking about? My husband and I had the privilege of taking our sons with us.

Probably about eight years ago, we were able to all go to Cape Town, South Africa. We knew a year in advance that we were going to get to do some ministry there. We had been invited.

I was looking so forward to it. And since we knew it a year in advance, in my mind, it was the perfect opportunity for us to use that year to try to save up enough money to be able to go together, the five of us as a family. I thought this might be the only time in our lives where we have the opportunity to go there together.

At the time, they were also homeschooled. We homeschooled them because they've basically traveled with us in ministry for their entire upbringing. So I also thought it would be a great opportunity for me to plan what they were going to be studying in the six to eight weeks before Cape Town to plan it around the fact that we'd be there.

So I started teaching them about apartheid and Nelson Mandela. I wanted them to also see the landscape of Cape Town online and in books and just experience some of the realities that hopefully they would get to see when we got there in person. So we looked at animals that were indigenous to that area and foods that were culturally the norm in that area.

My hope was they'd experience it when we got there. So we were prepared. And when we arrived, I was looking forward to letting them see what they had only experienced on the pages of a book.

I think they thought they were going on vacation. No, we had stuff to do. Because you're going to get on this ferry and we're going to go across this body of water so that you can go to Robben Island and see where Nelson Mandela was in prison.

You're going to go to this apartheid museum and you're going to see what the struggle was there and what people experienced. You're going to go to the top of Table Mountain so that you can actually look out and see the landscape from that perspective. We're going to do all the things and you're going to be happy about it.

You're going to enjoy it. You're not going to have an attitude problem about any of these things that we're going to do. You're going to eat all the food.

You're going to see all the animals. And you're going to be happy about it. And one day you will rise up and call me blessed is what you're going to do.

I remember there was one day in particular where the boys had a little bit of an attitude problem. I understood on this day because we did have to wake up exceptionally early before the sun had even come up so that we could drive three hours outside of town. Because we're all the way over there, we need to take a little half-day safari so that hopefully we can see some of these animals you've only ever seen in a book or online.

And so we did. Drove three hours outside of town. Sat inside an open-faced jeep.

There was a guide that was facing us, sitting in front of us. He was bright and bubbly, very educated about the animals. We started our drive through the safari park.

He was pointing out different groups of animals, some of which we had seen before here in the States, but many that we'd only ever seen online. One of those herds of animals was an African impala. Oh, listening friend, you're going to hear some important spiritual lessons from the impala, zebra, and other ways we can prepare for Jesus' return at this same time tomorrow during Mark & Friends.

And what a challenge Priscilla has already given us. Build a faith that lasts. Remain faithful.

And above all, develop a personal growing relationship with our Heavenly Father. You've been listening to Priscilla Shirer at Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026 as held last week in Chicago. Hear today's program again and explore additional ministry resources under the Mark & Friends tab at GreatNewsRadio.org or WLUJ.org. Thanks for listening.

Thanks for being a part of our radio listening family. This is Mark Burns with Great News Media. God bless you and have a great day and night.