



# D. L. Moody: His Life, as Told by Ethel Barrett

“Dear Dad”: a biography of Dwight L. Moody, not told chronologically but by describing facets of his life, through the reading of an imaginary letter from his son Willie to his deceased father.

Audio CD (42 minutes). This recording is all on one track.

## Synopsis of Contents of the Audio CD

### 1. What kind of a teenager were you?

- a. Left home early
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday school experiences
- c. Hearing about the Christian life as a matter of choice
- d. A noisy, active new believer

### 2. What kind of a Christian worker were you? (at ~ 10 minutes in)

- a. A ball of fire
- b. Stuffed the mission hall with boys from the street
- c. Drew children from the slums to come to Sunday school
- d. Tracked one who was hiding under a bed
- e. Pulled them into the arms of God
- f. Gave up his worldly ambitions and grew passionate about spending the rest of his life bringing lost persons to Christ

### 3. How was your Christian growth?

- a. Never stopped growing
- b. Walking down a street in New York City, he vowed to “be that man?” who would be wholly devoted to God – never more touched by fame or position or money

### 4. How was your ministry?

- a. Evangelistic campaigns
- b. Northfield schools
- c. Moody Bible Institute: “to leave a whole host of grand men and women behind” him
- d. Shipwrecked, with a failing heart, he vowed again to spend the rest of his life for the Savior
- e. Chicago World’s Fair had to close on Sunday, because all the people were at Moody’s church
- f. “Expectancy” summed up his life in a word
- g. “He never got stale” summed up his life in a sentence

**5. What kind of a preacher were you?** (at ~ 24 minutes in)

- a. Chatted to 6,000 just as if they were 6 people
- b. Made Bible figures real and marvelous, despite mispronunciations and grammatical errors
- c. Never had a church “program”
- d. Simple, yet profound

**6. What kind of a son were you?**

- a. Never ceased to pray for his mother

**7. What kind of a husband were you?** (at ~ 30 minutes in)

- a. Never ceased to tell his wife how much he loved her
- b. She was 13 when they first met
- c. The two were perfectly one; he leaned on her, but she didn’t make that apparent
- d. He said she was the only one who never kept him from doing what he felt called to do – who believed in his dreams

**8. What kind of a dad were you?** (at ~ 31 minutes in)

- a. Like a big overgrown Pied Piper
- b. Always willing to apologize when he’d been in the wrong
- c. Patient and concerned for the salvation of his children
- d. Beside himself with the arrival of grandchildren
- e. Grieved over the deaths of his first grandchildren, Irene and Dwight

**9. What kind of an invalid were you?** (at ~ 36 minutes in)

- a. Good-natured
- b. Played practical jokes from his bedroom

**10. How did you die?**

- a. Family gathered around
- b. Opened his eyes and said, “Oh, this is wonderful! Don’t call me back!”
- c. “Earth is receding; Heaven is opening before me”
- d. “Willie, this is wonderful! I see Irene and Dwight! I see the children!”
- e. He lived the Gospel

# Chronology of the life of Dwight L. Moody<sup>§</sup>

**1837** D. L. Moody is born on February 5.

**1854** Leaves home at age 17, seeking employment in Boston. His Uncle Samuel hires him to work in the retail shoe store he owned -- conditional upon his attendance at the Mt. Vernon Congregational Church. Becomes part of the Sunday school class taught by Edward Kimball.

**1855** D. L. Moody's spiritual conversion, April 21. Kimball visited the Holton Shoe Store, found Moody in a stockroom, and there spoke to him of the love of Christ.

**1856** D. L. Moody arrives in Chicago, hoping to make his fortune in the shoe business.

**1857/58** During the revival of 1857 to 1858, Moody becomes more involved with the YMCA, performing janitorial jobs for the organization and serving wherever they needed him.

**1860** Leaves the business world; begins spending more and more time serving the YMCA.

**1860s** Moody's Mission Sunday school flourishes and outgrows the converted saloon used as a meeting hall.

**1864** The Illinois Street Church (now The Moody Church) opens in its own building with Moody as pastor, on February 28.

**Early 1860s** Along with a few others, Moody creates the Committee on Devotional Meetings to minister to the troops stationed at Camp Douglas, the 72nd Illinois Volunteer Regiment.

**1861 to 1865** He ministers on battlefields and throughout the city, state, and country to thousands of soldiers, both Union and Confederate. All the while, he maintains the Mission Sunday school.

**1870** He and his wife meet Miss Emma Dryer; she later influenced him to begin a training school for women.

**1871** On Sunday, October 8, as Moody is ending his evening sermon, the city fire bell begin to ring – the start of the Great Chicago Fire. After securing his family's safety, Moody and his wife stay in the north side of the city to help other residents. The fire finally burns out by Tuesday afternoon, after consuming much of what Moody had built.

**1872** In June, Moody makes his first trip to the United Kingdom.

**1873** In June, Moody, with his wife Emma, their children, good friend and musician Ira Sankey and his wife travel from New York to Liverpool, England. Moody and Sankey travel throughout the U.K. and Ireland holding meetings, helping to fuel the revival that was slowly sweeping the region..

**1875** The Moody family returns to the United States, to settle in Northfield, where Moody was born and raised. He begins to plan his next round of evangelistic city campaigns.

**1875-1876** From October 1875 to May 1876, Moody and three other evangelists tour through the major cities of the Midwest and Atlantic coast, preaching the message of salvation.

**1879** Moody opens the Northfield Seminary for Young Women to provide young women the opportunity to gain an education. Soon after, he establishes the Mount Hermon School for Boys with the same goal as the girls' school – to educate the poor and minorities.

**1886** A formal meeting at Farwell Hall with Mr. Moody addressing the gathering results in the founding of the Chicago Evangelization Society (later renamed Moody Bible Institute). Moody comes out to Chicago to help raise money for the Society, support Dryer, and see his dream become a reality.

**1886** Moody assembles a large group of college students at Mount Hermon for the first “College Students’ Summer School.” This conference would birth the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

**1894** Moody founds the Bible Institute Colportage Association.

**1890s** Moody continues to evangelize throughout America, often preaching in major cities and at various universities.

**1899** D.L. Moody dies at his home in Northfield on December 22.

**1947** Dr. William Culbertson becomes president of Moody Bible Institute.

**1967** Ethel Barrett gives a dramatic presentation about the life of Dwight L. Moody to a gathering at Moody Bible Institute during Founder’s Week, on April 4.

§ **Source: [Chronology of the life of Dwight L. Moody and the story of his life](#), compiled by Moody Bible Institute**

## **Keyword terms:**

I. moody , D.L. Moody, Dwight L. Moody, Moody, Moody Bible Institute, Massachusetts, Bible, Christian, 1837, church, DL Moody, American, Northfield Schools, 19th century, evangelist, Christian biography, evangelism, American evangelist, Dwight Lyman Moody, christian biography resources, Evangelism, United States, D. L. Moody, preachers, christian audio, Christian biography resources, Biblical, Institute, Evangelical, Dwight, Chicago, Recording, Northfield Mt. Hermon, Northfield Mt. Hermon School, Preachers, Mt. Hermon, christian, Audio, Christian stories, d l ..., Stories

**Website: [www.homeschoolhowtos.com](http://www.homeschoolhowtos.com)**