

#7 of 12 - 5 & 10 on the 15th

(a monthly series on impactful Christians who poured out (5) their lives in Christ's strength and power (10) sent out around the 15th of each month)

G. Campbell Morgan – The Preacher who Couldn't Preach!

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." – Romans 11:29 (ESV)

Intro Refrain - This is the seventh in a monthly series this year entitled *Victorious Christians You Should Know* from Warren Wiersbe's book by this title, introducing you each month to one amazing Christian from the past.

Church history is so important! It's both encouraging and inspiring to hear how Christians have sought the Lord, lived for Him, been sustained by Him to accomplish great things in the Kingdom of God, and then die and pass into eternal life. We are the church in our time! We must both take up the cause of Christ in our day and also live for Jesus with dedication and passion – laying down our lives so that the life of Christ might be lived in us and through us. I hope these short sketches inspire you to read more about each of these Christians and to go out, asking Holy Spirit, to help you live a more earnest and uncompromising Christian life.

"When God Says 'Yes' after Man Says 'No': The Story of G. Campbell Morgan"

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves... but our sufficiency is from God." – 2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV)

We all know what it's like to face rejection. Maybe it's a job that didn't come through, a dream that fell apart, or a door that closed so hard it felt like it would never open again. But sometimes, those very moments become the turning points in God's greater plan for our lives. One powerful example is the story of George Campbell Morgan – a man who became one of the most respected Bible teachers of his time, but who first heard a resounding "no."

Born in 1863 in Gloucestershire, England, George Campbell Morgan grew up in a godly home, where his father was a Baptist preacher. By age 13, he was already teaching Sunday School. He loved the Bible deeply, and by his early twenties, he felt called to full-time ministry. So, in 1888, he applied to be a Methodist minister.

But the response was crushing: **he was rejected**. Of 105 candidates, only two were turned away – Morgan was one of them. In his diary, he wrote just one word: **"Rejected."**

Most would have seen that as the end of a dream. But Morgan's father, in a note of gentle wisdom, wrote back:

"Rejected by men, but accepted by God."

This marked a turning point – not a dead end. Morgan chose to press on. He began preaching where he could, trusting God to open the right doors. Within just two years, the famed American evangelist **D.L. Moody** heard him preach and was so impressed that he invited Morgan to the U.S. to preach and teach at Moody Bible Institute. That encounter launched Morgan into international ministry.

He eventually returned to England and took up the pulpit at **Westminster Chapel in London**, where he preached to thousands weekly for many years (including before and after the ministry of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones). Morgan also became a prolific writer – publishing **over 60 books**, including his famous “Exposition of the Whole Bible” and devotional works like *The Crises of the Christ*.

Through it all, Morgan remained humble, focused, and devoted to the Word of God. He once said:

“The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God.”

And reflecting on his life’s work, he wrote:

“Preaching is not the proclamation of a theory, or the discussion of a doubt. It is the declaration of the Word of God.”

He passed away in 1945, but his legacy of biblical faithfulness lives on.

So what can we take from George Campbell Morgan’s story?

- 1. Rejection is not the end of the story.** When people say “no,” God may be setting the stage for something greater. The rejection letter Morgan received didn’t stop his calling – it redirected it.
- 2. Our calling comes from God, not from institutions.** Human approval may feel important, but ultimately, it’s God who appoints and equips.
- 3. God uses closed doors to strengthen our faith and sharpen our gifts.** If Morgan had been accepted by the Methodists, he may never have impacted the wider world in the way he did. God’s path was better.

If you’re in a season of disappointment or feel sidelined, take heart from Morgan’s life. What may seem like a closed door today could become a platform for your greatest kingdom work tomorrow.

Scripture Reflection:

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.