

A different kind of strength: Toni Collier on women's *Unshakable Moxie*

TRANSCRIPT

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NOTE: This transcript was AI-generated and has not been fully edited.

[00:00:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:** You're listening to the Denison Forum podcast. I'm Dr. Mark Turman, executive director of Denison Forum. I want to remind you that the Denison Forum exists to equip people to think biblically, to live holy, and to serve redemptively, to make the world a better place until Jesus comes again. And, uh, on the Denison Forum Podcast, we're just seeking to find clear, uh, ways to understand that, some direction on how can we be equipped and live that kind of life as salt and light.

And today, we get to talk to Toni Collier. Uh, some of you may be familiar with her. She's a fellow Texan, so we were just talking about that a moment ago. But if you're unfamiliar with Tony, she is an international women's minister. I love the name of her ministry. We're going to ask her about this in a minute, broken crayons, still color.

And as a grandfather with two young preschoolers, that means exactly what it's supposed to mean. Uh, she helps people to process, uh, through brokenness and find their way to hope. And she is known around the world as a host and author. Of a work called brave enough to be broken. She's consulted with organizations such as chick fil a orange conference mops international and if gathering And has helped them with strategic planning and youth ministry leadership marketing those kinds of things And so, uh new to me as a friend tony.

Welcome to the Denison forum podcast. We're glad to have you today

[00:01:37] **Toni Collier:** so glad to be here. I don't tell anyone that I paid you to read all those fun things about me, you know, um, but I'm so grateful to be here. I think it's going to be a great conversation. I'm just excited.

[00:01:47] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, as, as one Texan to another, uh, we know that we'll have fun even if nobody

else

[00:01:52] **Toni Collier:** we don't have a lot of fun.

[00:01:56] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, uh, for those of you that, uh, or for those that are listening to us that may be less familiar with you, uh, tell us a little bit of your backstory as a fellow Texan and how did you end up doing what you're doing?

[00:02:07] **Toni Collier:** Yeah, absolutely. I mean, you know, like all of us, our purpose typically comes out of places of pain.

You know, I, uh, grew up in Houston, Texas with a blended family. My mama got real sick growing up and I ended up being a little caregiver for her when I was just. Eight years old. Um, unfortunately, lots of darkness entered into my story early on sexual abuse and manipulation. My father was an alcoholic and really verbally abusive.

Uh, God has since redeemed our stories, but it was hard. It was super hard growing up. I, um. Went to numbing all of my pain with partying and drinking and was so far from the Lord. I left my parents house at 16 and thought I could put myself through college and ended up partying and almost getting kicked out with a low GPA to moving from Texas to Georgia and deciding that I was going to give my life to Jesus.

And ever since I have been on this road of trying to redeem my story. I went through a really hard, uh, divorce. I was in an abusive marriage, uh, for most of us when we're kids and we experience abuse or darkness or any sort of trauma when it goes unhealed, it just perpetuates a cycle when we're adults.

And so that was my story in an abusive marriage, had a daughter in that marriage and, uh, decided that the marriage was no longer God honoring or safe for me and my daughter. And from that place, I had asked myself the question, like, can God still really use me? Like the world shows me different that I'm too broken, that I've been through too much, that there's no way that God would ever allow me to do anything for his kingdom.

And to my surprise, we serve a God that actually does his best work in places of redemption, right? Like that's who he comes after. It's always the one, not the 99. And so I decided that I was going to use my voice anyway, and use all of my brokenness. Anyway, and the Lord just truly and divinely dropped broken crown, still color right in my lap one day, as I was going through a really hard season.

And I vowed for the rest of my life that I would shout it from the rooftops, that I would try my best to tell as many women as possible that God can still use you. He does his best work in the broken places. And that's what I get to do on my podcast and my books and on stages around the world. And it's been a blessing for sure.

[00:04:19] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, fantastic. That, that's a lot.

and it's just amazing how God, uh, does redeem things when you put them in His hands, right. Um, That no matter what the pieces may look like to us, he can do amazing things with it.

[00:04:33] **Toni Collier:** Yeah. Yeah. And it makes them bigger. And it's good.

[00:04:36] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yep. And those, those colors sometimes color even better after they're broken.

[00:04:40] **Toni Collier:** That's right. You got to, got a good little grip on them when they're a little smaller, you know?

[00:04:44] **Dr. Mark Turman:** That's right. That's right. Well, we want to talk today about a project that you're involved with called unshakable moxie. Can you tell us a little bit of the backstory about this project?

[00:04:53] **Toni Collier:** Gosh, it's so random. Honestly, our daily bread for many of us that have been saved for years and years, we remember those little, our daily bread pamphlets that were all over the churches and everywhere.

Well, they've taken that same. Um, content and just put it into digital form. And in some of the ways that our daily bread has been doing that as via podcast, they have daily devotionals and videos and audio, and more recently they decided that they would continue to do. Docu series. And so creating content that helps to evangelize in a way that's fresh and new and has familiar and beautiful and diverse faces.

And so I get an email one day and, uh, Julie, the director of this project was like, listen, we're going to go around America and we're going to interview women that have good grit and moxie and strength that have persevered and overcome things. And I want you to host it and it's you. I was like, it's me.

She's like, the Lord told me it's you. And I'm like, okay. And she's like, it's also Mariah small bone. Who's the wife of Joel small bone from for King and country. And she's like, do you know her? And I'm like, no, I've never met her in my life. And I'm getting ready to go on the road with her for nine months.

And interview women, and we met for the first time and we completely hit it off. It's been such a God thing for one thing that people need to know about our daily bread is it's a praying ministry. It's global. It reaches millions. It's huge, but the. Essence and the ability to pray and believe for God to connect people in all of his divine ways, it runs through the organization like nobody's business.

And so about a year and a half ago, we decided to get on the road and we've interviewed women like Dr. Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. Joni Erickson Totta, who is amazing. She's completely paralyzed from the neck down and has an incredible global ministry for those that are disabled.

Ruth Jo Simons, all of these women we got to go around the world and interview, and it's been amazing. The response has been amazing. The filming's been amazing. It's been real

good.

[00:06:55] **Dr. Mark Turman:** That's awesome. Well, that, that sounds like a, uh, getting thrown in the deep end to, uh, get to know

somebody that you haven't known and we're going to go do this project

for about the next year. and,

[00:07:05] **Toni Collier:** And we're going to get to know each other and we're going to snort cry together, even though we don't know each other. And it's just, you know, it's really just the essence of women.

You know, we heal and we process eye to eye. Men typically do it shoulder to shoulder. And so we were just eye to eye making it happen for about a year. So,

yeah.

[00:07:22] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, unpack that word Moxie a little bit. That's a, that's a great word. Uh, I've heard it used in various contexts, but, um, unpack that. And what was it? Um, was there something that when this was being described to you that just really triggered that said, okay, I really want to do this project, I really. Is there something that led up to that?

[00:07:45] **Toni Collier:** No. When they initially said, we want you to host a show called unshakable Moxie.

My response was, what is that? I don't, I've never heard that word in my life. I don't know where that came from. And they were like, it's grit. And what's interesting is in my own ministry, broken crown, still color. We use the word grit. A lot. I have a women's course where I walk women through a healing journey for eight weeks and it's called the hopeful woman course.

It's becoming a woman of good grit. And so I was real familiar with grit and I loved it. I have fallen in love with the word Moxie because what it is not is strength. And I think for a lot of us, we've been told, be strong, suck it up, numb everything, keep going, press through, persevere.

And I think it's shaped this ideology that healing and persevering is about pretending that you're okay.

When really true bravery and courage is saying that I'm not okay. And God is strong enough to come and to come for me, to come for me in this moment. And that's what Moxie is. It's this unshakable faith. It's. The belief when everything around you is completely dark. It doesn't make sense. It's scary. And you don't know what to do.

It's saying, I'm going to trust in God anyway, and I'm going to lean on his strength and from that, I'm going to build Moxie. I'm going to build grit. The next time something horrific happens in my life, I will know because of the goodness of God in my life that I can do this not because of my strength, but because of his, and that's what truth, the essence of true Moxie really is.

And it's been

beautiful.

[00:09:15] **Dr. Mark Turman:** it really kind of brings out, uh, puts a perspective on that verse that I got to tell you a lot of times I don't I just don't like this verse that much because i'm still processing how it works, right? Where where paul says when I am weak, then I am strong, right? and and there's a lot about that that we just We're like, I don't know if I want to

go

down that road or not Is has that been some of the experience that you've had in countering people around this conversation

of Wait a minute. I just want to be strong. I want to, I want to be the one that can handle everything and take a shot and keep

going.

And, you know, uh, are you in your conversations around this project?

Is it, have you seen some eyeopening moments with ladies of, Oh, it's okay for me to be honest and to be truthful about my

[00:10:04] **Toni Collier:** Well, let's, let's just dive into the apostle Paul. I mean, when we look at second Corinthians chapter 12, we, it's like one of his most vulnerable letters. He's writing to the church of Corinth and they're being boastful. And they're saying, you know, we've got this Christianity down and you guys stay out there.

And Paul's writing to them and he's. It's sarcastically saying in chapter 11, like if anyone should be boastful, it really should be me. Look at all that I've done for the kingdom. Look at I'm on

boats for days on end and I'm starving and I've been lashed and beaten and thrown into jail. If anyone should be boastful, it should be me.

And Paul goes into this intimate story about an encounter with God, where God tells him something so amazing and he doesn't even share it with the Corinth church, probably as a point to prove that you don't have to be boastful about anything but this. And he says. I'm boasting about my weaknesses. When I left the presence of God, I left with a thorn in my side.

How disappointing is that? God, I could do so much more. If you took this thorn away from me, I could move faster. I could take care of my kids more. I could do more for your kingdom. If you took this thorn away. And as Paul unpacks this moment with the Lord, he says, as I ask him to take my brokenness away, as I ask him to make me less weak and more strong, he says to me, Paul, my grace is sufficient for you.

And my power is actually made perfect in your weakness. Not in your boastfulness, not in you pretending to be perfect, because the world will tell us that we have to be perfect to be used, that if we're going to have true success, like it's going to come if we're perfect, but the truth is the upside down view of the kingdom is it's surrender that brings us to success, not perfection.

And we dive deep into that for this content because we have a generation that's falling. I mean, Falling, falling failure, moral failures, embarrassments of families because of shame, because we're hiding our weakness. And when we hide our weakness in the darkness, the light can't touch it and it can't be healed.

And I'm just praying and believing and hoping that with this content and with this new ideology, we'd save a generation, a generation of people that could boldly say. I am weak. I don't have it all together. I am a sinner. I am imperfect and I'm wired for struggle, but I am still so worthy of love and belonging.

God's going to heal these parts and I'm not going to become bigger. God's going to become bigger. And that's what I want. And that's what we've been trying to hopefully spread the word about through this project. Yeah.

[00:12:39] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, such a good word. Six, uh, tell me if I'm

wrong, but six

sessions

in this Bible study. Uh, for ladies to do some work on their own and, uh, then come together and have hopefully a really meaningful conversation of learning together. Um, but one of the, I was in a conversation recently, wanted you to comment because I was thinking of it as I was looking at some of this material, Which, is

that the strength that you're talking about, the strength that God provides, that's full of hope.

It's also full of these characteristics that we read about, uh, often called the fruit of the spirit, Galatians five, love, joy, peace, that it's a certain kind of strength, right? Can you kind of chase that out for us a little bit, that it's not the kind of strength you see in the world. It's a

different kind of

[00:13:25] **Toni Collier:** that it's not the kind of strength you see in the world, it's a different kind of strength.

Right. But self control, Oh my goodness. That's hard. When someone's lying about you, when someone has, you know, hit you or whatever the case is, that's what takes real resilience and strength. Come on. If you're a parent out there, let me tell you what takes some real resilience. Patience with your kids. Okay.

To, you know, not allow our own triggers from our childhood to be triggered by our kids and to respond in a way that is not godly, that's not like Jesus would be. Those are the hard things we live in a fallen, broken world. And we're living under a curse. Unfortunately, sweet Eve, okay. Um, from the beginning of time brought this darkness into our world.

And so it's hard and it's messy and it's dark. And the real strength that we're talking about is saying that I'm still going to be light in darkness. I'm still going to be kind when someone's not kind to me. I'm going to be patient when my kids are driving me up the wall. I'm going to have self control when I actually am so upset at my boss or my leader, I am going to be more like Jesus.

And that is a refining, messy, uncomfortable, awkward at moments, weird and hard journey, but it's the best journey and it produces the best fruit. Right? Because then we just look more like Jesus and that's just where the good stuff

is. You know?

[00:14:55] **Dr. Mark Turman:** And, and really becomes a big platform, right? For where we demonstrate the hope that we have that. that we're trusting in something that's bigger than us and transcendent. We're trusting in a person who can help us to not retaliate the way the world wants to retaliate, especially when we're hurt when we Uh, like I said, when we get attacked or, or hurt by somebody in some way that we're able to respond in a, in a way that is demonstrates the fruit of the spirit, the presence of the spirit in us, bringing us hope.

One of the things that's really pointed out in this docu series and in this material, there are videos to watch and, uh, there's private work to do. But one of the things that's encouraged is that ladies would do this in a community of faith, that they would do this in a group. Uh, talk about why it is

so important for ladies to get together and to form these kinds of conversations that lead to relationships that are transforming.

And, uh, talk about

that a

little bit and

sometimes how

hard

it

is for

[00:15:57] **Toni Collier:** that. Oh gosh, yes. Well, half of my ministry career was shaped under the leadership of Andy Stanley at Northpoint Ministries.

And one of the things that stuck with me forever and ever was that life change happens in circles, not rows. We go to church on Sundays and we get what we need. But the truth is real transformation happens when you can look someone in the eye and say, I know everything you've done. I know the hard parts of your story.

I know. All of the crevices of what you're thinking and the things that you battle with. And I still love you the same. And I'm not leaving the room. My friend Ann Voskamp says, when we get into deep rooted community and we confess and we hold each other's burdens, we become Jesus with skin on. because that's who Jesus is.

He's not the, you know, the, the God that's at the end of the tunnel waiting for us to get it all together for him to come. No, he's the one that lights the way he's, he's not the coach that's upset with us on the sidelines. He's actually the player saying, put me in, I've got some strength for your weakness.

I've got some redemption for your brokenness. And when we get to become that for other people, God becomes bigger when we get to confess our sins and to be completely open and to be held accountable. If we're going to be honest, gosh, I feel like the next generation doesn't even like the word accountability.

We hate that word, but the truth is it's the thing that makes us better. It's the friend that says, Hey, I noticed how you talk to your son. I noticed how you talk to your daughter. That probably wasn't the most loving way. That's what grows us and challenges us and changes us. When we don't have our own litmus test and our own filters within ourselves to be more like Jesus.

And so, we've been encouraging women and this is the reason why we created the Bible study so that it can be done in small groups. What we've heard from women is, we're just tired of like, The frilly Bible studies where we're just talking about how God's created the beautiful flowers. Like we want to talk about what we're going through, like how hard life is, how hard infertility is, how hard it is to be single, how hard it is to be broken up with or divorced or whatever the case is.

And that's what we want women to do to lock arms with each other because it's not necessarily the pain or the brokenness that'll take us out, Mark. I think it's doing it alone that will. That's what takes us out. When we can hold it together with each other, I think it saves us. Yeah.

[00:18:11] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, yeah. That's one of the devil's favorite strategies is to try to get us into a place of isolation where, where we think we're the only one and

that

nobody's life is as broken or twisted as ours

is. And,

um, What would you

get opportunity for a word of encouragement to I am envisioning a lady listening to this and she's like, you know, I've never figured out never, uh, never discovered how to get into a group like this, or maybe somebody who was, uh, and they got hurt in that group and they're like, you know, been there, done that, got the T shirt and the scar.

Don't don't need to try that again. Um, Talk to that lady who's, who's sitting here listening to us going, well, that all sounds great, but I don't know how to get into that group,

or I don't know if I want to

try that again,

what would you say to

them?

[00:18:58] **Toni Collier:** What would you say to that? I just, I gotta say, we get to trust again. And I say we get to, because it is an opportunity. When we think about our brothers and sisters in the Middle East and in some parts of Asia, who cannot proclaim the name of Jesus, who cannot gather together, who sometimes only has just the presence of the Holy Spirit and their own voice to hold them up.

We are privileged that we get to come together with. People with humanity, with God's sons and daughters and talk about him freely and gather for him freely and exalt him and worship him freely. Try again. If we did not get up and trust again, where would we be? We, if we got into a car wreck, will we never drive again?

If we felt, you know, some tussling on an airplane, will we never fly again? If we got nervous about a boat trip, will we never go on a cruise again? No, we'd get back up again. And I think it's the same thing with relationships. We have to get back up again. The Bible says that we get to enter the gates of heaven.

Like children. Can you remember how beautiful it was? I can remember because I have a nine year old daughter. How beautiful it is when she's frolicking on the playground and she comes over to me and she's like, mom, I gave this girl your number and I'm like, okay, maybe ask me first, but it's because she knows no strangers.

Kids understand the beauty of connection and community. And so have the awkward conversation in the grocery store at your Zumba class and say, Hey, I'd love to have grab coffee with you. I noticed you have this. I noticed we have this in common, have the hard conversations. I know it's difficult. I know we've got the extrovert and introvert things, but if, but God took all that into account, he knew we'd be extroverted.

He knew we'd be shy and awkward and not know what to say. And he still made us for community. He made us for people. So get back up again, trust again, heal again, connect again, and do the hard thing again.

[00:20:52] **Dr. Mark Turman:** yeah. And if, and if you're wondering, uh, or struggling with why is it so hard to connect? Well, that just tells you something about how deep sin runs in all of us, but it also. It says something about how much the devil doesn't

want it to

happen, right? He, he doesn't want us to connect because he knows that that's what God made us for,

that he, he, doesn't want us to connect with God.

Doesn't want us to connect with each other and wants us to stay in that

place of

isolation

and, and really

desperation.

Uh, I'm just, I'm guessing

Tony,

that there are at least a few women of real Moxie in the Bible that inspire you. Uh, you.

have one or two that

you want to talk

about that, Hey, these ladies, these ladies really represent

Moxie from a

scriptural standpoint.

And there's some

of my

favorites. Who would that

be?

[00:21:43] **Toni Collier:** that be? Okay. Judges for love, Deborah. Um, you know, the Deborah story is beautiful because she's, you know, speaking with this man and he's nervous about going into war and she's like, okay, I'll come with you. I think women have a really beautiful gift of witness. I just think like Jay been in his arm, I mean, I can go all into judges, but the moral of the story is that Debra said to this man, the Lord has called you to go and fight this battle.

He has told you that you will win. He has told you that he has you. And this man is like, I'm not going unless you come with me. And this is not Debra's battle to fight, but she got in the game anyway. She went to war anyway. And I just think women have this. Beautiful gift of witness. We sit with each other.

We wipe each other's tears. We fight battles for each other. It's just, it's a real beautiful gift. And I would also say, I think it's the woman in Luke and it is at, um, she, she comes in. To this party, um, with Jesus and these Pharisees and they've invited him into his house. And some theologians say that she'd had an encounter with Jesus before this moment, and he had saved her and set her free.

And she returns to him at this dinner party that she's not supposed to be at because she is known as a woman of sin that she has some sexual immoralities in her life. And she comes into this party and she throws herself at his feet and she pours this perfume on him and she washes his feet and that surrender, that boldness, that moxie that she has to be in a place where she does not belong, where she could be kicked out.

And she is saying, I will do. Anything I will embarrass myself. I will let my hair down. I will let everybody speak ill of me. I will let all of you judge me. I will not keep, I will not let shame keep me from surrendering at the feet of Jesus. And I think that's real Moxie. I'm not going to hide. I'm going to show everybody.

It doesn't even matter. I'm going to be at Jesus's feet and I'm going to confess all my sins and I'm going to do whatever it takes to be near him. And I think those are two good traits. I feel like that. Represent a lot of

moxie.

[00:23:55] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. And there's

there's just

so many good

examples

that, uh, we can talk about, you know, I uh, yeah, we, I,

yeah. And I, I love the, uh, you know, I love the thing that, uh, our founder, Jim Denison points out a lot that, you know,

Jesus and

God

thought so much of women

that

they made

women the

first witnesses to the

resurrection, you know,

you know, and you know, even, uh, you know, 2000 years ago, women couldn't testify in court,

uh, as a witness,

but God made them

the first witnesses and testimony of the resurrection.

Right.

So

let me, let me get you to comment on this. Let me take you to Luke 10 for a second, the story of Mary and Martha.

Okay.

Um, talk about for a minute how even Mary and Martha represent that Moxie doesn't look the same in every

woman. Um, you see a big contrast, you know, Martha apparently is the older sister, bold and almost, I don't know if we would say this theologically kind of

gets up

in

Jesus's grill, right.

And

says,

Hey, if you had been

here,

it would have been different. And, and Martha or her sister, Mary has a completely different. Uh, kind of personality. Talk about how, um, Moxie is

really

a, a,

a

quality

behind your

personality. Uh, am I on the

right track?

[00:25:13] **Toni Collier:** yeah, you're on the right track. Let me just say this. I'm Martha all the way. I'm like, hold up. Why didn't we do this? This could have been more efficient. We could have, we could have skipped all this pain. Like what's going on. I love that picture because I do think Moxie is such a strong, bold word that women do think, well, I'm not extroverted.

I, I don't, I'm not on stage. I don't have a mic. I don't have a podcast. I don't write books like Tony does. And one of the, honestly, the privileges that I get to do is to walk with women through their healing journey. And this is the thing I remind them. We cannot fall into the comparison trap. It is yet again, another scheme of the enemy that would take us out to say that we don't.

Worship as well as her. We don't do this as well as her. Well, I'm not journaling every single day and comparison robs us of our ability to be grateful for who God's designed us to be. And I think when we see those contrasting stories, the Mary and Martha's and all of the, even, I mean, even Deborah and Jabin's army and all this whole entire story, I think what we get to see is God's design.

One of the things that we were intentional about with unshakable Moxie is interviewing women that have totally different personalities. We have some women that are strong and fierce and quite literally marching on the sidelines like Bernice King. And then we also have Ruth Joe Simons, who is just this sweet, Asian, delicate woman who is so honest about battling with her Asian culture and how an Asian culture.

You are to become a doctor and a prestigious professor and she's an artist and that was frowned upon but God took the very thing that he put on the inside of her and gave her power to infuse the world with beauty through art and worship. It just goes to show you that we're small and we love to put God in a box and what he's so good at is saying.

Watch, just watch me take the one quiet one in the back of the room. Watch me use the Christian bully, the murderer, Paul to do great works in my kingdom. Watch me do the impossible. So for those of you out there that are just like, well, that's not me. I'm not on podcast. I'm not on stage. I need you to know that God's coming for you.

He's coming for you because in a world that says you have to be loud and bold and fake strong, he is saying I am coming after the one. Who hadn't found their voice yet. And I'm going to use that one right there to do great things for me and my kingdom.

[00:27:36] **Dr. Mark Turman:** no. And, and he can, and he can make you that kind of strong, uh, salt and light where whatever your environment, whatever your circles of influence

might be. So we're. We're having this conversation, uh, just a few days before we launch into the month of March, which has been set aside as a women's

history

month.

Um,

celebrating

women.

Why do you

think we

need

a women's history month?

[00:28:03] **Toni Collier:** This is, this may be a little controversial, Mark, because I, you know, me and my friends have been talking over the last couple of months about how we feel about men and women in our generation.

And especially in the church, it feels like there has been a righteous shift of giving women voices and encouraging women, but we don't want to leave the men behind. You know, when, when God said we were made in his image, he meant. The both of us, men and women. And while I am so glad that we have a women's history month, and I think it is needed because of the history again, thousands of years ago, I mean, women weren't able to vote hundreds of years ago and women were able to use their voices.

Yeah. I think we need those things, but I also think that we need a balance of holding the truth. And the truth is God made us both in his image. We have very unique individual traits, the both

of us, and when we can. Elevate both of those traits. I think that's when we make the kingdom shine bright. You know, so I'm I, I hope the women don't get mad at me.

I'm like, yes, international Women's Month, I love it. Let's do it. And also, I have a son, and I want him to know that I value my daughter's voice just as much as I value his. And there are unique traits that my daughter has and unique traits that my sweet son has. And I wanna make sure that we are doing a good job.

Celebrating our men too. Um, making sure that we know that we love their warrior spirits and we love their bravery. We love the protector that's in them, that God infused on the inside of them as they celebrate that God infused beauty into us as women and nurturing and care and witness. So I just wanna make sure we hold both y'all.

[00:29:41] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, no, I think you're exactly

right.

And, and, you know, but

at the same time, you know, when we look

across the long

course of

history, we do know. That some, some groups can clearly be, uh, indicated that they haven't been treated

fairly, uh,

In long, in long term ways, we, you know, we're finishing up black history month, and there's a reason there are good reasons why we should call that out.

Uh, and I was just even just reading in the Bible recently, you know, Psalm 103 says that the Lord gives righteousness and justice to those who are

treated

unfairly

and In some ways we all get treated unfairly, but we can certainly look in the long course of history and

see

that, uh, women have had significant experiences, unique experiences of being treated unfairly, African Americans and others.

And so, and sometimes when, uh, sometimes men,

you know, um, and we can

we

can

have a day or a

month for everybody at

some point, it'd probably be legitimate. right Um,

[00:30:43] **Toni Collier:** on up. We're

celebrating everybody.

[00:30:44] **Dr. Mark Turman:** That's right. But let me, let me ask you this question, um, to, uh, make this a little bit even more practical. Uh, you know, we celebrate women, you know, we celebrate our moms on Mother's Day and we celebrate them on their birthdays and those that are married.

We might celebrate them on their

anniversaries.

Is it?

Is there a way that an individual or even a church could say we're going to honor women and the

[00:31:08] **Toni Collier:** uniqueness

of who women are?

[00:31:10] **Dr. Mark Turman:** We're going to

celebrate them in the month

of March.

this way. Would you have a recommendation on

how to do that?

[00:31:16] **Toni Collier:** I love that so very much. You know, I think one of the ways that we've seen women really be elevated is to give them a voice and to share power with them and that's going to look different for every church, but that may mean that there's a moment in each service where a woman is encouraged to use their voice on stage in some way.

Maybe it's a video that we can create to honor women in this month. And just to highlight some of the things and the ways that women have been such a gift to the world. There are inventions that would not be a part of this world without women. There are wars that would not have been able to sustain.

And I think drawing some of those, um, some of those gifts and some of those stories is always just such a really beautiful way. Um, I have a church in Atlanta that's doing something like a Mother's Day celebration, but during the month of March and on a Sunday, they're doing flowers for the moms and flowers for all the women, and they're also inviting all of the younger girls to be a part of the services and giving them gifts as well to honor them.

And I think those are just ways. And, but, but. Not even just the month of March. It's, it's taking a close look at your staff and taking a close lift, look at your worship team and the ministries that you have and making sure that there are women and the voice and the handprints of women all throughout your church, not just on a Sunday morning, but Monday through Saturday, right?

Like in the

[00:32:39] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Right.

[00:32:40] **Toni Collier:** of the church, I think is super important.

[00:32:42] **Dr. Mark Turman:** No. And like I said, sharing leadership, sharing platforms, you know, we used to say when I was pastoring church that what, uh, what gets platformed is what gets

valued. Um, and, and,

um, sometimes, you

know, almost every pastor I

know

would say, you know

what, if
we didn't have
the
women helping
us, the church would
close
immediately.
Right.

Um, But But that doesn't always mean that we allow them to have places of leadership or places on the platform that maybe, uh, would be helpful as well through. So through this, through the study and through the project of

unshakable

Moxie, uh, how did it change you? How did

meeting some of

these women

change you

personally?

[00:33:22] **Toni Collier:** goodness. You know, I think I'm 32. I've been through a lot of life, unfortunately. Um, a lot of hard things, addictions and abuse and divorce and just so betrayal, infidelity, all, all sorts of things. And I just think that when you look at women who are older than you, who are brave enough to share the hard parts of their stories as a young woman, as a somewhat young woman in my thirties, there's just so much hope.

I'm like, okay. My life isn't over like I can make it through this. If this woman is brave enough to share the hard parts of her story and she's still standing, it's like tangible hope. And we've, I mean, our relationships, even like there are women that were on the show that still text us now checking in, how's it going?

Do you need any advice on anything? What do you need? Some wisdom on finances, longevity. It's just giving me hope that. This is not the end that there's so much more life that God wants to

use in that he is still using the brokenness to create real beauty in the world, but it's been so inspiring and I can't tell you guys what's coming next, but needless to say, this is not the end that you will, you'll experience from Moxie.

[00:34:36] **Dr. Mark Turman:** All right, we'll tell people where

they

can get docu

series

called unshakable

Moxie.

How do they find it?

[00:34:44] **Toni Collier:** Yeah. Unshakable moxie. org. Um, you can sign up, you'll get access to the, all the episodes, but also you'll have access to getting the study guide. So we have a little Bible study and study guide that you can do by yourself.

You can do it with. Friends, I would encourage you to do it with friends, your small group, bring it to your church, tell them about it. Maybe there's a night that you guys can get together and watch the full show, you know, for the entire night, doing an event at your church, but unshakable moxie. org, uh, the, our daily bread YouTube has all of the episodes as well.

We'd love for you to check them out. They're quick. They're beautiful, but most importantly, they are God centered, Jesus Christ focused and so good and encouraging.

[00:35:24] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, thank you for letting us know about that.

You know,

I, I come all the

way

around

to where you

started with

our daily bread. I remember

as a pastor,

we just,

we had those

little

booklets, those little booklets were everywhere in the

church and, and, uh, I thought, what is

this? And, and, uh, To see that it's continuing to have such a robust impact for the kingdom is just a great thing.

And, uh, Tony, thank you for being a part not only of the series, but of today's conversation. Uh, we're grateful to make the connection with you and, and, uh, look forward to all that God's going to continue to do with you and through you. I want to thank our audience today as well. For listening to the Denison forum podcast.

As always, we encourage you to rate and review us, uh, on your podcast platform, share this with others, and especially, uh, share this with women in your life so that they can connect to this series on unshakable Moxie. And we hope that it is a blessing to you and to them. And again, thank you for being a part of the Denison forum podcast.

God bless you.