

fall away. It is important that I believe that we have assurance, that we can say, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed unto him against that day." Not only that He is able but that He will. He said, Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. He said, Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." He gives us promises. He gives us assurance. We can truly know we are saved. But I do not believe we can tell about anybody else.

Here is someone who gives every indication as far as ~~if~~ far as other people can see of having truly been saved, but it is purely external. It is purely superficial. It represents trusting in himself rather than in Christ. Perhaps he is a hypocrite. Perhaps he has been pretending things without really meaning it. Perhaps he just wants to win the approbation of those among whom he moves. Perhaps he sincerely expects to follow in this line but has not really received Christ as Saviour, or perceived himself as a lost sinner. I do not know but I believe God knows in every case and I believe the man can know in every case. I believe a man has a right to know he is truly saved and have absolute confidence that God's hand is upon him and will never be removed.

Here is a man whom I have known who is a very earnest effective Christian, and then he falls into sin or unbelief and becomes an opponent of all he formerly seemed to hold dear. What shall I say? I still do not know. By their fruits you know them, yes. But by their fruits we know whether they are people we should cooperate with. By their ~~fruits~~ fruits we know whether they are people that we should try to work with or that we should ~~consider~~ consider as far as we can tell as belonging to the household of God. But by their fruits we cannot tell ~~we~~ with certainty whether they are saved or lost. Here is a person who has a very fine background, brought up among highly moral people, people who were considerate and kind and he has taken