

Chapel 2/27/74

I have always felt greatly rebuked by the fact that one time when I saw a man whom I had not seen for a long time, a man whom I had known as a very earnest and effective Christian but had not seen for a long time, that when I was with him a good many years ago and we had a hour together and we had many experience in between, I devoted the time I was speaking to tell about interesting experiences I had had and never thought of saying a word to try to strengthen him spiritually. I felt that as if spiritually he was stronger than I was, and we just simply enjoyed our fellowship together. The next time I heard of him six months later he had fallen into deep sin and had fallen away from any profession of Christianity. Now I don't whether God could have used a few words of mine at that time to give him just a little added strength to resist those temptations, and to go on in the great profession of Christianity he had held before when I had so looked up to him. I don't know whether anything I said could have been effective or not. I certainly don't think my failure there was the cause of his falling away, but I do feel that I was very blameable that I did not seize the opportunity when we were together even though I did ~~not~~ feel he was spiritually so very advanced that I did not seize the opportunity to at least say a few words that God might have used to help him to grow in grace and to resist those terrible temptations that came to him shortly after and about which I knew nothing. Understanding what the will of God is. It is God's will that we should win others to salvation. It is equally His will that we should exert an influence on those with whom we come in contact to ~~lead~~ ^{will} lead them to understand God's Word, to draw them toward Him instead of away from Him. "Feed the flock of God that is among you" is a very important command for Christian leaders, but it is a command for all Christians. It is part of the will of God for all of us.

These two are very important then, and of course ~~it~~ in this second