

He is beyond me spiritually, and so I relaxed and told him some of the experiences I'd gone through, and just had a pleasant time and I've never seen him since. But I heard later on that had at that time been in a spiritual crisis in his life. That he had at that time to quite an extent turned against all he had believed in before.

From what I've heard of his life since, I cannot but think that if I instead of thinking, Here's a man who is so much ahead of me spiritually so there's no need of my trying to help him. So I'll just relax and have a pleasant time with him. He was in a crisis situation that I knew nothing about. Just a few words of real spiritual help, God might have used to help him through that crisis.

I think we all have lost opportunities, but I ~~think~~ think we should use them to remind us that these are the three primary purposes for which God leaves us in the world, if we are Christians. We should think of all three in our all our contacts in our lives.

When an idea comes into your head, if even it seems bizzare check it against these purposes. Satan may be giving you an idea or God may be putting it in your head. The result of your experiences may be putting ideas in your head. Check it carefully and see how it fits it.

Dr. R. A. Torrey told how when he was in his first church and was working hard one day on his sermons, the thought came into his head, I ought ~~to~~ to go down to _____ saloon and preach. He thought, what a silly fool ideal. (I guess we don't call them asloons any more now. In those days the saloon was what we call the bar now. That was one of the great promises of Roosevelt. The saloon will never come back! We don't have it. We just have bars! which are exactly the same thing.)

Torrey thought, I must go down to this man's saloon and preach. He thought what a silly fool idea. But he had the feeling more and more: I ought to go down there and preach. Finally, he got up, went down there to the saloon, walked in, faced the men there and gave them a short message about the importance of believing in Christ. He gave the message and left. Who knows. God may have used the message he gave. He saw no real fruit of it. But, a week or two later he was walking down an alley and he saw the proprietor of the other saloon in the two coming up the street toward him. He looked so angry. He thought the man was going to beat him up. He wondered what made the man so angry. When he got to the man the man said, Look here! My saloon is just as good as so-and-so's ~~saloon~~ saloon. If you can preach in his, you ought to preach in mine too! So he went over to his saloon. You never know where there may be an opening to present the Word of God! I don't think that ordinarily you're going to have ideas like that come into your head. You should have definite purposes you are working toward. But test an idea that comes into your head and see whether perhaps it really gives you an opportunity of making Christ known.