

The more we study the Scriptures; the more we bring our lives into conformity with God's will, the more likely it is that ideas or impulses that come to us are from God rather than from Satan. How easy it is for us to become selfish about our own objectives, our own desires. Even to become selfish about real good things with which we are connected. To wish to promote them and not to think of other parts of Christ's vineyard.

On the day of prayer, we were told an interesting story about how Spurgeon had a considerable sum of money given to him and it was -- and he said he had the feeling he ought to give that to the orphanage in the town where he had just been holding meetings when he was given this sum of money. We were told how he went and gave the money to them. He got back to London where he was interested in building his great tabernacle, and he could not bring that money with him to contribute to the building of the tabernacle because he had given it to the other thing. Then how some money was given to him that made up for it and that much more toward the tabernacle.

As I think of that incident, it seems to me that Spurgeon was constantly studying the Word of God. And seeking ways to bring his life more and more in accord with God's will. The thought probably = God probably put the realization into ~~x~~ his heart that in his great desire to build his tabernacle in London which he was building where he was giving the Word and was so tremendously used of the Lord, that he was in danger of forgetting other parts of the work of the Lord. Facing that danger and at the same time realizing that the money for his tabernacle was not a matter necessary for its existence or even for its enlargement, whereas it might be necessary for the successful continuance of Muellers's work, the thought came into his mind: This ~~x~~ sum of money here, if I really show my devotion to the Lord, I should go and give it to the orphanage rather than take it for my own work. God blessed him for his unselfishness in that particular situation and gave an equal sum of money back to him as soon as he got back to London, but if God hadn't done that it might still have been God's will that he show his interest in other parts of God's work, and not simply in the part with which he was vitally connected, by passing on this gift to that important work of Geo. Mueller.

That might seem a little in contradiction to the seventh point which is, Don't jump to decisions, think matters through. I believe that Spurgeon was an illustration of a man who had been so studying the Word of God, who had been so working to serving the Lord so long that his mind would have been more open to the gentle leading of God's spirit than any one's mind can be who has not been studying the word a great deal and seeking to bring himself into conformity to God's purpose.

How easy it is to sit in a meeting and hear somebody tell about the tremendous opportunities in Afghanistan, and decide God wants me in Afghanistan, and say I volunteer for Afghanistan! Maybe the Lord does want you in Afghanistan, but you should think it over, sleep over it. Take time to consider whether most likely that is the Lord's will for you.