

have a lot to do with it. But I don't think that fascination that comes has much to do with whether two people will make a Christian family that is honoring to the Lord and means what it should to both of them.

It is certainly God's will that we go very slow and careful about selection of the one with whom we are going to spend our lives. That we use every possible means of making sure that we have made the right choice. I was much impressed when I was in college of hearing some folks a little older than myself say, We knew each other for three years. We went together for 3 years. But after we got married we had to learn to know each other all over again. We learned so much about each other we'd never dreamed of before. It's different from what you expect. It's bound to be. There will be joys, there will be surprises that are grand. But there are apt to be surprises that aren't so pleasant. Then the question is what will you do to them?

Will you strike out against them? Will you try to make them over into what you want them to be? Well, you may be able to have a good influence. But don't be surprised if you don't succeed. You cannot usually make over another person. It's rare after a marriage that you can make over another person, into what you want them to be. Some of their mannerisms, some of their attitudes may bring real pain. But it is not God's will that you cast it aside. It is sad in these days to read of divorces among Christians and divorces among Christian workers. It is very sad to me when one takes a vow for life before God they should be careful and slow about deciding whom they want to take. But having taken it they should stand by it.

What ever suffering that comes thru it they should recognize that God has a purpose in it. Thru it He may have lessons to teach you. He may have -- may develop the character he wants you to have thru that suffering that comes to you and that comes to everyone of us to some extent when we work closely with somebody else.

I believe it is important in every relation of life that we do our best to work things out right. But when they don't work out right that we recognize that God wants to teach us obedience thru suffering and that the experience that He sends thru it are a part of His purpose in order to develop us into the sort of person that He wants us to be.

Now of course final victory comes only thru the power of Christ. It is by looking to Him that we get victory over our weaknesses, but He wants us to study ourselves, to study our character, to study our situations, and to see whether we are misjudging others, whether we are letting our ego take over, ~~where~~ we should be honoring the others with whom we come in contact. But if we truly have Christian love in our hearts, when we truly are developing that gentleness and unselfishness that God wants us to have, He wants us to get our vision clear in order that we may see what direction we ought to go and He wants us to press on and push forward even though we recognize that it is only with the power of God that we can get the victory.