

very considerable extent in this direction.

Now there is a second thing we can say positively about what the will of God is for every Christian. It is the will of God that every Christian should help others to grow in grace. This young man I ^{told} talked about who would say that he had led 25 people to the Lord that Sunday afternoon, I asked him, "Well what way is there to follow up this? What way is there to bring these people into Bible study, into knowledge of the Lord?" And he said, "Oh, I hope that somebody else is reaching them, that somebody is ~~is~~ gathering them together, and is leading them ^{to} ~~in~~ growth in Christ." I don't know how many of those were real conversions. I don't know whether 90% of them were or 10% of them were, but I do know that it is very vital that those who come to Christ, or those who believe in Christ, or those who have believed in Christ that all of them should learn to grow in grace. Mere decision is not enough. Peter said in 1 Peter 2:2: "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby." In 1 Peter 5 he speaks to those whom God has called in Christian leadership and says: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly." He urges that those who have the positions of leadership devote themselves to helping other Christians to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord. The command is given to Christian leaders, not simply to lead people into the knowledge of Christ but to feed the flock.

But this command is not merely given to Christian leaders. This is not merely a command for pastors. This is a duty for all Christians. Every Christian has influence on every other Christian with whom he has contact and that influence can hold them back in their Christian life or it can lead them to go forward in that Christian life. It can lead them to ^{study} ~~under~~stand the Word more, to understand it better, or it can lead them away from it so that their attention is on those things that are contrary to God's will.