

But I can't help thinking in that situation instead of my relaxing and thinking, Why should I try to help him? I should have looked to the Lord to see, Is there some way I can help this man, even though I think he's ahead of me in spiritual things, a word of testimony, a word of my recent experiences of the way God has delivered me from temptations. Just an incidental word, Who knows? God might have used it to help him over the crisis in his life. Satan, I believe, misled me on that occasion and prevented me from being the help to that man that I might have been.

Satan will try to get us to forget our duty to others. Cain said, Am I my brother's keeper? There is a sense in which we all are. But we are not our brother's keeper in the sense that we can order them around, very definitely! But we are our brother's keeper in the sense that we never know how God may use us to help our brothers. So it's very important we not let Satan mislead us in this area.

But he's just as apt to try to mislead us in the opposite direction. We see something we think someone else had done wrong. We see a mistake someone else makes and we immediately proceed to tell them what we think is God's will for them. There is just enough of human pride in every one of us that when somebody criticizes us, instead of receiving the criticism with thankfulness, practically every one of us will try to defend ourselves and give excuses and perhaps be pushed in the very opposite direction from that of the rebuke, particularly if we consider that the one who gives the rebuke as being on a level with us or perhaps inferior to us.

I believe God wants us to avoid Satan's effort to make our testimony unavailable through our giving it in a way that cannot get the results. I don't know whether Greek mythology is as well known today as it was when I was young, but I imagine most of you are familiar with the story of Cassander. According to the Greek myth, ~~Apollo~~ Apollo, the Greek god, tried to get Cassander to become his wife or his concubine, I don't know which, but she repulsed him.

When he urged her, he said, I'll do anything, I'll give you anything, any give I can= he was so smitten with her, if you will only submit to me. She said, Give me the gift of prophecy. According to the Greek myth, Apollo gave her the gift so that Cassandra could see what was just ahead, and what was going to happen in the future. Then she went back on her word and refused him. Having received the gift and according to Greek mythology he was a god yet he could not take back what he had given her! So he gave her another. He said, I will add to that, that though you will know what is going to happen, nobody will ever believe you! The result was that she had the misery of going through the Trojan war and the terrible things that came as to always being able to give advice as to what should not be done or what should be done or what would lead to wrong results, but always having people refuse to believe whatever she said!