

Then I knew a young woman who was a very excellent Bible teacher. She would open up different passages of Scripture; people just loved to hear here. But she felt if one was not doing direct evangelistic work leading souls directly to the Lord that it was a waste of time. So she would not teach these Bible lessons. She wanted to give evangelistic messages in which she was not particularly good.

It seems to me we are not necessarily good judges of our own abilities. When it comes to judging the abilities of other people, we may be better but even there we're not so good. I have decided I have no ability to tell whether a person would make a decent teacher, but let a person teach for six months and then I find out how he is received. What kind of results show up in tests from those who have studied under him. What reaction they give to him, etc.

But if a man has merely been a student of mine, I can't recommend him as a teacher. I used to find that in about 50% of the cases when I thought a man would make a teacher he would turn out to be a fairly good teacher. And in about 50% he would turn out not to be at all.

In 1956 I was under the necessity of picking a large number of people all at once, on account of an unusual turnover, and every one that I picked out then turned out excellently. But having previously had the other experience I feel that it was the Lord's definite leading in that case and not any ability of mine to pick.

The ideal set-up would be that in which all were Christians and all were directed in their activities by the Lord who has perfect knowledge, and of course, in this present age that is not a reachable goal.

Among the liberals a great many were raised in a fine Christian background and had great longing to make their lives count in a Christian way. They got into courses in which their faith in Scripture was torn down, but there remained a great emotional feeling. That emotional feeling developed in them a desire to do good, and a desire to change society so that everyone who suffered injustices would not longer suffer them, and they would establish the kingdom of God on earth and that is the desire of the NCC and WCC-- to establish the kingdom of God on earth, by which they mean a world situation which they will control as a situation in which every one has equal benefits of all the good things of life.

That is a worthy ideal, and an ideal which I believe the Lord is going to carry out. But it is an ideal which human beings without the Lord's leading and constant direction are incapable of working out.