

as a glorious beacon for Him, isn't it worth being thought a little queer?"

Paul said that he was willing to be a fool for Christ's sake, but I am afraid there are many of us who might go to the stake and stand there and be burned to death for His name who would be afraid lest somebody think we were a little queer and would be unwilling to do something that might bring ridicule upon us for the sake of Christ. Now, what is the field here? What is the field? The sower is anyone and it is everyone's duty to be a sower, but the field-- we are simply told that it is anyone that hears the Word of the gospel. You may be a sower, or you may be a field when somebody else gives the Word, and I don't think the word here simply means a few verses out of Scripture which present the way of salvation. Certainly, salvation through accepting Christ as Saviour is the most important in the Scriptures but that is only the beginning and the one who begins is going to the Lord and the means for going on is the Word of God; it is the milk of the Word; it is the strong meat of the Word and all this may again be given under the same figure of the seed--by the seed, by the Word of God, we grow in the Christian faith, as well as enter the Christian faith. Now, you may be the field and I may give you the seed, or I may be the field and you may give me the seed, but can you be both at the same time? Can a person be the sower and be the field both at the same time? Is that mixing the metaphor too much? Well, maybe it is mixing the metaphor but it certainly isn't twisting the truth. It is, I think, very vital to recognize that every Christian must be a sower but that every person is indeed part of the field and when you are sowing you, yourself, are one of those who hear, and I think that it is vital that God wants us to sow, not merely in the other person but to sow His Word in ourselves. That's the way we grow. He wants us to sow the Word in the field of our own hearts and minds. The Word is like a two-edged sword, it cuts both ways. A person thinks he has to be perfect before he give something--"Oh, I couldn't stand up and tell these people to live a good Christian life. They'll look at me and they'll say: 'Look at him. Look at his imperfections. Look at this difficulty'; I couldn't possibly do it.