

God has commanded you to do ~~xxxxxxx~~ something like this as a way of winning people for Christ, you be mighty sure. I won't gainsay it. If God commands you I certainly would. He commanded Elijah, and He commanded Moses. But unless God has specifically commanded you, beware lest this statement of Jesus Christ also be applicable in your place. It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Jesus refused to use this method. He said that it was not proper that He should use this method, and I think that ordinarily we have got to go mighty~~ly~~ slow about it. And I don't think that Mark necessarily teaches such a method as that, for it was surely fulfilled in the case of Paul which was of an entirely different nature. Now, then, if this does not mean they shall take up serpents, and it shall not hurt them. If it doesn't mean we are to go out, and to do that as a means of show to convince people that God is true and Christ is the Lord. What does it mean? Does it mean we just go ahead and ignore them? That we ignore the serpents? That we show foolhardiness in our lives, and in our activities, knowing that God can protect us, no matter what happens? I think if we do that we are in danger of again of coming under the condemnation of what Paul says, of what Jesus says, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. There is ~~xxx~~ plenty of teaching in the Scripture that if it is our duty to go ~~womewhere~~, and do ~~something~~ for the Lord that God will protect us through it if it be His will, but there is no case in the Scripture that we are to cast aside ordinary precaution, and just to be foolhardy in all that we do. It was over twenty years ago that I went in one day to the Mother Church of Christian Science in Boston, and in that place I was shocked to see around the wall, between wonderful Scripture verses which we on every other space, in between quotations from Mary Baker Eddy. But one of the quotations from Mary Eddy struck me as pretty good. And I have ever since thought of it as a very ~~good~~ good statement, regardless of the book. And the statement was this: Never go into a place of defilement and uncleanness, unless it is for the specific purpose of bringing somebody else out of it. And that struck me very foreably at that time, because I had ~~just~~ just then been talking to students, college students who were saying, Oh, my