

The first of these ~~x~~ is to know yourself. One is tempted here to quote from Socrates, the heathen philosopher who said, Know thyself. Socrates was not inspired so I shall not quote from him. Instead I will read for you the beginning of the 139th Psalm.vv.1-4.

"O Lord Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, ~~o~~ but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether."

In v.6 he says, Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is high, I cannot attain unto it." The Palmist saw something here that very few of us really see, that to know yourself -- here he talks about how God has searched his own inner parts -- to know yourself is a goal you can never reach. But it is a goal ~~x~~ it will pay you abundantly to work toward. To know yourself. What mistakes Christians have made through not knowing themselves.

I knew a woman some years ago who had a marvellous ability as a Bible teacher. She could go out and take a group of people and open up the Word to them, and give them a real blessing but to her that was nothing. She wanted to be an evangelist. She had no ability as an evangelist. She just was not successful in that. I have not heard anything about her in some years. I hope she has learned where her gift was and utilized it, instead of trying to do that in which == which she wanted to but in which she had no particular ability.

I knew a man some years ago who was one of the finest evangelists I ever knew. He went out with a team of four from the seminary and they spoke throughout the country. He had tremendous ability as an evangelist. But he saw the great need of Christian scholarship. He saw the need of studying in order to defend the Bible against the attacks of the unbelievers. He went to Germany and studied six years and got a Ph.D. after six years of hard work doing what most people might do in three. He worked hard to do what he thought the Lord wanted him to, but the Lord had not given him much gift in that direction. A friend of mine was listed for a recommendation for him for a position and he told me, What shall I do? He is a wonderful man! a wonderful Christian but as a scholar he just doesn't have it! Well, I felt there was a life wasted. Tremendous ability in the life God wanted him in but he was interested in other lines. I heard of him again recently and I was happy to find his life had not been wasted. He did not accomplish a great deal in scholarship, hardly anything that is outstanding from his pen. But he did get a position in England teaching in a school, and there he used his evangelistic gift. He reached young men for the Lord. He brought them to know Christ. And among those ~~XXXXXXX~~ young man influenced by this man there are some outstanding scholars today who are standing for the Word of God. One of the few cases I have ever known where a man who ~~xxx~~ turns his back on the gifts God has given him nevertheless found opportunity in another line to use that gift and to make a real accomplishment. For most of us it would not have worked that way.