

Of course that's just a myth. God does not give any of us the gift of prophecy to that but he may give any of you the ability to see things that others don't see. But Oh how often we get the attitude and results like Cassandra's was in nobody believing what we tell them, in fact driving them in the opposite direction!

So I think that's one of Satan's most effective devices. To make us seem like meddlers. As the KJV says "busybodies in other men's matters." He wants us to lo, closely as to how we can help other Christians, but then he wants us to see how we can effectively help them to see the truth of what we say.

I believe I mentioned last time that before we criticize someone else, Have I got the same fault. It was only a few years ago that a psychologist said to me, When you find a man criticizing other people about something in most cases it is the very thing he does himself! I didn't believe him. It sounded to me rather silly. But as I thought of it, I found that when I would get irritated with somebody about something and felt strongly inclined to rebuke them for it, if I stopped and thought I would find it was the very thing that I was often guilty of. So it can be a great help in our sanctification if when we see something in someone else that irritates us, we stop and think, Am I guilty of the same thing? It can be a great help to us.

Satan wants to mislead us, but it is possible that we may make use of this to advance our sanctification. When we are planning for Christian work, and training to make our lives count for God, it seems to us now at this stage as if we will stand for God's truth. There is no question about that. We will not be misled, away from standing for His truth.

But as you look ahead and you see what circumstances you are going to get into, you are going to find all kinds of pressure to lead you away from truly standing for the Word of God. I was shocked some years ago when I attended some meetings held by G. Campbell Morgan, the famous English preacher who travelled about this country quite a bit giving series of lectures. In Los Angeles, his lecture was to start at 2:30 p.m. and at 12:30 the place was full. They usually started him an hour ahead of what he was planning to start. He was so popular, at least in Los Angeles, as a speaker on religious themes.

He had a clear understanding of the great doctrines of Scripture. He could present them very very convincingly. But I was shocked at the attitude he took. It made me realize how widespread unbelief is in nominally Christian circles more than I ever had before. He would speak, for instance, on the virgin birth and give you evidences and arguments to show that the Bible clearly teaches the virgin birth, that there is no question that this is the great Christian teaching. But as he said it some reference would be made in the course of it to the dependability of statements of the Bible. He would say, I'm not talking about that today; I'm not talking about that today! I'm talking about the virgin birth now.