

God calls you to develop your spiritual life, to get the fruits of the Spirit in your life and He calls you to speak the Word of God in power.

of you

Now some/may accomplish a great deal in the eyes of the world. You may have a great name and be widely known and may seem to be accomplishing much. And others may seem to have a very small group whom they are influencing. There will be tremendous differences seemingly in your accomplishments a few years from now. But what matters is not how you will appear in the eyes of the world, but how you appear in the eyes of God. The person who reaches multitudes may do a tremendous work, or he may do a superficial work that accomplishes little. The ~~peep~~ person who is seemingly only affecting a few may have an effect that God will use through them to accomplish a tremendous ~~amount~~.amount. Only God knows the future.

Some of you will have great joy. Everything will seem to go well, and some of you will have sorrow and things will seem to go bad. And you will be like Job it will seem. God has a purpose in whatever happens. God wants you to be ready whatever comes to glorify God in it, and to make your lives count for the utmost for Him.

Now my observation has been through the years that most of our students when they graduate are very good speakers. It has been my observation that our homiletics department is outstanding and that most of our graduates when they give their senior sermon are really very effective speakers. But time after time I've seen the same man three or four years later and not half so effective. God wants you to keep up what you have, to keep developing, to keep working to be an effective speaker. He wants you to keep up your Hebrew and Greek so that what you say is worthwhile, but what's the use of saying it if you can't get it across?

Some call this not an end but a commencement. You are starting to step out to use these tools which you have begun to learn, and to use them to accomplish what God wants you to accomplish.

Oh, what freedom we have to preach the Gospel here. How long will we have that freedom? How much have you carried the Word of God in your heart? How many verses of the Scripture can you quote from memory, and how many of them have sunk into you and been part of your life?

I read not long ago about a man who was in Tibet when the communists took over. He was there as a missionary. They took his Bible away from him. They put him into prison and held him there for three years. And oh he said, How glad I was for the Scripture that was in my mind that I could go over and over in my heart. How much Scripture have you got in your heart? What condition will you be in if such a situation happens and it is not at all impossible that we may face it here! Our Lord said that you will suffer tribulation, you will suffer persecution. Never has the church suffered persecution anywhere to a greater extent than it does in Russia and behind the Iron Curtain today where people are tortured and punished for preaching the Word of God. It may come here.

There are those who are trying to get us to be in such a situation that they will hasten its coming here. People are trying to get us very much afraid of the bomb, the atom bomb. Let me tell you something. There is never going to be an atom bomb dropped upon this country! There is no danger of that. I should not say