

The spirit is what is lasting, but the flesh--the body properly used is good. It is a marvelous instrument God has given us.

We look at life and we see we see the way we come into the world. Some of us can remember things just like that. Some of us have to memorize for hours to get a thing to last. Some of us have great ability in athletics and some have absolutely none. Some of us are very attractive so that everyone wants to know us when they see us, while others they have to know for a long time before they see our good qualities. There are all sorts of differences among individuals. These differences are differences in the flesh, in the body. They are differences of cause and effect. The tendency of many would be to say: This is unfair. God has created me unfairly because he's given this man so much more ability than he's given me. God has treated me unfairly because I was born into poor family, and this other fellow was born into a rich family and has all the food he wants to eat and I hardly have enough to get along. Is that fair? I think that is a problem we have to face in creation. I think we have to recognize there is cause and effect,¹⁾ the nature of the body God has given us. The nature of this tool, this mind He has given us, the tremendous differences.

We have to recognize the difference in the environment into which each of us is born--the tremendous differences. I think we must realize God knew all this before the foundation of the world and He put your spirit into your particular body and in this particular set of circumstances, because He has a purpose for you that would be served by your having that body and your having that set of circumstances. It is part of God's will in making you what He wants you to be through all eternity to put you in the situation in which you are in this life. So none of us, if we truly believe in God have reason to be discouraged and sad about our situation. We have reason to recognize that God has put us in the situation as part of His training of us for what He wants us to do through all eternity.

So we have the flesh lusting against the spirit, and that is not merely the sinful nature. That is a very real part of it. But the flesh we have should be the instrument for our spirit in accomplishing what God wants us to do and moulding us into the type of person He wants us to be through all eternity.