

It is a disappointment to many Christians that the command is to witness rather than to win the world for Christ. A very fine Christian scholar once said in my hearing: "I do not believe that the Holy Spirit is so weak that He cannot win the world to Christ." The question, however, is a false one. It is not a matter of what the Holy Spirit can do but of what God wills that He should do. Surely the Holy Spirit could change every person in the world this very minute if that were God's will, but God has not chosen to move in that way. The Holy Spirit is not here to convert the whole world but to take out of it those who are to make up the body of Christ. It is for this purpose that God has commanded us to witness.

Early in this century there was a great movement that had for its slogan: "The evangelization of the world in this generation." Yet today there are more heathen in the world than there were then, and even the so-called Christian lands are now riddled with unbelief and denial of God's Word. Every attempt to establish the kingdom of God on earth in this age or to Christianize every aspect of culture comes up against the fact that Satan is still in this world and is a real force.

It is not fashionable today to believe in the existence of a personal devil. However, the Bible clearly teaches that Satan exists and is powerful. During this age God chooses to allow Satan to carry on a great deal of activity. One simply cannot understand the disappointments that come, not only to Christians, but to everyone who tries to do something for the good of the world, without considering the activity of Satan. The devil is constantly trying to twist or pervert everything, and to introduce what is harmful. There has never been a human organization or movement that has gone very long without Satan endeavoring to start trouble within it.