Now one great force in Luther's life was his realization of God's sovereignty. Luther realized that God controlled all things and the most vital question was, Was he standing for the Lord? If the Lord wanted him to go down and die for Christ, he was ready to do it. If the Lord wanted to use him in a big way he was ready to do it. He was ready to do whatever the Lord wanted. He had a tremendous realization of God's sovereignty.

When we look at the situation of the Reformation we see marvellously how God's sovereignty worked. There had been great reformers before. One hundred and fifty years ago John Wycliffe had presented the great truths of the Gospel; had translated the Bible out of Latin into English; had a large group of people who followed him and he went all over England read-ing the Gospels to people, but then the Inquisition settled down. Wycliffe had already died before actual measures were taken against him, so all they could do was to dig up his body, burn it and throw away the ashes, but many of his followers were burned at the stake in England. By the time when the Reformation began there were a few of Wycliffe's followers but they hardly dare let anybody know who they were. The Inquisition stopped it com-pletely.

John Huss followed the teachings of Wycliffe. He preached the Gospel with great power. They called him before the Council of Constance. He was a great orator and he figured, I'll present the truth and win these people to the truth, but they didn't give him a chance to speak. They simply said, John Huss did you say this? Did you deny this church doctrine? Did you say this, Yes or No? Of course they had the evidence that he denied the stand the church was taking then and they burned him at the stake with never a chance to express his words. Followers of John Huss in Czechlo-sovakia stood for God's truth and the great authorities of Europe came to fight against him and with pitched forks and agricultural instruments they fought them and drove them back. The result was that those wonderful people --