

I feel greatly rebuked whenever I think of a certain man. I had known him once as a very earnest and effective Christian, but I had not seen him for a long time. When we finally got together again, we spoke for about an hour. I devoted my share of the conversation to relating the interesting experiences I had had, and never thought of saying a word to try to strengthen him spiritually. I felt as if he was stronger spiritually than I was, and we simply enjoyed fellowship together. The next time I heard of him was six months later, and he had fallen into deep sin, and away from any profession of Christianity.

I don't know whether God could have used a few words of mine to help him resist those temptations, to have just enough strength to continue the fine testimony which I had so admired. I certainly don't think that my failure was the cause of his falling away. But I was blameworthy. I felt he was so spiritually advanced that I did not seize the opportunity to encourage him in a way that would have helped him to grow in grace, and resist the terrible temptations ~~that~~ ^{that} came shortly after, about which I knew nothing.

~~When I seize every opportunity~~

"Understanding what the will of the Lord is": It is his will that we should lead others to salvation. It is equally his will that we should exert our influence on all we meet, to lead them to understand God's will, to ~~lead~~ ^{and draw} them toward Him instead of away from Him.