

ChapelPsalm 11:3Nov.9, 1978Report on meeting of International Council on
Biblical Inerrancy

Just a few minutes ago someone came to me and asked me about a statement I had made the last time I spoke in chapel. I was glad indeed that he did because it is very easy to misspeak one's self and say something you don't mean. Besides that there is always the possibility of our wording not being clear, or our not taking time to enter upon some related subject and thus giving a false impression. So any time you have any question about anything I have said, if you would write a note and leave it for me in the office I would appreciate it greatly, and I will either mention it next time I speak or I will speak to you personally about it.

This question was so intelligent, and so important that I'm going to take a minute on it before I speak of the matters I would like to speak about today. The question was this: In my last chapel I said that more people lose their faith through ridicule than through reason and argument. I was asked exactly what I meant by losing one's faith. I think that's a very important thing to have clearly in mind. Because you can use the word faith in the sense of an intellectual apprehension, or you can use it in the sense of saving faith, a personal relationship to Christ.

In this second sense, which is by far the most important, I would say that nobody knows whether you or I have saving faith except we ourselves and God. God knows the heart. We do not. If you have saving faith through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, then I believe you are saved forever and consequently you cannot lose that saving faith. His hand is upon you and He will protect you. But you may lose your intellectual apprehension.