

to me, He said, I looked out the window and saw a bird where he was perched on a tree and it went over to another tree and stood there for a few minutes and it came back to this tree. Then he said I saw another bird do it and it came back. He said, Do you think those birds made up their minds they wanted to do that? Do you think there was some will involved in that? He said, That's purely cause from effects within those birds; there are certain instincts, certain forces within in. There are certain forces outside which draw ~~thix~~ them this way or that way. He said It's exactly the same way with us. He said, Everything is just the result of causes.

You will sometimes see a child who has never known his father. Never has had any direct connection with his father, yet you may find that the child has exactly the same gestures and same facial expression as his father. ~~Thexfathnc~~ You will find certain traits that have been passed on, there are traits in every one of us that came to us from our parents.

These traits will carry us in directions we'd never dream of. At times. We have forces. We have causes moving within us thus. What is man? Is man a first cause? Is man a second cause? Is man a cause at all? Is he just one in a chain of circumstances that can't help himself?

That is probably the prevailing philosophy of our day. It's amazing how many young people find tremendous joy out of reading the works of Herman Hesse with his so-called eastern philosophy which amounts to a despair. Nothing ahead, but despair and misery. Yet people find great joy out of reading it. I can't figure why. I looked into one of them once and that was as far as I got.

But one of our students a few years ago told me that he and another one had read the book through twice in English; and in addition he got the original in German and read it. It has a tremendous appeal among young people. But it has that prevailing philosophy-- all is chance, it is all cause by things, but it's chance in the sense that there is nothing you can do about it.

Manyyears ago there was a young man I knew who studied in ~~seminary~~ seminary when I did. He only studied a year there. He'd already been pretty well conditioned in his mind. He went on and studied history. Became professor of history at a University. I saw him a little later and talked with him. He came from a grand Christian family. Humanly speaking he had a fine character. Very upright, fine type of fellow. as far as you could see. He said to me, All you can do is to build on a firm foundation of unyielding despair!

What object is there in life when you look at it that way? Yet logically you can easily draw that conclusion. I was talking with Francis Schaeffer the other night on the phone. He said to me, I find so many people have the attitude that man is absolutely autonomous, man can do what he wants, And then he said, I find there are those who think man is an absolute zero! He's just under the control of circumstances; there's nothing he can do about it. He said, Both of them are clearly wrong.