

night there. When we got to that spot we found the spring was dry! We did not want to wander around in the dark ~~even~~ with a flashlight. I remember one friend who said, If you're going to camp in Barley Flats on a pile of weeds you had better dig them up first with a stick pretty carefully and be sure there were no rattlesnakes underneath! I don't think the danger was quite that great, but it was great enough that we put up with the thirst until it would be light and we could see where we were.

But that night I'll never forget how I kept dreaming through the night, and as I dreamt I could see a beautiful stream of water flowing over my head. I would open my mouth and not a drop of the water would come in. I was in an abnormal state because of the complete failure of the fulfillment of one of the natural cravings of human nature.

I believe that the complete denial of the natural desires and needs of human nature generally leads to harm. Now most of you don't go in that direction anymore nowadays. We are more apt to go in the opposite direction. We live in America where the standard of living of the average person is so far superior to 3/4 of the world that we just can't conceive of the way 3/4 of the world live as far as the satisfaction of ordinary physical needs are concerned. Most of us eat too much. Most of us get as much satisfaction or more of the natural needs of the body as we should have.

There are cases where men have found great spiritual blessing in fasting for a time. There are those who have undertaken a certain task in the Lord's work for which it would be very difficult for them to carry on if one were married, and who have felt that it would be better for them not to marry in order that they might devote themselves more effectively to the Lord's work. But for most of us the Lord desires for us to live a normal life. The Lord desires for us to have a certain amount of relaxation.

There are many people who will sit in front of the TV hour after hour and I believe it is a curse when one does it that way. I believe that is certainly the lust of the flesh. But a little watching of it can be a very helpful relaxation. Some find relaxation one way, some in another way. But when we try to live an unnatural way for a great length of time, it generally gives Satan an opening to injure us.

So the denial of the natural desires of the human nature is for most of us definitely not in accordance with God's will. When I first began teaching there were very few students in the seminary who were married. Very few. The war changed all that. Since the war the majority have been married. But before the war it was very seldom a student was married. When I was a student in seminary hardly any student was married and we had no women students there at that time. And there was an unnatural life which made a strain on a person. And anyone who is not married who is in seminary I believe has a duty to seek out ways of having feminine companionship.