

on many of these qualities, at least externally. Perhaps he seems to be a very fine person, but actually has never received Christ into his heart.

Here is another person who comes from a very depraved background, who was raised among those who had no use for Christ and who flouted God's moral law. The passions and feelings == he has had experiences that most of us have never had. He has passions that go beyond what most of us ever think of having. He is drawn toward sin in a way that most of us are not, but he receives Christ into his heart and still he has a great fight to maintain purity through the rest of his life. We look at the two and say, How much finer is the moral character of this one than that one. How much better a man he is. We know this man is a Christian. That one we are not sure about. The facts may be the exact opposite. It is not how far we have attained, but what direction we are moving in that is vital. It is not what stage we have reached, but how far we have actually progressed. It is not where we are but where we are going. God can judge. We cannot judge another. Who are you to judge another man's servant? We cannot judge. God can judge. But the person who seemed to be a real earnest Christian and then seemed to us to fall away and to all appearances did we have to say this? 1) I do not know. Perhaps he never was really saved. Perhaps he just made some superficial statements to win the approbation of his associates associates. Perhaps he genuinely admired these associates and wanted to be with them and said the words he thought they would like. Perhaps he was a complete hypocrite and for personal advantage or gain or to win approval of those with whom he was at present he said certain things never intending to stand by them long. I do not know. He may appear to be a fine fine Christian and actually not be one at all. God knows. I don't.

On the other hand, here is a man who genuinely believed, sincerely trusted in Christ, and then was torn by his own passions, or by the deceitful teachings of those who gave him very clever arguments that led him intellectually to turn