

pushed forward. He worked and preached the gospel. Six months later the flu epidemic came and person after person in his congregation lost members of their families to the flu. He went about among them. He They could feel that he had been through it, that he knew what they were doing, and enduring.

✱ They could receive the Word of God from him in a way they could not from anyone to whom it was just words, and not a sympathy that came from a similar experience. He looked back and he saw how that which had seemed so terrible when it happened was actually God's leading in order to fit him more effectively for His service for the Lord.

God leads in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. He loves to give His children what is good. He loves to give us what we will enjoy. He loves to make things pleasant for us. But if we really love Him we desire things not merely be pleasant for us. We desire that we be used by Him to the utmost. In order for that to happen we may have to go through dark waters. He may put us through situations that we did not expect, and that we cannot sometimes see the reason for.

I think life can be compared with a carpet. As you look at it you see a beautiful plan of very pretty design on the carpet. You turn it over on the back and see the different parts of it and it doesn't give the picture at all. You don't see it all. We see the back of the tapestry. We do not see the design. But God has a marvellous design for every one of our lives.

This all has been largely negative. I've not spoken much about how God does guide. But first and most important principle of guidance we should notice. I spoke to Dr. R. A. Torrey that great Bible teacher who was dean of BIOLA when I attended. I asked him. I was disturbed by this question. How does God guide? He referred me to a sermon in one of his books of sermons, and I read it and I think it gave me as much help as I ever received on this question.

While there are a number of points in it that are worth looking at, this gave the primary one, and that is this: In order for God to guide us, we must have our minds quiet from the many things that would distract. We must reach the point where we are absolutely sure that it is His will and His will alone that we want.

I heard a young missionary woman give a testimony once. She told how she hated the idea of travelling. She always hated the idea. She said the Lord brought her to the point where she was even willing to travel for Him. She went to S. America, and she and her husband did a great work for the Lord in S. America. Personally I love to travel. I felt funny hearing her tell how she hated to travel. We do not want to keep away from something because it includes travel. We don't want to take it because we love travel. We want to seek to know how we can serve the Lord the very best.

The heart of man is evil and desperately wicked above all things. We have to search our hearts. Dr. Torrey himself did a