

– SUMMARIES OF SKETCHES –

This appendix contains summaries for every sketch in this book. If you find yourself counseling a person regarding the gospel, or assurance of salvation, you can quickly read these summaries to find a sketch about a similar situation. Then, rereading that sketch, you may gain insight on how best to help the person you are counseling.

VOLUME 1

V1, SKETCH 1—THE YOUNG IRISHMAN

The Christian aunt of a dying, unbelieving young man calls on Spencer, so that he can talk with him about his doubts toward Christianity. Through several days of discussion, mainly regarding God's existence and our ability to know him, Spencer manages to answer his doubts, and he converts just before dying. Spencer believes that his own arguments were helpful for the young man, but that the personal piety of the man's aunt was the true cause of his conversion.

V1, SKETCH 2—FAITH EVERYTHING

Spencer repeatedly explains the gospel, in all of its details, to a young woman who seems to accept all that he says, yet without becoming a Christian. Then, in a church service, she hears a hymn which makes it plain to her that all she must do is trust Christ. Spencer then wonders if, in all our efforts to explain the gospel fully, we often confuse people and distract them from their one, simple duty: to trust Christ.

V1, SKETCH 3—THE SIMPLICITY OF FAITH

As Spencer visits a Christian woman, apparently on her death bed, she says that she is not afraid to die because, "I have taken God at His word." Spencer adopts this as his definition of faith and employs it often when counseling people. Definitions of faith such as these, in Spencer's opinion, are better suited for evangelism than more philosophical definitions.

V1, SKETCH 4—WAITING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

A middle-aged woman greatly desires to become a Christian, but believes that she must wait for some work of the Holy Spirit before she can repent