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## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

*Discourse Delivered at the Sixty-fourth Semi-Annual Conference, of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday Morning, October 7th, 1893, by*

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I am very pleased, my brethren and sisters, for the privilege of attending this Conference, and, like all the brethren, I feel that I need the assistance of the Spirit of the Lord or my speaking will not be profitable. We are not given to preparing discourses, but rely upon the Lord to give us those things to say that will be suited to the requirements of the Saints. It is a very delicate position for a man to be placed in to stand between the Lord and the people; but having taken upon us the name of Jesus and entered into covenant with Him to perform the duties required of us as bearers of the Priesthood, we are willing to labor and to give the glory to the Lord. The Gospel is the Gospel of Jesus; it is the Gospel of truth and righteousness, and it is not possible for us to properly preach it without the assistance of the Lord. Nor is it possible for us to live it without the presence of the Holy Ghost. No man can be a successful Latter-day Saint without the Spirit of the Lord. No man can hope to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord unless he keep the commandments of the Lord and preserve himself in all purity and righteousness; for the Spirit of the Lord will not dwell in unholy tabernacles. Hence we are first required to have faith in God. If we have faith in Him, we will then repent of our sins. If we repent of our sins, we will be baptized for the remission of them; and then our sins are forgiven us and remembered no more against us, so long as we continue faithful; for all the promises made to us in the Gospel are on condition of our faithfulness. Therefore, every Latter-day Saint is competent to sit in judgment upon himself, and to know whether he is in the favor of the Lord or under condemnation. The Lord has ordered that every man should judge for himself, in his own heart, in regard to all the duties of life. As a man thinketh, so he is. As a man decides in his own heart, so he does. If we judge correctly and under the light and inspiration of the Lord, we will always do right. So far as we today are doing wrong, it is because we have judged wrongfully, whether it is in regard to what would be

considered important matters or concerning the minor matters of life; for we never do anything without thinking and deciding, and exercising our will and judgment. The Savior did nothing but what was in accordance with the will of God. Hence He was righteous and without sin. The reason that we are sinners still is because we do not always do the will of the Lord.

It is not sufficient for the Latter-day Saints to have good professions and to have really entered into the Church of Christ; but it is necessary that they should continue faithful every day, in all matters doing the will of God. The Lord has revealed to us His will, so that no one need be at a loss to know what to do and how to do it, for if there is not enough already revealed, or should we not be where we can refer to the revealed will at all times, we are entitled to the presence and inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord to inform us what to do. If we have not that Spirit, we are not in the line of our duty as Latter-day Saints; we are not serving the Lord and keeping His commandments as perfectly as we can do. We can do these things if we will, and the Lord is an ever present help. Our teachers, our bishops, our presidents of quorums and of Stakes, and the Presidency of the Church, may not always be where we can appeal to them; but our Heavenly Father is always near, we can always appeal to Him, and be sure of getting an answer, because by repenting of our sins and being baptized we have entered into a nearness to Him and have made ourselves entitled to the Spirit of the Lord. If we listen to the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord, we will never give a wrong judgment. Bishops will not give wrong judgments, High Councilors will not, Presidents of Stakes will not, if they are prompted and directed by the Spirit of the Lord. All the mistakes that we make are when we act independently and upon our natural judgment, unenlightened by the Spirit of the Lord. These can be avoided by living so that the inspiration of the Lord may be with us every day. If the Spirit of the Lord dwells richly in our hearts as it should do, we never forget our prayers, and we never forget to worship the Lord on the Sabbath day. We always remember that day to keep it holy. If the Latter-day Saints do not remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, it is because the inspiration of the Lord is not in their hearts as it should be. All Latter-day Saints who neglect to meet to worship the Lord and to partake of the sacrament are not imbued with the spirit of faith. All Latter-day Saints who are not obedient to the requirements of the Gospel are not enjoying the Spirit of the Lord to

that degree that they ought to enjoy it. Where there is a lack of harmony, where there is contention and quarreling, it is because the Spirit of the Lord has not had proper sway in the hearts of the parties concerned.

This is the Church of Christ, and our Father has established it. There are perhaps two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints in the world who know this just as well as they know light from darkness. There is no question about it in the hearts of Latter-day Saints. They have done the will of the Lord and have obtained knowledge that this is the Lord's work. This being the case, it will be profitable to us as Latter-day Saints to devote our whole time and talents to the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord and to the establishment of His Church upon the earth. It will be profitable to all Latter-day Saints to make this Church first in their hearts and affections. Why? Because the Lord has told us to seek first the kingdom of God. We have sought the kingdom and have found it, and now that should have our attention before farming, before merchandising, and before literary pursuits and the like. The welfare of the Church of Christ in the earth and the spreading abroad of the Gospel should be our primary object. But is this the case with us? If it is not, then we have need for reformation. If the Church of Christ and the principles of righteousness are not foremost in our hearts, then I say all Israel, so far as they lack have need of reformation. If we have set our hearts upon property, whether it be little or much (for I presume a man could worship a little property as well as a great deal), then we are idolaters. And God has forbidden us to be idolaters. He has commanded us not to bow down to worship anything on earth. Every man should feel that the welfare of the Church of Christ and the advancement of the principles of truth among men for their salvation are ahead of his home, of his merchandising, and of his flocks and herds. Let all these be swept away, but let our hearts be set upon the principles of eternal truth.

Should I allow my property to cause alienation to come in between me and my brethren? Suppose a man should even rob me, and he might be a professed Latter-day Saint. Would he be a brother if he was a robber? I would not care how often he had been baptized, nor what blessings had been placed upon him, if he was a liar, a deceiver and a swindler, he would not be a Latter-day Saint; for I say that a robber and a dishonest man has forfeited his blessings and his right to the Priesthood of God; for the Priesthood of God and its authority can only be