

not receive the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is given to be a comforter and to reveal things to come to the children of men. This seems then to be one of the richest gifts that can be bestowed upon mankind. At the day of Pentecost the gift of the Holy Ghost was made plainly manifest, when the people, although composed of many different nationalities, understood the teachings that were delivered and many rose and spoke in tongues and prophesied. The Holy Spirit regenerates men physically and spiritually, and brings people of God to unity and harmony.

Now, how is a man enabled to know that Joseph Smith was a prophet? This knowledge must be revealed, for no one knoweth the Father except through the Son, nor the Son, unless the Father reveals Him. Peter knew that Jesus was Christ, because God had revealed it to him. This plan all men must follow in order to obtain knowledge. No one can bear the testimony that he knows Joseph Smith to be a prophet unless through the Holy Ghost. If a man can testify to the world that he has a knowledge of the truth, I judge that he has repented of his sins and been baptized. And it is not strange that a man, having complied with these conditions, should receive the Spirit. One is just as much entitled to this gift as another under equal circumstances. I also will testify that I know that this work is of God. The voice of the Lord has come from heaven and I promise every one who will repent and be baptized that he shall receive the Holy Ghost.

I have seen much persecution against this people, but God has preserved us and will do so in the future. He has led us and brought us here that we may keep His commandments. This people have always been persecuted, because they have the truth, and many men of the world know it. It is not on account of any outward circumstances or because of social degradation, nor for the lack of thrift, but simply because we are a religious, Christian people, not of the world. If we were of the world, the world would love their own, but because God has taken us out from the world we are hated by them. May we never do anything that is wrong, whether it is fashionable or not.

Formerly there were in this Territory no drunkenness, no saloons, no children born out of wedlock. When other people came, that was what troubled them. They wanted lux practices, but could not find any in our midst. That was their greatest trouble. May God bless you all with the spirit of the everlasting Gospel, that you may be as a light on a hill, shining before all the world, that they may see your good works and glorify the Father who is in heaven.

The conference adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Who is like unto thee, O Lord?"

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

Afternoon Service.

The afternoon meeting commenced at two o'clock, Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding. There was a very large attendance, including many visitors, the galleries being well filled.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah;
Jesus anointed "that Prophet and Seer."

Prayer was offered by Bishop Orson F. Whitney.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Ye children of our God,
Ye Saints of latter days.

The Priesthood of the Sixteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

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was called to address the congregation. I rejoice, he said, in the privilege of meeting with you in this conference. I regard these conferences as very solemn occasions, as indeed are all the meetings of the Saints. They are occasions when the very best wisdom should be exhibited in teaching, counseling, and advising the Saints in relation to their duties towards God and towards each other. They are occasions when the inspiration of heaven is necessary in order that the Saints may be comforted and cheered in the times in which we live, that their spiritual strength may be renewed, and that they may be prepared to meet the events which are fast crowding in upon us.

We are living in a very important age of the world, in a very important dispensation, in which and through which God has decreed the consummation of His work concerning the redemption of the world. We are confronted by events that are burdened with importance to the work of God in which we are engaged—events without and events within—circumstances over which we have no control and some which are to a certain extent under our control, and which may be affected by our conduct. There are some things occurring in connection with the work of God that are entirely beyond our power to influence. For instance, the government of the United States (of which we form a part) has made up its mind to dispossess the Saints of their accumulated property, and, so far, the wisdom of our wise men, coupled with the best legal advice that they can procure, has been inadequate to stop the action on the part of the government. When a nation makes up its mind to do a thing it will require the strong right hand, well armed, of an equally strong nation to prevent that act, or else the interference of God.

Communities such as we are are unable to resist successfully the determination of a nation to commit a theft. God alone has power to interfere in behalf of His Saints when the time shall come. Other steps may be taken in the same direction to strip the Church of more of the property which belongs to it. They may possibly, in their frenzy, make

up their minds to go a step farther than that and confiscate individual property, as they have property belonging to the people in common. If they shall do so we are unable of ourselves to stay their hands; but these are events which the Latter-day Saints will be compelled to leave in the hands of their Heavenly Father. So far as I am concerned, however, I am perfectly willing to leave all to His control and guidance, knowing that He will do all things well in due time and season, that in these things, as in all that may take place by His permission, His own mighty purposes will be developed and His great designs accomplished. I may not be able at present to understand the details of His work or comprehend in what manner He will bring good out of intended evil; but my confidence in His wisdom and power is simply supreme.

Not long ago I was reading a biographical sketch of Napoleon Bonaparte, and therein his biographer made this remark: "His plans, his designs seemed to inferior minds altogether impracticable, and almost impossible, but in his hands simplicity marked their developments and the success that they attained vindicated their adoption," and I am quite sure that this will be the case with the Almighty. His ways are not as our ways, and the workings and operations of His plans may seem to lead to disaster, but if we in patience shall possess our souls, we shall find that success will vindicate all His purposes.

So far as I am personally concerned, if this nation has made up its mind to snatch from the Latter-day Saints their individual property, I have but one regret, and that is that my cottage is not a mansion. I admire more than I can tell the man who was captured as a spy by the English forces during the American Revolution, and who, when the news was brought to him that he had been condemned to be hanged, replied, "I only regret that I have but one life to offer for my country." I believe in that kind of courage, faith and devotion, and I hope that it will be manifested—as I am sure it will—in the lives of the Latter-day Saints.

The inhabitants of the earth have not yet seen the full development, strength and heroism that the Gospel of Jesus Christ imparts to the people. Our fathers have passed through some very trying experiences. Mob violence has wasted its force and strength in vain upon the Church of Christ, and, so far, legal—not legal, but rather Congressional enactments have wasted their strength and have not succeeded in destroying the work of God. The Christian world has made sharp its arrows of ridicule, satire and irony, but their mockings have been as unavailing as all other means have been in this direction. They do not know its strength, and in the experience of the past few years, if I could, I would tell this entire nation that they have not as yet seen the spirit of Mormonism aroused in its strength. Neither