

should therefore be prepared to refuse the requests of unworthy individuals, and adhere to such refusals until such persons have proven their worthiness. It has been proven that young men desiring to get married will make almost any promise in order to obtain a recommendation to the house of God, but frequently these promises are disregarded. Some of the presidents of Elders' quorums have asked what they shall do under the circumstances. One thing would be to have these quorums more fully represented by their presidents in our Priesthood meetings, thus setting an example to the members.

We are essentially a temple-building people, and the time is coming when this whole land will be dotted with temples, surrounded by the dwellings of the Saints, for they are sure to spread upon the land of Joseph. There is no doubt that the Prophet Joseph and the other faithful Elders who have gone into the spirit world have opened up the Gospel to the spirits in prison, and these are waiting for us to perform the necessary ordinances for them in the temples here. There should be the same spirit manifested among this people as was shown among the Israelites in the time of Moses, when the tabernacle was in process of construction. So general a response was made to the call for material that the Lord spoke through Moses and commanded the people to cease bringing things, as there was enough and to spare. And this work should be done mainly by the people of this temple district, as other districts have already discharged with faithfulness a great duty in the erection of other temples.

Indications are that a time of scarcity is coming, and hence the sisters of the Relief Society would do well to continue the storing of grain against such emergency.

It is necessary that complete records of trials before Bishops should be kept, so that in case of appeals to the High Council that body will not be forced to retake all the testimony presented before the Bishop, an account of which can be brought up from the record.

The speaker referred to the importance of individual testimonies of the truth of the Gospel, and the way in which such may be retained.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH said in substance: It is a glorious thing that those who are in search of truth are able to obtain a knowledge of it. It is a very easy thing to ask questions, but it is not always so easy to answer them to the satisfaction of the question. Especially is this the case with questions concerning religion. Still, every man and woman should strive for ability to give a reason for the hope within. We should feel thankful to God for the testimonies we have of the truth of the Gospel. Many men in the world doubt the truth of all things which do not appeal to their judgment, so as to be readily understood, for to these individuals the testimony of the Spirit does not come, its office being to take of the things of the Father and give them to men in the earth. But to those who are honestly seeking for the truth, this testimony will come through the ministrations of the Spirit.

The young men among the Latter-day Saints need to know something of the first principles of the Gospel, for

they will likely be called upon in early life to go among the children of men and proclaim and teach those principles.

The speaker here bore his testimony to the truth of those principles, stating that they are all absolutely good, and adapted to those who receive and practice them. There is something in connection with these principles that appeals to the judgment and understanding of the honest seeker after truth, and it will be well with us in life or in death if we will give heed unto them. They will lead us to do good to all with whom we associate, and it will be found that those living in accordance with them are honorable and reliable, firm in their acts and in their lives. Any man who is honorable, pure and praiseworthy in action is a son of God, no matter where he is or what his beliefs are. There are as honorable men and women in the world as have been taken by the Gospel net, but they are so surrounded by the traditions and prejudice of the world that they cannot understand the Gospel. The principles we have espoused will tend to elevate us, and bring us into harmony with the works and purposes of God. They will make us unselfish, tractable, humble, and teachable, and willing to do good to our fellow creatures. He who cannot sacrifice his own wishes and feelings for the good of others has not become in truth a son of God.

We are told that if we perform the labors connected with the principles of the Gospel, we shall know of a surety as to their truth. If we are told to perform a duty attached to the performance of which are blessings, including a knowledge of the principles, we can obtain that knowledge and receive those blessings only by compliance with the request. So may we put to the test all principles. And it is a fact that no officer of the Church enjoying the Spirit of his calling has asked or ever will ask any member to perform an evil action, or to do a good thing blindly. The principle of faith, of repentance, of baptism, of conferring the Holy Ghost, all these are good and elevating in their nature, as are all other principles of the Gospel of Christ. No one who has conformed in sincerity to any of these principles will doubt their tendency toward good.

The principle of tithing has been referred to. That it is a true principle cannot be doubted for a moment, for all who observe it in sincerity receive the spiritual and temporal blessings promised. No matter how small a man or a woman's income may be, if an honest tithing is paid the residue will go farther than the whole amount could do, to say nothing of the strengthening of the faith of those who observe the principle. We should be so faithful in performing the duties revolving upon us in the Gospel that we would not need to be reminded of them. Indeed if we have tested these principles fully, we shall see that one who advises us to neglect them is not our friend, for he is trying to deprive us of the blessings attendant upon obedience to them. This is as much the case in the principle of the payment of tithing as in any other. All we have is given us by the Lord, and we should acknowledge this fact by returning one-tenth of it to Him, thus entitling ourselves to the blessings of His work.

If a man wilfully and persistently neglects any of the duties pertaining to the Gospel, he gives proof that he is not a true Latter-day Saint, that he is still unconverted, no matter what his professions may be. If he is dishonest enough to call himself a Latter-day Saint, he is in reality a latter-day sinner; and there are too many professing Saints who belong to this class. There are some men who try to drive a sharp bargain with the Lord in regard to the payment of tithing, arguing that they must deduct from their income all or part of their expenses, and pay but one tenth of the remainder. The Lord might be considered just if He should deal with such individuals after the same principle. At any rate, He would not regard them as very good Saints. "The liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by his liberality shall he stand." The Lord has been liberal with us, and we should be so with Him. Tithing may be used for the building of temples, the feeding of the poor, or for any other benevolent purpose that God through His servants may direct.

The question, said the speaker, may be asked, "Do you live up to your belief concerning the principles of the Gospel?" He stated that he, like all men, was mortal and full of weakness, but he could truthfully say that he tried to show his faith by his works, and if any person saw him disregarding in his actions any of the Gospel laws, he would bless such a person for setting him right.

He closed by invoking the blessings of God upon the Saints.

The choir and congregation sang:

Do what is right, the day-dawn is breaking.

Conference adjourned till Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, in the Tabernacle.

Benediction by Bishop L. H. Mousley.

Sunday Morning.

President Angus M. Cannon presided.

The services began at 10 o'clock with the choir and congregation singing the hymn:

Come, let us anew our journey pursue;
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.

Prayer was offered by Elder A. W. Winberg.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

O'er the gloomy hills of darkness,
Look, my soul, be still and gaze.

ELDER GEORGE M. CANNON

was called to address the congregation. He asked an interest in the faith and prayers of those assembled. The Latter-day Saints at this time needed the Spirit of the Lord in order to resist the temptations by which they are surrounded. They had come out of the world, and yet had all of the world's evils around them. They could not, if they would, separate themselves from the world; but it was their duty to resist the dangers which beset them on every hand, and live the religion which they had espoused. They must learn to choose the good and reject that which was evil. Many promises had been made to the Latter-day Saints, many bright things had been pictured to them which were worthy of the efforts of any people on the face of the earth to try and secure. But all those