

the day will never come when any other sentiment will animate me.

President Woodruff and his counselors are actuated by the Spirit of God, to which we would do well to take heed. We look to these brethren as having the Spirit of revelation, when they are united. When Christ realized His time had come He asked His Father if it were possible for the bitter cup to pass to let it be so, nevertheless that the will of the Father be done and not His. We should sustain by our faith, prayers and works those whom God has appointed to preside over the Church. When men write under the influence of the Spirit of God it is revelation. In order to reveal the mind of our Father in heaven, it is not necessary that He should come down to earth personally to make a communication. Many of the revelations given through Joseph Smith were obtained by that prophet listening to the whisperings of the "still, small voice" within him.

It has been remarked about some men that they suddenly become absorbed in some line of ideas. The impressions of the Holy Ghost come like flashes of light, and without the presence of doubt or darkness. They have to be acted upon forthwith. I bear testimony that President Woodruff and his Counselors are prophets, seer and revelators; and the people should remember that, especially in these times, they should not live by sight. Circumstances are of such a nature that the righteous must live by faith.

The hand of God is over this Church, and no power can destroy it or impede its progress. I pray, however, that it may not be necessary for us to be chastened in order to bring us into a disposition of obedience. I believe in implicit obedience in temporal and spiritual things to the light of heaven, as given through the Priesthood. If this principle were taught us more frequently it would be better for us as a community. We cannot retain the Spirit of God and yet be constantly finding fault with the Priesthood. We should not expect perfection from those who hold that authority. They are mortal as other men, but they are called of God. We must learn not to judge men by what we see, nor on the basis of the limited opportunities we have of what transpires. When we have an impression derogatory of our brother, it is our duty to go to him personally and in that way get an understanding of the matter involved. We should be possessed of the spirit of unity. We should not criticize the authorities. Our enemies seek to sow among us the seeds of dissension; they wish to segregate the Saints into factions. In this endeavor they turn truth into the semblance of falsehood, and virtue into vice. Hasty conclusions are dangerous and should not be arrived at. There are many honorable men and women who respect our rights, but the great majority do not.

I have been associated with the authorities of the Church for years, and I have never seen in their de-

liberations any disposition toward unrighteousness. I bear testimony that they have acted in the spirit of their calling as well as any men on earth could have done.

If a duty is required of us and it is not diligently performed, instead of having a spirit of light and comfort we are possessed of a sentiment of heaviness. When I acted as Teacher it was a great trial for me to visit the houses of some of the people. When this feeling was overcome, and the obligation discharged, joy was the result. When it overcame me and I have been neglectful then I have had heaviness of spirit. So it is in all the labors that are required at our hands.

We should not be afraid to speak our feelings freely at this Conference. May the fire of the Spirit of God increase as this Conference progresses. This will be the case if we lay aside our cares of a worldly character that are liable to fret and annoy us. Let us centre our prayers and faith in a desire that the servants of God may speak those things that will be adapted to the wants of the people. If this is done the result will be all that could be desired. The speaker concluded by bearing testimony to the truth of the work of God.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF

said: We wish to hear from all the Apostles, Presidents and Seventies, and as many Elders as we can during this Conference. We want to feel what spirit they are of. I should be glad to sit and listen to the testimony of every Elder in this congregation at our several meetings, but of course that cannot be. I will call now upon Elder Jacob Gates to address us.

ELDER JACOB GATES,

of the presidency of the Seventies, then spoke to the Conference. If we have received the Gospel in honest hearts and have kept our covenants, we have received the witness of the Spirit of God of its truth. I received the Gospel 56 years ago, under the administrations of Apostle Orson Pratt, and from that time I have known of the truth of this Church—its divine origin. In the darkest days, when I have been thrown into prison on false charges, I have always been able to bear this testimony. Not only did I receive this witness through the impressions of the Spirit of Truth, but also by the ministration of angels. I met the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1834, in the camp of those who were gathered together to go up to redeem Zion, which has not yet been redeemed, but it will be in the future. During my travels of a thousand miles I became well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph.

I became satisfied from personal knowledge and observation that he was the great Prophet of the Nineteenth Century, and a greater Prophet, by way of comparison, has never lived on the earth. I know that he was a Prophet of the living God and that his words have been fulfilled. You who are here today

are witnesses of the fulfilment of his predictions; for before he died he said that this people should live to go to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, that they would drink of the cool streams which flow down from the canyons, and would remain here until they became a great and powerful people.

I lived as his neighbor after he was driven out from Missouri, in Nauvoo; I knew him well; I saw him in life and also in death when his blood had been shed by a ruthless mob in this land of freedom. I have never known his blood to be atoned for.

The people of the world do not understand us nor the works we are performing at present. If they did they would come to us and acknowledge that is the work of God. Every Latter-day Saint should prepare for the great events of the future. Let us be humble and faithful, and be united as the heart of one man. Iniquity should be searched out and our houses set in order. This is in unison with a revelation on that subject, given through President John Taylor. The speaker exhorted the quorums of Seventies, especially, to purify their organizations, that they may be prepared to wield a greater influence in the midst of the world. Zion is the pure in heart; therefore the work of each officer and member of the Church is to purify the heart, that the community may be fully in accord with the genius of the Gospel. Every Saint must cultivate faith and purity in his own heart. I have spoken of Joseph Smith; I can also bear testimony regarding Brigham Young, who was his successor as the head of the Church on earth. I heard him speak with the voice of Joseph, after the latter's death. I have the same testimony to bear concerning John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff.

ELDER C. W. PENROSE

said, substantially: I desire to respond, when called upon, to any duty I am requested to perform. I have always had that desire. In my early experience I was advised by a co-laborer never to decline to perform anything which I was requested to do by brethren in authority. If I responded cheerfully I would be sustained of the Lord. I have proved this advice to be good. It has been acted upon and the result has been always satisfactory.

I rejoice in this work. How sweet it is to hear good words. The effect is peace and union. On the other hand how disagreeable is the result of saying that which brings disunion. Difficulties—political and otherwise—are growing up around us, but we need not fear them. As quoted by President Woodruff, it is the Father's good pleasure, in the proper time, to give us the kingdom and the power thereof. We need not fear the threats that are made against us, for God is with this work. The government of God is bound to be established. It will be the grandest government of which any conception can be formed. I mean no treason to any nation on earth in thus expressing myself, but merely to assert