

the Holy Ghost. It is our privilege to have that Holy Ghost reign within us, so that from morning till night and from night till morning we shall have the joy, the light and the revelation thereof. It is our duty to prepare ourselves for the world to come by living in the light of this spirit. We are here on a probation, and only for a short time. This is our second estate. We kept our first estate. In the time of trial in the eternal worlds, when the spirits had to choose between Satan and Jesus, we and all the children of men who are on the face of the earth adhered to our Father. There was one-third of the hosts of heaven who joined Satan in his rebellion. The plan which he proposed for the salvation of the children of men was so specious and attractive that one-third of the children of God thought Satan was right and the Father wrong. These did not keep their first estate, and therefore they were denied the privilege of coming on earth and receiving a tabernacle. They are consigned to darkness—to hell—and are in torment. They are angels to the devil. You who are familiar with this Church and its experiences, did you ever see an apostate, who abandoned himself to evil, that did not have that same spirit—a spirit of darkness and of murderous hate? Most of you probably have had experience in this, and you have seen the great change that comes over men and women when they lose the Spirit of God and give way to the spirit of the evil one. They are filled with torment and misery, and they seek to destroy all those who love God and cling to the truth. It has been so from the beginning. Jesus said that the devil was a liar and a murderer from the beginning. He inspired men to hate one another and to commit the worst of deeds, and at times he has changed this fair earth into a complete hell through this spirit being received by the inhabitants of the earth.

Now, the Lord our God has given unto us this probation, which we call our second estate. He said to us, in substance, "You go down here and take this mission. I will withdraw my presence from you; a veil shall be drawn between me and you; and I will leave you to exercise your own agency on the earth. I will give you My Spirit, and increase it upon you if you will seek for it, and if you will listen to that Spirit, it will guide you aright. Then, if you will obey My Gospel you shall receive the Holy Ghost and the gifts thereof, and you shall walk in the light, knowing My mind and will through the Holy Ghost." This is the promise that God made to us in the beginning. He has made it to us since we have been upon the earth. We consented to come here. For when the foundations of the earth were laid, the sons of God sang together, and rejoiced because an earth was prepared to which they could come and receive tabernacles and enjoy the blessings connected therewith. It was a step in our progress towards the glory that our Father has attained unto. The Lord has given unto all the children of men His Spirit; not the Holy Ghost with its gifts, for that is only received by obedience to the commandments of God; but every man receives the light of the Spirit, and every man that has listened to and cherished it has joined this Church. Those who have not listened to the voice of the Spirit have not received the Gospel. The Lord gives

us a rule in this revelation by which we may know the righteous from the wicked. It is that those who receive not His voice and are not acquainted with it are not of Him. Those who have a desire for righteousness listen to the voice of the Spirit, and they reject every other influence. But it is just as the parable which the Lord gave of the sowing of the seed. There are many things, after the seed is sown, that rise in the human heart and choke the good seed. I was thinking this morning, when I was speaking, of how many there are whom we have known who once had a standing in this Church, who were faithful, and who had glorious prospects before them, and who, to all human appearances, have disappeared from among us, their names almost forgotten. When I think of this I can realize how true are the words of the Lord, "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." There will be but comparatively few of the human family that will attain to celestial glory, because they will not listen to the voice of God. Many there will be that will fall by the wayside and will yield to an influence that is not of God, and the result will be that they will lose that exaltation which God is desirous to bestow upon His children. But we shall all be rewarded according to our deeds. The men and the women who keep the commandments of God will most assuredly receive the reward therefor. As I have read in your hearing, whatever spirit we are influenced by we shall receive a fulness of it. If it be the spirit of the celestial glory, or of the terrestrial glory, a fulness of that will be our reward. If, on the other hand, we desire a celestial glory, and live for it, having a determination that, with the help of God, we will be as our Savior was in the flesh—obedient, humble, meek and lowly, enduring all things for the glory that awaiteth us—then we shall attain to the fulness of that glory, and that will be the reward bestowed upon us.

How much there is, my brethren and sisters, to stir us up to diligence in these things, and to cause us to constantly remember the great prize that our Father in Heaven has placed within our reach. He wants the Latter-day Saints to attain to the highest glory. We have been gathered out from the various nations of the earth, a few here and a few there; just as one of the prophets said, like the gleanings of grapes after the vintage is over. We form now the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Lord is pouring out His Holy Spirit upon us and is pleading with us constantly through His servants to listen to His voice, and not to the persuasions of the wicked. He entreats us to concentrate all our desires and determinations upon keeping His commandments, and living lives of righteousness. And yet, my brethren and sisters, when we examine ourselves, how far we are individually from coming up to it! Why, many of us cannot even obey the simple requirements embodied in the revelation concerning the Word of Wisdom. Many of us cannot rise high enough in our faith to pay an honest tithing. Many of us fail in living with that singleness of purpose and that unselfishness which the Gospel

of the Lord Jesus Christ requires at our hands. Many of us have not faith enough even to send for the Elders of the Church when any one of our family is sick; but the first thought is, "go for a doctor,"—as though the gift of healing had been lost in the Church. How many of you, my brethren and sisters, feel as if the gift of healing no longer existed in the Church of Christ, but that doctors must be sent for, and drugs administered? And this among the Latter-day Saints, a people who profess what we do, and to whom such glorious promises have been made! Is not this true? It is so to some extent, in Salt Lake City. I do not know how it is in this ward. I am scarcely ever called in to administer to a sick person without being told what the doctor is doing and what he says. To me, it is an evidence of a want of faith in the ordinances of God's house and in His promises. To think of a people with the promise made to them that their sick shall be healed, if they will only exercise faith, neglecting this, and treating it as though there was no certainty to be attached to it! It is the same in other directions. We fail to set a proper example before our young people. If I were to send for a doctor, what would be the effect upon my children? Why, they would say, "That is the course my father took, and he is an Elder in the Church and a man of experience; he sent for the doctors, and why should not I? My mother was a good woman, but when one of the children was sick, she sent for a doctor; she did not trust to the ordinance alone; and shall we not send for a doctor? Must it all be faith and no works?" How often do we hear this sort of reasoning? I believe in works, I believe in nursing, in taking care of the sick, and in doing all that is possible for them; but I believe also in the ordinances of the house of God. God has made precious promises to the Latter-day Saints concerning the health of their families, and I tell you, in the presence of the Lord, that if the Latter-day Saints would observe the Word of Wisdom there would be less of this disposition to send for doctors and more faith in the ordinances that the Lord has established. But where there is drinking of tea and coffee and whiskey, and smoking of tobacco, it destroys faith, and they who indulge in these things cannot lay hold of the precious promises which God has given in the Word of Wisdom, that the destroyer shall pass them by, even as he did the houses of the Israelites when the first-born of Egypt was slain. And let me tell you, there will be pestilences and there will be diseases; for the Lord has said that there shall be an overwhelming scourge pass through the nations of the earth; and if the Latter-day Saints do not keep His counsel on this as well as other matters, how can they expect to enjoy immunity or receive deliverance?

I know that in talking this way I may grieve some persons, but shall we conceal the truth from the Latter-day Saints at this stage of our progress? Shall we say that the violations of the counsel of the Lord are right? I have the greatest sympathy in the world when I see people drinking tea and coffee. I wish they could continue to do it all their lives, if it is any consolation to them. But at the same time, I cannot forget what the Lord has said. I