

has placed on the earth to give His word unto His people. Zion cannot be built up in any other way. And the Lord will give us means and pour wealth into our laps. I have heard this promise from my boyhood up. I heard the Prophet Joseph say that if this people got so that they would listen to counsel and be obedient and unselfish, the Lord would pour the wealth of the world into our laps. I know it myself now. I could not testify to it then, for I was but a youth; but I know it of myself now, by the revelations of God to me. If our people will only do what they ought to do, as they have done in building this tabernacle, and as they are doing from time to time in the various labors that are assigned them—if they continue to do it, God will continue to bless them. If we pay our tithing and are liberal with the Lord, He will be liberal with us. Do not think for a moment that when you give a dollar that you impoverish yourself that much. It is a mistaken idea. I know that is the old way of looking at it; but it is a fallacy. Men will try to prove it to you; but I say it is all wrong. No man impoverishes himself that obeys the commandments of God. What he gives, God will restore to him, and more abundantly. He wants us to be a people that will put our trust in Him and believe that He has the power to fulfill His words and to give us more than we can possibly give to Him. I am telling you the truth of heaven. I know this people ought to be obedient to the things that God has revealed and to the commandments He has given. If they will do so, He will reward them abundantly.

I was reading the other day an account of a man by the name of George Mueller. He was an extraordinary man. He lived to be ninety-three years of age, and died a little while ago. He was an independent in his religious belief. I do not know that he joined any church or associated with any particular denomination; yet he was familiar with almost all the denominations. Some fifty or sixty years ago the thought took possession of him that he would try and alleviate the sufferings and the wrongs which existed in society. In 1849 he succeeded in building an orphan's home, not far from Bristol, England. At the time of his death he had succeeded in building five of these homes, and had upwards of two thousand children that he cared for and educated. He had a corps of assistants, and his outlay for this work was about \$130,000 a year. The benefits of that which he did were very widespread. He distributed about a million and a half of New Testaments, about half a million Bibles, and large quantities of other literature. Altogether, from the time he commenced until his death, he expended over six millions of dollars in this work. Of course, the mere recital of this, as far as I have gone, does not carry with it anything at all remarkable, because other men have spent large sums of money in alleviating the distresses of their fellow creatures. But this is the remarkable thing about this case—and it illustrates this principle upon which I am speaking: this man never asked any human being for help; he never begged a dollar; he never entreated anybody to give him money! So particular was he in relation to that which he was doing that for several years he would not even publish that which he was accomplishing, for the reason that it might stir up somebody to take hold of it. Now, how did he accomplish this? He was a poor man himself, and sometimes when he had finished one meal he did not know where he would get the next. He had no bank stocks; he had no personal income from any source; and yet, as I

have said, he accumulated and expended over six millions of dollars. He did this by the power of prayer! Even to us, who are so familiar with the results of prayer, it seems incredible that this work could be done by a single man through the influence of prayer; but it is declared to be the truth that he accomplished all this without asking human aid, but imploring God in prayer to give him the means to carry on his work. In answer to his prayers, people would come and give him money. He, with those who were with him, would beseech the Lord to open the way and supply his daily wants, and he never went short. He was jealous about this, lest anyone should have the glory of it; and so anxious was he that God should have the glory that, as I have said, he would not make his wants known to men. A short time before his death, he challenged anyone to prove that he had ever asked a human being for aid.

To me the story of this man's life was a most impressive one. I said to myself, "Here is an illustration of what God will do even to a man who does not hold the Priesthood of the Son of God—a man who has such prayerful confidence and such supreme faith in God that he can trust Him to the very uttermost." I believe this story with all my heart. I believe it is possible to do this. My own life is an illustration of it in a very small way. I have preached a great deal without purse and scrip, and I never yet asked a human being for anything that I wanted. It would have been a great trial to me to be being for anything that I wanted. I have had to ask my fellow men for aid. The first money ever given to me while on a mission, I was so ashamed to take it that I returned it to the widow who gave it to me, for I could not bring myself to accept it. I repented of it, however, because I knew it was wrong; I deprived that woman of a blessing by not taking that money. But I had this feeling of shrinking—maybe it was pride; and I could not bring myself to ask men for means. But I could go to the Lord, and I did go to Him, and He supplied me in most extraordinary ways. I was on the Sandwich Islands, where a picanune—six and a quarter cents—was as much to them as fifty dollars almost would be to us now; and I remember being asked by Brother and Sister F. A. Hammond where I expected to get some new clothing, as my clothes were getting very shabby. I could not tell them. I said, "The Lord will bring it about," because I knew He heard and answered prayer; and He did so. And is not that the experience of hundreds of Elders—shall I not say thousands? Perhaps there are hundreds in this congregation whose experience is similar to mine in this respect. And if the Lord can hear the prayers of humble Elders and furnish them with means, can He not hear the prayers of His servants concerning greater enterprises, which require more means and more faith? Certainly He can. God is not limited in His power to the furnishing of some article of clothing. As I have said, the whole earth is His. The heaven of heavens is the Lord's. The cattle on a thousand hills, the fish that swim in the sea, and everything there is upon the face of the earth—all are His. And He has His agents by the thousands ready to do His bidding, and to interpose in behalf of His children. They are invisible to us perhaps, though occasionally one may see them; but they are nevertheless around us, and we can feel their heavenly presence. Now, how easy it is for them to overrule and control and shape things to suit the Lord and His purposes. He has done this all the time in connection with this work. He has turned aside our ene-

mies when it has seemed as though we should perish. He has made the wrath of men to praise Him. He has defeated their machinations, and their well-laid plans. He has brought to naught. And He is able to do this always, and will do it if we will only have faith in him, and believe that He can do this, and put unfaltering trust in Him. All that is necessary is to know what is the right thing to do. How shall we know it? We can know it by receiving it through the constituted authority that God has placed on the earth to represent Him. When the word of the Lord comes through that authority, and a command is given to us to do a certain thing, let me tell you, in the name of the Lord Jesus, that can be done if we will do it. It may seem as impossible as the crossing of the Red Sea was to the Israelites. When they got to the Red Sea there was the sea in front of them, the mountains on either side, and their enemies behind them. But the Lord was equal to the occasion. He caused his servant Moses to smite the Red Sea, and a way of deliverance was opened up to His people. So it is now, and it ever will be when His people put their trust in Him and go and do in faith that which He requires at their hands. If they will do this, there is nothing that can prevent the accomplishment of the work that is entrusted to them.

Do you not believe this, my brethren and sisters? I know you do. I know that in every heart in this congregation, in which there is faith, there is a ready response that this is the truth of heaven, and that possible to God is everything that He requires at our hands. I am glad, therefore, that this Tabernacle has been built. I am glad that the faith of the Latter-day Saints has been drawn forth sufficiently to do this. Now, continue your good works, my brethren and sisters. Continue to exercise faith. Continue to cultivate the principle of union and love in your midst. Cease your wrongdoing. Control your children. Honor the Priesthood of the Son of God. Let no word be spoken in your streets, or in your dwellings, or in your associations, derogatory to the work and the servants of God, or that would in any manner grieve the Spirit of God. It is true, His servants are fallible men. No one knows their fallibility better than they do themselves, speaking generally. They know how much they shrunk from bearing the responsibility which God has placed upon them. Joseph F. Smith and George Q. Cannon, who are here today, never wanted the office that they hold. We both would have avoided it if we could. We did not seek for power, but have endeavored to protest against receiving it. Nothing but the command of God would have induced us to have taken it. But God did command; He did make this requirement of us, and we are here today, standing in the position we do, unsought for by us. So it is with all of us. All you who know Wilford Woodruff know that that man never had any aspiration to preside over this Church. He presides today because God required it at His hands. Therefore, should you not uphold these men? Should you not pray for them? Should you be envious of them? Should you speak evil of them, and be jealous of them? I say, No; for if you do, God will be angry with you. I have spoken about the First Presidency of the Church; but I need not confine these remarks to them; they apply with equal force to the Twelve Apostles, and to the presidents of Stakes. Edward Partridge did not get the office of president of the Utah Stake of Zion because he sought for it. David John does not stand where he does because he desired it; neither does Reed Smoot. The same thing applies, no doubt, to the High Council, and to the Bishops.