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GLORY AWAITING THE SAINTS.

Discourse delivered at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, October 6th, 1894, by

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

The sentiment conveyed in three lines of the hymn which has just been sung, I think the Latter-day Saints can cheerfully respond to:

"Though the world in arms combine,
Happy Zion,
What a favored lot is thine!"

I presume to say that every Latter-day Saint within these walls naturally expects to receive something before leaving that will be of great advantage, and whoever comes here with this desire and with an honest heart will never be disappointed. There were none who listened to the remarks of the brethren this morning with an honest heart but received something that cheered them and that will be of use to them. Some ideas were advanced that I never thought of before, and they were very profitable. We have found in our experience, and will still find, that the road we have to travel in some respects is a very hard one, while in other respects it is not so hard. Much depends upon ourselves in this matter. There are, however, promises which have been made to the Latter-day Saints that are very precious. We have found undoubtedly in our experience that it requires something of a desirable nature to incite us to action. If a person had a strong idea that there was a very precious mine undiscovered in one of these mountains east he would travel along the road to secure its discovery, and would be willing to make many sacrifices and perform much labor and toil in order to get at that mine, and he would endure the scorn that he might hear daily while endeavoring to reach this. This is natural. The Lord knew our natures and dispositions, and He knew exactly what to place before us in order to stimulate us to that course of action which will enable us to overcome the various difficulties that arise in our path of progress.

The first hymn that we sung this afternoon speaks of the firm foundation which the Latter-day Saints have to build upon. We know from our experience that the foundation upon which we have placed our faith is grand and glorious. I know this for myself. I

had been in this Church but a short time when I succeeded in securing the most perfect knowledge that there was a God, that there was a Son, Jesus Christ, and that Joseph Smith was acknowledged of God as His prophet. It was a knowledge that no man could communicate. It came through a revelation from the Almighty. That is a very good starting point for a Latter-day Saint, and it is something that every person, who has any ambition at all to advance in this path, will need at some time or other. He will come into circumstances of such a nature that he will need strength, and that strength will come from a knowledge of the fact that the path in which he is traveling will lead him to the possession of his highest and best desires.

The Lord has placed before us incentives of the grandest character. In the revelations which God has given, we find what a person can reach who will travel this path of knowledge and be guided by the Spirit of God. I had not been in this Church more than two years when it was clearly shown to me what a man could reach through a continued obedience to the Gospel of the Son of God. That knowledge has been as a star continually before me, and has caused me to be particular in trying to do that which was right and acceptable to God. There are many things that people may do without being seen by man. But if those things are wrong, they feel in themselves that they are wrong and that God sees them. It is a long time since the knowledge of which I speak was communicated to me in a vision. But it has not been forgotten. When it was first shown to me it was personal property; I dared not communicate it. It was something that I had never heard before. Now, however, it is public property. It seems, after all the education that we had in things pertaining to the celestial worlds, that there are some Latter-day Saints who are so well satisfied with simply knowing that the work is true that when you come to talk to them of our great future they seem surprised, and think it has nothing to do particularly with them. John the Revelator, in the third chapter of his first epistle, says:

Now are we the sons of God.

That is a strange thing for a person to assert—that he is a son of God. And he goes on:

And it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as God is pure.

These are strange sentiments. Such passages of scripture as this are not

very often repeated in pulpits in the sectarian world because they do not believe what is there said. But the Spirit of God has conveyed to us that there are solid and solemn truths in expressions of this kind. Paul, in speaking to the Phillipians, suggested that they cultivate an ambition which is quite strange to the people at the present time, though not so to the Latter-day Saints, especially those who are not satisfied to be but babes in the things of God. He says:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

What a strange teaching that would be in the pulpits of the sectarian world! But this what Paul taught, and he understood what he was talking about. He was caught up to the third heaven and heard things, he tells us, that were unlawful for man to utter. Whether Paul got beside himself and taught things that were unlawful, we leave others to judge. But this was what he suggested to the Saints to whom he was writing. Would it be wrong for us to ask the people here to cultivate an ambition of this character? There are a number of sayings in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, that seem strange to people not in possession of the Spirit of the Lord.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things.

What an expression is that? Who believes it? If a father were to say to his son, "My son, be faithful, and follow my counsels, and when you become of age you shall inherit all that I possess," it would mean something, would it not? If the father told the truth, that son would have something to encourage him to be faithful. Did Jesus want to deceive us when He made use of this expression? I will assure you that there is no deception in the language. He meant precisely what He said. Again, Jesus said:

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.

That is a wonderful saying. Is there any truth in it? It is all true. It is the Lord Almighty that said it. We are told in the Scriptures by the Apostle Paul:

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

I believe that. And when he says that Jesus "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." I believe that also. Do the Latter-day Saints believe these