

backbiting? I am sure there would not be. But you would be united. Every one of you would pull shoulder to shoulder; and the cause of God would move forward in mighty power, and every opposing obstacle would be overcome. Of course, if men have doubts in their minds, they will very likely be careless about paying their tithing, because the doubt that they entertain will affect every act of their lives. One of the best evidences of faith is to see men liberal in the payment of tithing. I can bear testimony to you that God will bless us if we do this. The feeling that I have had in my life has been: I want to tie myself as closely to the work as I can; I want to make my interests identical with the interests of Zion. I have felt that the day of sacrifice will come; when our method of living will be changed; when we shall be called upon to carry out the revelations that were given us in early days. We should prepare ourselves for this. I know the Lord blesses us in being liberal. I know that it enlarges our faith. I know that if we take interest in His work, He will prosper us. Then we can ask Him in faith for the blessings we need; and He will open our way and make it plain before us. This we should do, and set an example of this kind. The calls upon the Church are very numerous. It is true that the Receiver has taken considerable of our property, and probably some feel as though they do not want to pay tithing, on this account. When I think about the days of old, when we were stripped of everything that we had and were driven out without shelter or clothing, and many without food—when I think of those days and contrast our persecutions, as we call them today, I think they are very trifling. Today our women and children do not suffer for food. True, some go to prison; but while they are in prison their families should not, and I hope do not, suffer. They should be looked after, for there is plenty of food in our land. It is a delightful reflection to think that our families do not have to cry for bread. In the most of instances, they have enough food, tolerably good shelter, and are not driven by our enemies at the point of their guns.

Brethren, we are in a good condition, and we ought to rejoice therein. If these trials did not come upon us and this great power was not arrayed against us, the words of the prophet would not be fulfilled. Those things which God revealed

unto Nephi nearly 2500 years ago would not be fulfilled unless just such events as are now occurring were witnessed. Therefore, we need not be surprised at this. But God says, through his servant Nephi, the righteous need not fear. He says he will save the righteous, even if it be necessary to save them by fire. The prophet repeats this, the Lord having impressed him to do so. And he is pointing directly to our day and to the scenes through which we are passing. He saw that the Saints of God were not many; that their possessions were few; and that "the whore of all the earth" arrayed itself against the Church of the Lamb and sought its destruction. But he says the righteous need not fear. We need not expect, therefore, anything different to this. The Book of Mormon would not be fulfilled unless we had just such things as these to contend with. The words of the Prophet Joseph would not be fulfilled if these things did not occur. Consequently, instead of thinking that the work is going to be overcome, we should feel to rejoice that these events are taking place; and that, notwithstanding the mighty power that will be brought to bear against us—the power of the great church, the whore of the whole earth, as it is called—we shall prevail, and God will deliver us. He has laid the foundations of Zion, and they cannot be moved; and we shall go forward from one degree of strength to another, emerging from one trial, and perhaps in a short time entering upon another, and then emerging from that and entering upon another, until the kingdom of God will triumph in the earth, Zion be redeemed, Babylon be overthrown, and the great whore of all the earth be destroyed. This is inevitable, for God has spoken it. He has declared it by the mouths of holy prophets. We need not, therefore, be discouraged at what we see and what we are passing through. But if we are united, brethren, and stand together, this power cannot prevail against us. Our opponents may secure temporary victories in places, and it may seem as though we were about to be overcome; but if we are united, I tell you that God our eternal Father will overrule these events for our good, and He will bring us great deliverance. But if we are divided, then we forge our own chains, we fasten them upon ourselves, and rivet them by our own misconduct and divisions. God help me that I may never be guilty while I

live, and while he gives me breath, of doing anything that will weaken the cause of Zion in the earth! God deliver me from doing such a thing as that! I would rather lay down and die here tonight than be guilty of doing anything that will weaken the cause of Zion or divide this people. No temporary advantage for me; no emoluments for me; no wealth for me; if it is going to come at the cost of such a sacrifice as the dividing of the Saints of God and the arraying of them one against another, bringing bondage to this people, and forging fetters to make us captives to the power of sin! I say that the man who does it, woe unto him! Woe unto the man who divides the Saints of God, or who plots, or who, by his contrivances, produces factional differences among the Saints! For the woe of God will rest down upon that man. I do not care who he be, or what his influence may be, God will punish him. Therefore, brethren, let us take a course to have our garments clean from the blood of all men and from all condemnation, so that in the day of the Lord Jesus we can stand before His judgment seat and prove to Him that we have done our part towards holding up His Kingdom in the earth; that we have never done anything to weaken the influence of righteousness; but that every act of our lives, every word we have spoken, all the influence we could use, have been for the cause of righteousness, for its establishment, and for the triumph of the Kingdom of God in the earth. Let us pay our tithing. Let us pay our fast offerings. Let us be liberal in the cause of God, and make it our delight to help build up this Kingdom and establish it in the earth. And leave the result with God. He is the founder of this Kingdom. We need not worry. We need not lie awake at nights. We need not give ourselves any trouble. He will take care of this Kingdom. He will overthrow Babylon. He will bind Satan, and usher in the reign of universal peace and righteousness upon the face of the earth, if we will do our part, which I pray that God may help us to do, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President Willford Woodruff.

Brother Cannon has touched upon some very important principles here tonight regarding the Holy Priesthood, and I feel disposed to make a few remarks upon some things connected therewith.