

coming into the Fort to worship on (the Sabbath day) along the margins of the ditches, where the crickets were generally found the thickest, there would be little piles of dead crickets, which had been vomited by the gulls. The gulls had eaten their fill and vomited, and then gone on filling to repletion and vomiting again, and these little piles were found all along the margin of the water ditches, until the crickets were entirely swept off. Then the gulls disappeared also.

I allude to this because it was a time of great trial. It seemed as though the fate of the Latter-day Saints depended upon that summer's harvest. Here were the Pioneers gone back to Winter Quarters. Here were the thousands who were expecting to come to this valley; and here were the few that were already here. All these were depending upon that harvest. If that failed—we can contemplate what the consequences would have been. But it did not fail. The faith of the people was tried—tried probably to the uttermost; but God, in the hour of extremity, came to the rescue. When man's power was unavailing, He caused the fowls of heaven to come to their aid. The destroyer was swept off, and the people were saved. And in this they received another testimony of God's care over them and the results of unyielding faith in Him.

I might go on and dwell upon many things that have occurred since then, to show unto the Latter-day Saints here assembled that faith is a very great and important principle with us. There never has been a work accomplished in preaching the Gospel to the nations that faith has not been required. Those who in their ministry have united energy and perseverance with faith have always succeeded. No matter how unpromising the field to which a man may be sent, if he have faith in God and he labor with energy, obstacles that would appear insurmountable will be overcome and pass away. He may think at times that his path is entirely hemmed in, and that it is impossible for him to overcome the things which may be in the way; but if he be resolute, if he be determined, if he be full of faith, as he progresses he will find that every step which he takes will only make the pathway clearer; difficulties will vanish, and his way will be made plain, and he will come out victorious if he will only persevere. All of you who have been on missions must have had experience of this character. My life is full, I might say, of illustrations of this kind. I might go on and give, if it were prudent or in good taste, from my personal experience, many illustrations of the principles of which I speak, where it has seemed as though it were impossible to do certain things, and yet by perseverance and faith, believing that God has power to extend help and deliverance to those who seek for it, everything has been accomplished that could be desired and success has rested down upon our efforts. In fact, the history of this entire people, from beginning

to end, is an illustration of this glorious principle of which Paul writes so beautifully in this chapter to the Hebrews. I know that the lives of thousands who are listening to my voice this afternoon, are full of illustrations of it; and if you had the privilege of telling your experience it would be corroborative of that which I am endeavoring to say this afternoon. Those of you who have heard the gospel in foreign lands; those of you who have been gathered from the nations of the earth; those of you who have gone as missionaries to foreign lands; those of you who have dwelt in this country, and who have had the difficulties to contend with incident to a residence here, can also bear abundant testimony of this principle that I am dwelling upon.

You have all had experience in it, to a greater or less extent; and if the opportunity, as I say, were given to you, we could have thousands of testimonies to the truth of this—that God, in a miraculous manner, has helped each and all of you. You have witnessed His power. You have seen His hand. He has enabled you, individually, to do things that would appear impossible. Is it not so? I know it is. Therefore, in speaking to you in this strain, I am not talking to a people who have had no experience in these matters, and who are compelled to trust to my words and to my theories. It is not a matter of theory; it is a matter of practical knowledge among us. All of us, even our children, know that there is a power in faith which makes apparently impossible things easy of accomplishment.

Now, after all this experience, is there any man among us who will yield to discouragement, and who will become disheartened, because sometimes there are prospects before us that are not as bright as they might be? I dread it among this people more than anything else, excepting actual transgression. When I hear of the Latter-day Saints becoming supine and indifferent and careless, and imagining that certain things will come despite their efforts, I feel sick at heart; I am inclined to lose courage, to lose hope; because I know that when that feeling prevails, *we are beaten*; Satan has gained his point, and we cannot accomplish that which God designs we shall do. We have lost our faith. We have lost our grip. We have lost our hope, and we are in the worst possible condition—in a condition to be easily overcome and driven by our enemies. They like to infuse that feeling into you. They would like to weaken your hands. They would like to make your hearts sink within you. They would like to take from you every hope and give you every discouragement. Nothing would please Satan better. Nothing would give his allies or his satellites more encouragement and make them feel better, than to have you sink in your faith and indulge in fears, in doubts and in discouragement. I know that it is not of God. I know that any man who gives way to that spirit has not got the

Spirit of God in him. I care not if we were opposed by millions, or if the whole world were to band itself against us, it is not for us to yield to discouragement and to give way to doubt and to relinquish hope. It is contrary to the mind and will of God concerning this work, and I warn you against it—every man, every woman and every child. Dismiss these feelings from your hearts; for if you do not, Satan will obtain power over you, and you will lose your faith—that faith which should be as strong and as unyielding as the pillars of heaven. We have a tremendous work to do in the earth, and if we are discouraged at obstacles, then we shall prove that we are unworthy of the trust God has reposed in us. He has chosen us to do this work. He fills us with His Spirit when we do that which He asks of us. He gives us hope. He fills us with joy and with peace; and however dark the prospect may be, when we do as we ought to do we are filled with that feeling which I describe. Did you ever have any other kind of feeling when you were under the influence of the Spirit of God? No matter how dark the circumstances might have been that surrounded you, did you ever have any other feeling than that? No, I know you never did. I know that when the Spirit of God rests upon a man, or upon a woman, or upon a child, it fills these individuals with hope, with joy and with peace, and they know that God is with them, that angels are on their side, and that they will come off conqueror if they will only do that which He requires at their hands. All the circumstances and conditions may not be such as they would like, or as they would provide if they had the power; but by putting their trust in God, He shapes circumstances and brings to pass results, and they are always glorious to His name and full of salvation to His people.

I beg of you, therefore, my brethren and sisters, to strengthen yourselves in the Lord. This is a good day for Zion. I never saw a better day myself. I never saw a happier time. I never saw a time when I had cause, it seems to me, for more joy and thanksgiving than I have this day of the Lord, in this Tabernacle, and in the midst of this congregation. We may have difficulties and trials and sorrows to contend with; but accept them as coming from God, and not be weighed down by them, nor imagine that we are forsaken and forgotten. Never let that feeling enter into our hearts; but, as I have said, let us strengthen ourselves in the Lord. Let us reflect upon the many, many times He has delivered us. He has never yet forsaken us. He has never yet refused to listen to us. He has never yet failed to come to our deliverance. He has always provided a way of escape for us. He has always filled us with His Spirit when we have sought for it. Did you ever go to Him in a secret place and call upon Him without His hearing you, without His answering you, or without His pouring out upon you a bless-