

We read in this same New Testament that the Lord placed in the Church apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints. Not a book, not a collection of books; but apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, "for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man." That is how Christ's church was organized. You go to these same reverend gentlemen that worship the Bible and read to them out of the 4th chapter of Ephesians and the 12th chapter of I Corinthians, and what will they say? "Oh, well, we don't need any apostles nowadays. We have so many enlightened men that we don't want any apostles or prophets; and we have got the Bible, so we don't need any revelation." Yes, they have so many enlightened men who can quarrel over a passage of scripture and resort to technicalities, and they can turn to them. That is all they have, and the book is their standard. But what was the standard in the Church that Christ set up? Apostles; living men clothed with power and authority; men filled with the Holy Ghost, who received their information direct from the fountain of light, and who could read the old scriptures and explain them if necessary; who were the fountain of scripture themselves; so that if every book written by holy men of God in ancient times was burned, these men could bring forth the word of God to the people in their time, by the Holy Ghost, which gives life, and not by the letter that killeth. You ask these gentlemen about this organization of the Church, and they will say they do not need it nowadays. Do they believe that which they worship? No, they do not. I do not wish to say anything harsh about anybody; but that is the truth of it. They worship the book, and then do not believe it.

In the writings of the Apostles to the Corinthians, we read: "Desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." Reverend gentlemen, do you believe that? Do you teach that to your congregations? Is it right to prophesy? Should people desire spiritual gifts? Should they seek to prophesy? "Oh, no! these things are all done away. You are in darkness. You don't understand these things; we do. We have been to college, and have been trained to comprehend these matters, and we do not need any prophecies nowadays. The people who pretend to be prophets are all impostors." That is what these gentlemen say, and yet the Apostle Paul says: "Covet earnestly the best gifts;" and "Desire spiritual gifts, but rather that we may prophesy." And he tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are not only joy, love, patience, long-suffering, brotherly kindness, and charity; but says he, "to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds

of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." I Cor. xii, 8-12.

Then he goes on to say that all these form a part of the body of Christ—His Church—and further along says: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondary prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." All these are a part of the Church of Christ. Well, if they are, where is the Church now? Where are the signs of its existence? Where are the apostles to stand first in the Church? Where are the prophets to bring forth the word of God to the people who now live, that they may not be depending upon what was said thousands of years ago to somebody else? Where are the evangelists, the pastors, the teachers, to perfect the Saints and to bring them to the unity of the faith, to the knowledge of the Son of God, "that they may henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine?" That is what they were placed in the early church for. Where are they now? They are gone; and men have built up churches; men have made creeds; men have put their private interpretations upon the sayings of the old Prophets; men have set up this Bible—this dead letter—as a duty for people to fall down and worship. The result is, they are in the dark; their learning does not profit them, nor all their training and study till their hair has turned grey or fallen out and left them bald. Why? Because the letter killeth, and the Spirit has departed. Spirit maketh alive. Don't they believe in the Holy Spirit? Yes, in a sort of perfunctory fashion; but they don't believe in receiving that Holy Ghost that the prophets had. Does the Holy Ghost reveal the mind of God today? "Oh no," say they, "that was thousands of years ago. No such Holy Ghost now! No such manifestations now! God does not speak now! Angels do not come down now! The Holy Ghost is not like it was when the prophets and the apostles had it! There is no scripture written now! We have to go by the writings of the old, dead men, written for ages that are dead and buried." It is all nonsense. We who live on the earth in these days are the sons and daughters of the great God as much as the people who lived in the days of Isaiah, or in the days of Peter, and we need the word of the Lord today—the living word, the word of God spoken now. Is God dumb? Are the heavens shut up and sealed? Has God changed? Do we not need scripture now to refresh us spiritually, as well as the people who lived in the past times? Are we to chew over the old dry husks they have left, or are we to have the kernel, the living word of God today?

Thanks to God Almighty, the heavens have been opened again; the silence of ages has been broken. Our Father has spoken from heaven. Jesus Christ has made himself manifest. Angels have come down from the courts of glory and brought messages of life and salvation. And we have the books also; not only the Bible, but the Book of Mormon—a history of this

continent, written by inspired men, translated by an inspired man. But that is a record of the past, the history of another people, the revelations to another people. It harmonizes with the Bible, and also with the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which contains some of the revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Prophet Brigham Young. We have in our midst, above all that, the living oracles—living Apostles, living Prophets; men now inspired of God, who can give us, today, as it is needed, the word of the Lord for our guidance. And above all that, we have the great consolation that we have this "motesure word of prophecy, like unto a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arises in all our hearts"—the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, given to every man to profit withal, with the same gifts, the same manifestations, the same powers, the same light and the same blessings that came with it formerly. It is a comforter, it is an enlightener; it takes of the things of God and shows them to us today—now; and all people who live on the earth may receive that blessing if they will. How can they get it? Just as they obtained it in olden times. The word of the Lord is the same today as it was on the day of Pentecost. What is it? "Repent and be baptized every one of you." Turn from your sins. Turn from your wickedness. Turn from your false creeds and your foolish notions; from your man worship, from your Bible worship, from your worship of wealth, and from your corruptions, and come unto the Lord your God. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." And He is calling the earth from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.

I tell you, my friends, if there are any here today who do not know these things are true, that I know they are true, and I bear you this testimony, and I am willing to meet it when I stand before the great white throne, and every man shall be judged for his works. I bear you my testimony that I obeyed this call, that I repented, that I was baptized, that I received the remission of my sins, that I received the Holy Ghost, and it is a reality, it is not an imaginary thing, but is just as clear and plain as the light that comes from the sun; and as that is a reality, so is the light of God that comes from the Sun of Righteousness; and it guides into truth, makes plain the things of God and dispels darkness from the human mind and fills the soul with an assurance and a confidence that nothing else can give. I know these things are true, and by its light I am able to read this Bible and find out the truth it contains and detect if there are errors; not because there is anything remarkable about me, but I have received that Spirit, and so have thousands who listen to me today, and all may receive it. This Gospel shall be preached to all nations and tongues, and the honest and pure in heart will hear the sound and obey it. Not many of the rich,