

be founded upon the rock, and there will be no danger whatever, when the storms come, no matter of what kind they may be, but you will be able to withstand them. The keeping of the commandments of God is the foundation stone upon which we should build the structure of our lives. We are the architects of our own lives. We have our own free agency. It matters not to me what any man or set of men may do, if I keep the commandments of God I do know that I will be saved, and exalted in the presence of my Heavenly Father.

Speaking of the necessity of coupling works with our faith, I will read some passages from the Bible:

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matt. vii, 21.

The promise is to those who do the will of the Father. Those who fail to do the will of the Father, though they make professions and proclaim their testimony to the divinity of this work, have no promise made to them. I do not know that I can do better than to read this entire chapter:

Judge not, that ye be not judged, For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine:

For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

The promise that is made here by our Savior is that if we hear His sayings and then do them, when the storms come and beat upon the house we have erected, it shall not fall. I say to you here today, that there never has been a man or a woman in all Israel, and there never will be, who is keeping the commandments of God and has not committed sin, who will ever lose the testimony of the Spirit of God and be found in opposition to His work. The individual that fails to obey the commandments of God and to recognize the authority of God upon the earth, he is the one that loses the light and inspiration of the Spirit of God and turns away. You cannot find in the history of the Church an individual that lost the Spirit of God while keeping the commandments of God. Men obey the Word of Wisdom; they obey the law of tithing; they attend to their meetings; they magnify the Priesthood that is placed upon them, and they grow from day to day in the light and inspiration of the Spirit of God, and the testimony of Jesus never dims within them. But men break the Word of Wisdom year after year, and they lose a certain portion of the Spirit of God. They fail to labor diligently and faithfully in the discharge of the duties and obligations resting upon them, and they lose the Spirit of God. The Prophet Joseph Smith stated that whenever a man neglected a known duty, no matter what it was, he had taken the first step to apostasy. I say that every Latter-day Saint knows that it is his duty to obey the law of tithing and the Word of Wisdom, and to labor diligently and faithfully to discharge any duty that devolves upon him as a holder of the Priesthood; and when any man neglects any one of these known duties, unless the Prophet Joseph Smith stated that which was not true, such an individual has taken the first step to apostasy. We want to remember that this teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith is in direct harmony with the sayings that I have read to you today. We are told by our Savior to judge not, that we be not judged; that if we do the things He tells us, we shall build our house upon the rock, and it matters not what storms come, whether they be in the shape of sickness, or the loss of our beloved ones, or financial distress of any kind, or political troubles, they will have no effect upon our faith. We ourselves can make a success of life, or we can make a failure. No one can prevent me or you from arriving at that office or calling in the Priesthood where we can do the most good, except ourselves. I can deprive myself of advancement, of pro-

gression, and of increasing in the gifts of God, by failing to keep the commandments of God; but there is no living who can deprive me of the Presence of God if I keep His commandments.

To return to the subject of faith and works. I will read a few more passages of scripture:

If ye love me, keep my commandments

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father: I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.—John XIV, 15, 21.

Do you desire the love of God, the Father of your existence, the Father of your spirits? Then I say to you, obey the commandments of God, and His Only Begotten Son has promised that you shall be loved of Him. Whose does He promise? That He will love you, and will manifest himself to you. I say to you that I do know that God lives, and that Jesus is the Christ. I do know that if you will keep the commandments of God, you will receive this same knowledge. And I also say to you, that if you do not keep the commandments of God, although you may once have had the light and inspiration of the Spirit of God, it will not stay with you. There is no promise made to any man that he can retain the testimony that Jesus is the Savior of the world if at the same time fail to keep the commandments of God.

Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.—James 22.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and desire of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works; show me thy faith without works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

Thou believest that there is one God; but the devils also believe, and tremble.—James 22, 14-19.

If this language that I have just quoted is correct, the devils believe in God. When Jesus cast devils out, they cried out and testified that He was the Son of God. Did that knowledge save them? Will the knowledge that you and I have save us? The more abundantly we have been blessed of God, the more testimonies we have received of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the oftener we have seen the sick healed, the oftener we have seen the manifestations of the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy, the greater is our responsibility to labor for the onward advancement of the work of God. Of those to whom much is given, much is expected. As we grow and increase in knowledge and in the testimony of the Spirit of God, we must also grow and increase in labor and effort for the advancement of the work of God, or we will lose the Spirit of God. It is no advantage that God lives that will save us, it is keeping the commandments of God.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?