

a certain effect upon our lives here, and to a certain extent they govern and control the lives that we lead here, just the same as the labors that we do here will control and govern our lives when we pass from this stage of existence. It has been revealed to us, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, that whatever degree of intelligence we shall attain to in this life, the same will rise with us in the life to come. It is because of this knowledge that we will have an advantage over those that are negligent, in the life to come. It is now explained to my mind how some come into this world without any particular degree of energy or desire to labor for their fellows and for the spread of righteousness; it is because of their failure to have kept their first estate with diligence and with fidelity. It will be explained in like manner in the life to come that those who are faithful will have this promise that I have referred to fulfilled upon their heads and that the degree of intelligence which we attain here will give us the advantage there. I would urge upon every one to labor with zeal and with all the power that we possess, so that we may have the approval of our labors by our Heavenly Father, and that we shall be prepared and qualified to enter into His presence, and to there have wisdom and intelligence to press forward in the labors that will devolve upon us in the life to come.

In the meeting that we had last Sunday, among other things I referred to the building of the Salt Lake Temple, and urged upon the Latter-day Saints to make an effort to the full extent of their ability in contributing of the substance with which they had been blessed to aid in the completion of that Temple. I now make the same appeal with reference to all the duties that rest upon us as Latter-day Saints. If we shall, to the full extent of our ability, labor for the onward advancement of God's kingdom, then there will be no other requirement made of us. One of the requirements made of the Latter-day Saints is that they shall be faithful in attending to their prayers, both their secret and family prayers. The object that our Heavenly Father has in requiring this is that we may be in communication with Him, and that we may have a channel between us and the heavens whereby we can bring down upon ourselves blessings from above. No individual that is humble and prayerful before God, and supplicates Him every day for the light and inspiration of His Holy Spirit, will ever become lifted up in the pride of his heart, or feel that the intelligence and the wisdom that he possesses are all-sufficient for him. The prayerful and humble man will always realize and feel that he is dependent upon God for every blessing that he enjoys, and in praying to God he will not only pray for the light and the inspiration of His Holy Spirit to guide him, but he will feel to thank God for the blessings he receives, realizing that life, that health, that strength, and that all the intelligence which he possesses comes from God, who is the Author of his existence. If we do not keep this channel of communication open between us and our Heavenly Father, then we are robbed of the light and the inspiration of His

Spirit, and of that feeling of gratitude and thanksgiving that fills our heart and that desire to praise God for His goodness and mercy to us. There is no feeling that is more Godlike than that feeling of intense gratitude and thanksgiving to God that comes when we realize and feel that God has blessed us. It has been the testimony of all that have been abroad preaching the Gospel, and who have been able to bring conviction to the hearts of their fellows as to the divinity of the mission in which they are engaged, that the joy and gratitude which fill their hearts in thus being the instruments in the hands of God of bringing people to a knowledge of the plan of life and salvation was greater than they had power to express. We should cultivate that spirit and that disposition to so order our lives that we will ever have a feeling of gratitude and of thanksgiving in our hearts, and a desire to praise God for His goodness to us. We will not be able to have this feeling if we are negligent and thoughtless in attending to the duty of praying to our heavenly Father. So also with all the requirements that are made of us as Latter-day Saints. They are all for our benefit, for our advancement, and to fit and prepare us to go back into the presence of God. We have come upon this earth for the purpose of carrying out the mind and will of our Heavenly Father, and working out for ourselves an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of our Father; and just as surely as we understand, by the natural intelligence that we possess, that if we enter into a college or university and desire to attain a certain degree we must labor to that end, just so surely it will be necessary for us to labor and to fulfill the duties and the obligations resting upon us and to keep the law upon which a seat in the celestial kingdom is predicated. The sooner we awaken to a full realization of the fact that it is the amount of good that we do that will bring to us the blessings of God, the better it will be for us. No amount of knowledge, of inspiration and testimony as to the divinity of the work of God will be of benefit to us unless we put that knowledge into actual practice in the daily walks of life. It is not the amount that any individual may know that will benefit him and his fellows; but it is the practical application of that knowledge. There are many men that are great students, and yet so far as making a practical application of their knowledge they are almost what might be called educated fools. There are some Latter-day Saints (it may be a harsh expression, but it is true) that are almost educated fools, so far as the knowledge of the Gospel and the keeping of the commandments are concerned. I know men that testify that they have received a knowledge of the divinity of the work in which they are engaged, by the voice of inspiration to them and by seeing the sick healed by the power of God, and yet these very individuals are negligent in keeping the commandments of God. There are many that testify that they know that this is the work of God, and all they do is to bear that testimony. There are some people that attend meetings year after year and listen to the servants of the Lord teach them in simplicity and humility the duties that devolve upon them, and

they go away from those meetings and never put in practice what they hear; yet they take great credit to themselves for always going to meetings. Now, my friends, if you always went to your dinner, sat down and took a good look at the food, and never partook of any of it, it would not be long till you died of starvation. There are some Latter-day Saints that go to meetings, and they die of starvation spiritually because they do not receive and digest the spiritual food that is dispensed there. We should not be hearers of the word alone, but doers of it, too. There is nothing that will bring us more of the Spirit of God than to carry out the advice and the counsel given to us here last Sunday—that we should be kind, considerate, charitable, long-suffering and forgiving. There is nothing that will bring more joy to us than to be ready and willing to forgive the trespasses of our neighbors against us, and there is nothing that will bring more condemnation to us than to harden our hearts and to be bitter and vindictive in our feelings towards those by whom we are surrounded. I find here in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, on page 240, the following:

My disciples, in days of old, sought occasion against one another, and forgave not one another in their hearts, and for this evil they were afflicted, and sorely chastened: Wherefore I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another, for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord, for there remaineth in him the greater sin. I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men; and ye ought to say in your hearts, let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds. And he that repenteth not of his sins, and confesseth them not, then ye shall bring him before the church, and do with him as the Scripture saith unto you, either by commandment or by revelation. And that ye shall do that God may be glorified, not because ye forgive not, having not compassion, but that ye may be justified in the eyes of the law, that ye may not offend him who is your Lawgiver. Verily I say, for this cause ye shall do these things.

I think I referred to this passage, without reading it, last Sunday. But I wish to say that I have met some who were here last Sunday who imagined that I had taken occasion against my fellow servant who preached to you, and that I had undertaken to sit down, so to speak, on what he said. I am very glad to be able to stand up here before the Latter-day Saints and say that I never thought of such a thing. I had no need to seek occasion against my brother who preceded me in speaking, as not one single word did he say in my hearing but I could say amen to with all my heart. Instead of my undertaking to correct his remarks, I stated to that audience that I had rejoiced in what had been said; and so I had. I had a brother come to me and tell me that the advice was given here last Sunday that a man should seek for certain counsel regarding political matters from his Bishop and the President of the Stake, and if he did not get what he wanted, to go to the Presidency of the Church. A good Elder came to me and said that Latter-day Saints that were here last Sabbath went away and told this. All I have got to say is that the Latter-day Saints that