

other denominations, and these ministers were always listened to with courtesy and attention.

But to return to persecution, which in this connection is important evidence; whenever the true Gospel of Jesus is on the earth, you may depend upon it that its believers will be persecuted, because Satan is not dead and has not lost his ancient animosity. He slew the prophets; he crucified the Son of God; he killed His apostles, with the exception of John the Revelator, and he was immersed in a caldron of boiling oil, but there was a providence around him which prevented his enemies from killing him, though he was cruelly persecuted and banished to the Isle of Patmos.

These fruits or evidences of which I have spoken, have characterized the preaching of this Gospel from the beginning. But there is another fruit which I consider of the utmost importance and beyond everything else. Every person that embraces this Gospel has this promise made to him: that if he will have faith in God and in Jesus Christ, if he will repent of his sins, if he will be baptized for the remission of sins by one having authority, and have hands laid upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost, he shall receive that glorious gift.

Now, impostors might make a promise of that kind; but I appeal to you who are here tonight, is it possible for an impostor to bring down from heaven the power of God? Can an impostor make a promise and then expect that the Lord will fulfil that promise? Such a thought is abhorrent to every Christian mind; it is impossible. But these Elders who go out, without purse and scrip, to the nations of the earth, go forth and make this promise; and the thousands who have gathered to these mountains from these various lands bear testimony that they did receive the Holy Ghost when they submitted to these ordinances, as the Elders promised they should, and that they know this is the work of God, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the bestowal of its gifts upon them.

I look upon this as the most important fruit of the Gospel. This is an age of infidelity. Skepticism is sweeping over the land. Ministers of various denominations are adopting some of these false ideas concerning the Bible, concerning the creation of man, concerning our Father in heaven himself. Doubt is being spread and propagated by so-called ministers of Christ, concerning God himself. Now, this Church, through the providence of God, has been raised up to be a beacon light, a witness for the Almighty that He does live.

How do we know He lives! We know He lives, because He hears and answers our prayers, and He gives us that which He has promised. We have obeyed His Gospel, and He has conferred upon us the gifts of that Gospel. We know by the gift of the Holy Ghost that God lives, and that man is the child of God. We know that we have not descended from a lower order of creation, but that we are the offspring of Deity. The Lord has raised up in these mountains, through the preaching of His Gospel, an innumerable host of witnesses, who bear testimony to these truths. They declare that God is the same today as He was yesterday, and that He will be the

same throughout eternity, unchangeable and unalterable. And our children are taught to seek unto the Lord for this testimony.

Today is our Fast day. We fast once a month, and every family contributes to the poor that which would be consumed in the household on that day. On the afternoon of the first Sabbath of the month we assemble in our various ward meeting houses, and these meetings are open for all to speak and bear testimony. I attended such a meeting this afternoon in the ward in which I live. I heard boys and girls testify that they knew that God lived. How did they know it? They said they knew it because God heard and answered their prayers. They knew that they could appeal to Him as their Father, and that He would grant unto them the righteous desires of their hearts. My heart was melted within me in listening to these young people bear this testimony. You could feel that their words proceeded from the depths of their hearts, and that they knew that which they testified to.

This is what we are doing in the earth. You who are Christians yourselves, and who are making endeavors to establish righteousness, let me tell you, my friends, what this despised people, called Mormons, are doing in these mountains. We are endeavoring to the very best of our ability to lay in the hearts of the children of men, the foundation of faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a determination to repent of sin and put it away far from them. We say to our young men, "You must be as pure as the girls." The conduct of an unvirtuous boy among us is looked upon as hateful. We execrate such conduct. Boys must be pure as well as girls; and girls must be as pure as angels. We teach our children these principles. We continually impress upon them that the worst crime any man can be guilty of, next to murder, is sexual crime. I know this is not the view generally taken of us. The Latter-day saints are supposed to be a licentious people. It is thought that it is licentiousness that binds us together. No greater mistake was ever made. But there must be an excuse for persecution, as there was in ancient days. The ancient saints were maligned, and all manner of evil was said against them falsely; and so it has been with us. All manner of evil has been said against us falsely. But I bear testimony to you this evening that our aim is to raise up a righteous and a virtuous generation in these mountains. We do not want drunkards; we do not want liars; we do not want dishonest men in any form; we do not want unvirtuous people; we do not want people who will not keep the commandments of God and live in purity and humility before Him. We are endeavoring to cleanse the Church itself continually, and to keep it cleansed. Persecution has a tendency to do this. We get persecution enough, occasionally at least, to cleanse from our midst those who are not built upon the rock. We are striving in these mountains to lay the foundation of righteousness. If we could have this State in the condition we would like, there would be no drinking saloons, no gambling hells, no disreputable houses. It was the case with us for years. We try to be an honest people; we try to keep our word, we try to deal with one another as Christ has commanded us. We believe it is better to

suffer wrong than to do wrong. This is our constant teaching to the people.

Time will not permit of elaboration at the present. I have, therefore, dwelt upon these particular points very hastily. It is not pleasant to be sitting as we are tonight, in so crowded and heated an auditorium; but it is only proper that you should know some of the features of our religion and our organization. We believe in Apostles and Prophets. We believe that wherever the Spirit of God reigns there is the spirit of prophecy. We expect to go to heaven. We labor for that. And when we go there and mingle with those holy beings who are there, I expect we shall not feel ashamed to sit down and talk with the ancient Apostles and Saints. If they had Apostles in the Church when they were upon the earth, the members of our Church would be at home in talking with them, for we had Apostles. So with the gifts. They could say we had the gifts. We contended for the gifts. The gift of prophecy was in the Church, and the sick were healed by the laying on of hands; that was the practice in our Church. We were persecuted. We were sent to prison; we were driven from our homes, and some of us laid down our lives. The Latter-day Saints could talk to any of the Apostles in this strain. There is nothing that they enjoyed, there is no gift that they had, no doctrine that they believed in, that we do not have in our Church. Our teachings are precisely the same as their teachings. They might say, "We had experience on the earth in traveling without purse and scrip; we went out as witnesses to prove the world. How was it with you?" "Why, Brother Peter, (or Brother Paul, or brother John) we did the same exactly." Many of us could say: "I have traveled thousands of miles without purse and scrip, without any pay or reward, and I have proved the world. When they rejected me and persecuted me, I have shaken off the dust from my feet as a witness against them." "Well, then, you have had the same experience that we had." And that would be the case. I think we could sit down with them in the kingdom of God and rejoice as no other people could. They believed in Prophets and Apostles, in gifts, in the power of God being bestowed upon man; we believe in the same. They had union and love; we have the same. We exhibit in our lives that which the Apostle John says, "By this ye may know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren." There is a love among the Latter-day Saints—I say it with all due respect to everybody else—that, taken as a whole, is unexampled in the world. I have traveled in many lands and among many peoples, but I have never seen anything approaching the love that I witness among the Latter-day Saints. Therefore, my heart swells continually with thankfulness to God our Eternal Father for having restored these great gifts and blessings to the earth once more, that again there is the spirit among men which binds them together in love.

Now, calamities are going forth. The Lord has predicted that they will come in the last days. The newspapers are full of accounts of them, and men's hearts are failing them in looking forward to the things that are coming upon the earth. But in this community no such fear exists. We have no fear for