

Joseph said: "O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important key—that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it that you do not betray heaven; that you do not betray Jesus Christ; that you do not betray the brethren; that you do not betray the revelations of God. \* \* \* Yea, in all your kicking and floundering, see to it that you do not this thing." We are now in the midst of politics and all sorts of things, and I think we are going to be tried, or are being tried, as we never were tried; and a good many, if they are not careful, will forfeit their integrity. We have got to be watchful, for I tell you God has sent us here to test us and to prove us. We were true in keeping our first estate. The people that are here today stood loyally by God and by Jesus, and they did not flinch. If you had flinched then, you would not be here with the Priesthood upon you. The evidence that you were loyal, that you were true, and that you did not waver, is to be found in the fact that you have received the Gospel and the everlasting Priesthood. Now you are in your second estate, and you are going to be tested again. Will you be true and loyal to God with the curtain drawn between you and Him, shut out from His presence, and in the midst of darkness and temptation, with Satan and his invisible hosts all around you, bringing all manner of evil influences to bear upon you? The men and the women that will be loyal under these circumstances God will exalt, because it will be the highest test to which they can be subjected. It is not as it was before. We were then in the presence of God. Now there is a veil between us and our Father, and we are left to ourselves, to a certain extent. We are left to be governed by the influences that we invite, and there are any number of evil influences around us, whispering into our ears and hearts all manner of things. If we will open our hearts to receive them, or allow them to enter our hearts, we will think evil of our brethren and of our sisters; we will have malice towards them; we will envy them, and we will say bad things about them. God will test us in all this. I have always thanked God, since I was old enough to understand principle, that I was among a people like the Latter-day Saints. The Lord has helped me to stand anything that the world can do. I have been made perfectly bullet proof, it seems to me, so far as the world is concerned. But it has always been a great source of grief to me to have anything occur between my brethren and myself. I do not want to have any feeling in my heart towards my brethren, or say or do anything that will give them pain. I know there is more integrity among the Latter-day Saints than among any other people on the face of the earth. They are true to each other; they love each other; and many of them would die for each other. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Brethren and sisters, I would like us to keep before us the grand promises that God has made to us and the glorious prospects that are open before

us. We may have our trials and afflictions here. But let our eyes look forward with faith to that glorious future that God has prepared for us, and the great reward that He will bestow upon us. For we shall have crowns; we shall have thrones; we shall have dominion; we shall have power. God will give all this to us just as fast as we are prepared for it; and if we enter into these holy temples and receive there the ordinances that He has commanded His servants to give, these promises will be fulfilled to the very letter, if we are faithful. Not one will fail. How was it when you were baptized by one having authority? Did you not have the testimony that your sins were remitted? God accepted the offering. He accepted the administration of the ordinance. He accepted the laying on of hands, and He gave the Holy Ghost to those upon whom hands were laid. And when you come to the altar, and the servant of God says, I seal upon you the blessings of the holy resurrection, with power to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, clothed with glory, immortality and eternal lives; and I seal upon you the blessings of kingdoms, thrones, principalities, powers, dominions and exaltations, the blessings of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob—when the servant of God pronounces these words upon those who come to the altar, and he seals the wife to the husband, just as sure as God lives, just as sure as the heavens are above our heads and the earth beneath our feet, so sure will those words be fulfilled upon the heads of those upon whom they are pronounced, if they are faithful to the covenants which they make; and they will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, clothed with glory, immortality and eternal lives. When we lay down our dead, after having received these holy ordinances—our husbands, our wives, our children, our fathers, our mothers—we lay them down without a shadow of doubt in our hearts as to the future. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Under such circumstances as these, death has lost its sting; the grave has lost its victory; it is robbed of its terrors by the glorious promises that God has made unto His servants and His children. Others may fear death. Others may dread the future. Others may think that it is a leap in the dark. But not so the Latter-day Saints! The future is illumined by the glory of God and the promises that He has made to us; and when the time comes for us to lay down these mortal lives, we will do so just as we do when we go on missions and the time comes for us to return home—we will go home, with regrets of course for those we leave behind, but with gladness and joy to think that our missions are ended and that we have been faithful, and we will be welcomed by our brothers and sisters and our families. We will look forward with joyful anticipation to the delightful reunion that we will have with those whom we have left, who have been our fellow-laborers and companions in the afflictions of this life, and it will be a heavenly time. Therefore, I say that death has lost its terrors, and the grave no longer triumphs over people who have received such blessings as these.

Oh! my brethren and sisters, what is there that should tempt us to waver in our devotion to the work of God? Shall we hesitate with our means in building temples and in carrying forward this glorious work? God forbid. Let us devote ourselves with every energy of our souls and with all the means that God has placed within our reach, to the advancement of the cause of righteousness. Let us teach our children to do the same. For the day of righteousness is approaching, and we should do all in our power to bring about that happy period, when sin shall be banished from the face of the earth. I feel as though there is nothing on the earth that I have that I would hesitate to give for this great and glorious cause. God has made my life a constant joy. He has clothed my days with peace and happiness, and has blessed me in every direction, and shall I not worship Him? Shall I not serve Him? Shall I not do all in my power for Him and for His cause? I try to do so. I certainly want to do so, and I want to see my brethren and sisters do so. I want to stir them up to diligence. I want to present before them the glorious Gospel that God has revealed, the glorious promises that He has made to us, and the glorious future that He has assured us of; that we will remember them, and that we will teach our children, and not be led away by the paltry baubles of the world, and by the spirit of the world. God forbid that men and women who have made such covenants as we have, and who have been blessed as we have, should do this! God has given everything to us that we could ask for in righteousness. Is there any knowledge that would be of use to you that God has not given you? He has clothed the past with light. He has illumined the present with glory; and the future—it is beyond the power of human tongue to describe that which God has revealed concerning the future! We may occasionally get a glimpse of it in the vision; but we cannot describe it, nor fully comprehend it.

I am desirous to see this Temple finished. I am desirous that when we go away from this conference we will go with a determination to do all in our power to furnish the necessary means. And not only this Temple, but everything else. For God will reward us abundantly. He will multiply us upon the right hand and upon the left. I can testify of this to you in the name of the Lord, for I know it; and I know that God will bless His people if they are devoted to Him and their eyes are single to His glory.

I pray God, the Eternal Father, to bless you. Oh! this is a glorious Conference. I wish you could stay here a week. I feel as though we were near the gates of heaven. I pray God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Above all things, be firm in the truth, and steadfast even unto the end, that we may receive the glorious reward that He has promised unto us. Amen.

REFERRING TO the size of the Australian ballots to be used in some parts of this glorious country November 8th, it is generously conceded that where the height of the man is five feet or under he will be permitted to use a step-ladder.