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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may rest upon us throughout the remainder of our conference as it has been upon the brethren who have already spoken. The gathering of the Latter-day Saints in conference makes very important occasions. They are for the transaction of business and the giving of instructions, that the people may receive frequently the true sound, that the keynote may be given to them, and that the Latter-day Saints may enjoy the Holy Spirit so that they can always discern the truth, and then they are not easily deceived in regard to doctrine and principle pertaining to the plan of life and salvation. The revelation requires particularly that the Elders upon whose shoulders rest the responsibilities of the kingdom should meet together frequently. In general conference we gather twice a year, in stake conferences four times a year; and at these gatherings all business is transacted, and it is done by common consent. Every member of the Church is entitled to a voice in the transaction of Church business, whether in the quorums of the Priesthood, in the gatherings of the people in wards and in stakes, or as a whole Church. No man is held in position in this Church who has not the fellowship of the people; and men in this Church never lose the fellowship of the people so long as they do right. For the Latter-day Saints have the Holy Ghost as their companion, and the Holy Ghost comprehends, not only doctrine and principle, but men; so that men who are called to preside over us are read of the Holy Ghost. If they have weaknesses, the Saints discover them; and they have confidence in men in proportion to their integrity to the cause. If men live their religion, the people love them and listen to them. If men do not live according to their professions, they lose caste among the people. It is singular that the Latter-day Saints can discern so carefully and particularly the conditions of one another, and how readily they will detect error, false doctrine or evil that may arise, or be presented among the people by false teachers. Every Latter-day Saint is entitled to the presence of the Holy Spirit, to give him understanding and wisdom, and no Latter-day Saint need to be led astray by false teachers; for the Spirit of the Lord being their com-

panion, they are entitled to comprehend the truth and to detect error, and to know their status before the Lord day by day.

But in order to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord as our Heavenly Father has designed we should do, it is really necessary that we should serve the Lord, that we should honor Him and keep His commandments, that we should be very careful in our lives, and that our hearts should not be set upon the things of this world, but that we should seek to lay up treasures in heaven. The way treasures are laid up in heaven, as I understand it, is by men doing day by day the good that opens up before them—laboring to improve and to elevate society. If society is corrupted by the spirit of lying, then it is the duty of every man who bears the Priesthood and every person who has embraced the truth to operate against the spirit of lying, and to teach truth. If there is a spirit of infidelity afflicting the people, then every man should be nerved against infidelity, and labor to promote faith in the hearts of the people. For it is not possible to please God without faith. It is not possible to please our Heavenly Father without the spirit of truth and honesty, of virtue and uprightness. The source of happiness to mankind, we are told in the scriptures, is the favor of God. If we please Him, He will favor us. I presume that every Latter-day Saint under the sound of my voice today has had experience enough to know that the favor of the Lord is not upon us when we do wrong. I take it that we have all done wrong enough to know this, I take it also that we have all done well and wrought righteousness enough to know that the favor of heaven is upon us when we do right. Why shall we do wrong? Why shall we not listen to the counsels of our Heavenly Father and do right all the time? Why is it that we are not doing right constantly? Is there any power given to Satan to compel us to do wrong? Is there any power given to Satan to compel us to break the Sabbath day and not to keep it holy? Is power given to Satan that he can compel us to be unvirtuous, unjust or untruthful? I have never found it so in my experience. I have never been compelled to do wrong. What wrong I have done I have done with my eyes open. I have known what was right, I have known what was wrong. I have been thoroughly taught by my parents and by my brethren; I have been taught by the conscience that the Lord has placed within me, and when that conscience has been lighted by the spirit and power of God, I have been able to comprehend very easily what was wrong and what was right. I do declare in all soberness before this vast congregation

this morning, that every man has been graciously endowed by our Heavenly Father with the power to do His mind and will. Every man in a normal condition has the power to do right. When the Gospel has been taught us, we have exercised our reason and judgment. When the scriptures have been expounded to us we have believed them. Men sent of the Lord and commissioned to teach and expound the scripture have taught us that it was necessary that we should believe in God our Father, who dwells in the heavens; and we have been willing to listen and to treasure up the truth that they taught us, and to believe it. The Latter-day Saints today believe in God our Heavenly Father, and that we are in reality His children; that He is our head, and that we are indebted to Him for life and being upon this earth. He has laid down the plan of life by which we may be saved and brought back into His presence, by which we may become as He is, and inherit His power, His greatness, His authority, and the riches of eternity. He has made all these things plain to us, and He has sent into the world His Son, our elder brother, to be our Savior. We had come in a fallen condition. Adam came and fell that we might be. By that fall came death, and by death our tabernacles are placed in the grave, returned to mother earth, there to remain until the resurrection, and the resurrection was brought to pass by the death and suffering of the Son of God. Our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, shed His blood for our sins—not for His own, for He was immaculate and without blemish—and He laid down His life that you and I should be redeemed from that death which had come upon us because of the fall of Adam. By His death are we redeemed. By His blood are we cleansed from the conditions of the fall. For Jesus broke the bonds of death; and as all men are consigned to the grave because of the fall of Adam, in like manner are all men raised from the grave through the suffering and death of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Every human being that has been given a tabernacle upon this earth will have that tabernacle resurrected, and will enter into it again and appear before God to be judged for the deeds done in the body. In likeness of the death and burial and resurrection of the Son of God, the Lord has arranged in the plan of life that we should lay our bodies in the watery grave, and that as He came forth out of the grave to newness of life, so should we come from the watery grave into newness of life, and to walk no more after the ways of men. It is required that we should not be of the world. We should not be like the world. As in times past we were sinners and transgressors, and were