

Him. The ancient apostles, under the influence of His Spirit, encouraged the people in their day, as we do today. We say,

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

But the people have not faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God. We must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, or we will not seek Him. We know very well that in all organizations and governments it is necessary to have authority, and that no man can act in any position except he has authority, unless he does it fraudulently. There are those whose right it is to issue that authority, and all agents have to receive their proper credentials. Do you not think that the house of God is a house of order? Do you not think that our Heavenly Father has a perfect organization in His Church? Why, certainly. We learn from the history which has been handed down to us in the sacred scriptures that the Lord Jesus Christ chose twelve apostles. Those were the first officers that He chose. He ordained them and sent them forth to preach His Gospel. Jesus Christ was a High Priest and an Apostle. He also had the power to ordain other Apostles and High Priests. Afterwards He ordained seventy others, and sent them forth to preach His Gospel, giving them authority to go forth and to heal the sick and perform such miracles as the people might have faith to receive. Now had that church continued upon the earth, there would have been no necessity for that which John saw in a vision when he was upon the Isle of Patmos. He says:

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

As I say, there would be no necessity for this angel flying through the midst of heaven if this Gospel were on the earth. But John, in the revelation given unto him, had seen the church go into the wilderness and the priesthood taken up into heaven. He had seen the establishment of a great power that was to hold all nations in subjection, in the which all would drink of the wine of her fornication—and this prior to the judgments of the Almighty being poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, because they had rejected His gospel and broken the everlasting covenant, they had changed the ordinances, and they were teaching false doctrines, and would not repent. I wish to bear my testimony that we are living in this hour of God's judgment, and that the Gospel of the kingdom is being preached to all nations for a witness, thus giving the nations a time for repentance. This Gospel reached us upon the isles of the sea, and upon the continents; and we all received our blessing through that priesthood that our Heavenly Father restored to the earth. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery bore testimony that John the Baptist visited them and conferred upon them the Aaronic Priesthood. They also bore testimony that Peter, James and John visited them and conferred the Apostleship and High Priesthood.

These testimonies are true. Those of this congregation who have obeyed the Gospel and received the Holy Ghost know that their testimonies are true. As I know, so they know. And I know that God lives. I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet sent of God. I have seen the signs promised by Christ follow the believer. It was said by one of the brethren this morning that some claimed we did not enjoy the gifts and the blessings of the Gospel like we did in the early days of the Church. I would be sorry if that were true. Why? Because it would demonstrate to me that instead of increasing in faith the Church was waning in faith. I can testify that where I have labored that faith is not decreasing; for I have seen marvelous healings by the power of God. That the people have confidence in the ordinances of the house of God is manifested on fast day by the number of bottles of oil that are brought to be consecrated, to be used in the administrations unto the sick. I do not know how it is with you here; but with us generally the oil is consecrated upon the Thursday fast day.

I know that the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the church of the living God. I have known it for a great many years. I was educated in the Episcopal church. I came out of that church in 1852, and from that time to this I have been more or less engaged in the work of the ministry in this church. I have had a variety of experiences, have traveled a great many miles, and have preached a great many times—to the glory of our Heavenly Father, be it said. I have borne testimony to the establishment of the Church of Christ time and time again, and I am not afraid to meet anybody behind the veil who can say to me, "Your testimony was false." I have had ample demonstration that the gifts and blessings promised are in the Church. I know that the spirit of prophecy is in the Church. I have been on missions. I have been set apart for these missions under the hands of Apostles, and they have predicted concerning me as though they knew the work that I was about to accomplish, and those prophecies have been fulfilled. I am here today a living witness to testify to that.

Now, in all loving kindness, we offer this Gospel to priest and people. We ask them to consider these things. We ask them, for their own sakes, to repent of their sins, to turn from the error of their ways, and to worship the only living and true God; to come and assist us in the establishment of His righteousness upon the earth, to cease their false doctrines, and to humble themselves like little children before our Heavenly Father, as we had to do, and to present unto Him the acceptable sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. It is on the same principle that we entreat the Saints to be kind to themselves, to pay their just tithes and offerings, to live their religion, to be faithful in prayer and in setting a godly example, to act honorably and uprightly, to be honest and chaste, to be loving, gentle and kind. We thus appeal to them with all love in our hearts that they may enjoy the blessings that are bestowed by our Father upon those who love Him and keep His commandments. The Lord has said that if we will love Him and keep His command-

ments we shall prosper in the land. He has also said, in reference to the law of tithing:

If my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy, behold, verily I say unto you, it shall not be a land of Zion unto you.

Then what shall we do? Will we be faithful and true and do His will, or will we be satisfied with the theory of the Gospel, and be like the man that sees his likeness in the glass and goes away and forgets what manner of man he is? Are we going to establish the character that we heard the word, but never obeyed it, and that by our example we used our influence against His statutes being kept in the land? We are making some kind of a record; we are either willing and obedient or we are unwilling and disobedient. This comes to us individually. Do I keep the commandments of God? Do I rob God? Do I treat Him with contempt? Do I despise His counsels? Or am I willing and obedient, learning of His ways and walking in His paths, doing His will that I may be established in His everlasting righteousness? I tell you if we were to do so, there would not be any question with regard to our children; for we would have such love for our children that we would not neglect them, but we would teach them the principles of righteousness, by practice as well as by precept. We would be able to say to them, "Follow me as I follow Christ." If we are His disciples, ought we not to be Christlike? I think so. This is what our Heavenly Father requires of us. I think He has exhorted us to be exemplary men and women, and to teach the principles of righteousness by example. That is the commission we have in Mexico. We believe that there is greater force in example than in precept. It has more influence upon the people. We would have more influence everywhere if we were all living the principles of the Gospel and glorifying God in our good works. We are going to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. We are going to be rewarded according to our works. For every idle word that we utter we will be brought into condemnation. Straight is the way and narrow is the path that leadeth to the exaltations, and few there be that find it. Why? Because they do not want it. God knows men's hearts. He knows whether a man desires the truth. He knows whether he is serving Him, and whether he meditates upon His ways. He understands all about our outgoings and our incomings, and He would do a great deal better for us if we were more faithful and would give to Him our hearts. He says, "My son, give me thine heart." Why? Because if He has our affections, we will do anything for Him. We will do His will because we love Him, and because we understand that our days of probation are but small upon the earth; yet the records of our lives today are going to influence us more or less throughout the countless ages of eternity.

My beloved brethren and sisters, ought we not to be kind to ourselves? I cannot think how it is that men and women having children despise to teach them the principles of righteousness. I believe it is a bounden duty upon all