

of President Young, President Kimball, Brother George A. Smith, and others of the early pioneers and settlers of this Territory; and he presumed also there were very few persons now in the Church who had ever beheld the Prophet Joseph. He himself was one of the latter. But the Prophet Joseph's testimony was still in force; his spirit had continued in the earth at his death; his mantle fell upon the shoulders of President Young; in turn it fell upon those of President Taylor, and now it was borne by President Woodruff. Thus we saw that the spirit of the great latter-day work was fully sustained among God's servants; in other words, the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that rested upon the Prophet Joseph and his brethren in an early day was still with the Church. That Spirit and inspiration would continue in the earth and could not be taken away. The man or woman who had lost the spirit of this work had done so through his or her own neglect—through the non-observance of the commandments of God. During thirty-eight years of close observation he had seen that those Saints who had faithfully kept the laws of the Lord, who were honest in their dealings, had attended to their duties, and been prayerful in their daily life, were firm and steadfast in the truth today. The speaker counseled the Latter-day Saints to examine their acts closely, to sit in judgment upon themselves, as it were, and see, if needs be, wherein they had lost the gifts of the Gospel. They must be a prayerful people, or they would assuredly lose the spirit of this work. Apostle Merrill next dwelt upon the subject of tithing, the strict observance of which he strongly enforced upon his hearers. The payment of tithing was an important matter among the Latter-day Saints. Though some had perhaps parted with thousands of dollars in this way, they yet had an abundance of this world's goods; they were full of faith and greatly blessed of the Lord.

In bearing a strong and earnest testimony to the truth of the latter-day work, the speaker urged the Saints always to be honest and forgiving. They must not encourage hard feelings in their hearts against one another; they could not afford to do this, though the world might do it. He said the Latter-day Saints had the grandest organization on earth, and he pointed with pride to their Sabbath schools, Young Men's and Young Ladies' M. I. associations, and Primary associations. If we keep the commandments of God, he said, we would be sustained in our work and lifted up to a far higher plane than those who now ridiculed and reviled them, and upon whom they looked with pity because of their ignorance.

Apostle John W. Taylor

addressed the Conference, the following being the substance of his remarks:

I desire to be directed in my speaking by the Holy Spirit. I have listened with great interest to the remarks of Elder Merrill. I have paid particular attention to his testimony regarding the truth of this work. Any strangers who may be present will think his declaration in that regard rather remarkable. Our Lord and Savior promised that all who should do His

will should know for themselves as to the divine origin of the Gospel. This is the reason why Elder Merrill is able to make such a positive statement of the knowledge he has obtained.

What is necessary to be done in order to be in accord with the will of God and as a result obtain a similar testimony? There are many opinions abroad on this subject. The best source of information is the Scriptures, which Christ commended to the consideration of men in His day. The speaker here read from the sixteenth chapter of St. Mark, showing that baptism by immersion in water, and the obtaining of the Holy Ghost, by a prescribed ordinance, were necessary parts of the law of the Gospel. He also dwelt upon the commission given to the servants of God in that age to preach the Gospel, free of charge, to all peoples. In the same chapter is also a statement of the spiritual signs that were to follow the believer as a result of obedience. An explanation was given by Elder Taylor of the manner in which the divine message was carried to the people by the ancient Apostles and the results of the reception or rejection of their teachings. He next referred to the case of Nicodemus, who visited the Savior under cover of night to make inquiry regarding the steps he should take to obtain salvation, the reply being, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Christ asserted that He testified of things that He had seen and did know. Here then is an instance of a similar character here this morning, Brother Merrill having testified to what he does know. Christ gave other instructions to His servants in the days of the primitive Church. He enjoined them to tarry at Jerusalem until they were endowed with power from on high. He promised that if they did he would bestow upon them the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, who would instruct them and show them things to come. It is this spirit that imparts this knowledge of the things of God. These are not new doctrines. They are laid down in the Scriptures, which state that the "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." The speaker then dwelt for some time upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit as defined by the Apostle Paul, asserting that people among whom these spiritual manifestations do not exist, are not in possession of the power of God unto salvation. He admonished all his hearers to take the advice of the Apostle Paul and seek earnestly the best gifts. He promised strangers that those who would believe in Christ, repent of their sins, be baptized by one holding authority for the remission of them, should receive the Holy Ghost and be able to testify that they had acted in accord with the divine will.

Adjournment till 2 p.m.

The choir sang,

From afar gracious Lord.

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

Afternoon Session.

SATURDAY, April 4th.

The choir sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning;
The Latter-day glory begins to come forth.

Prayer by Elder Jacob Gates.

Singing:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray,
I am forever Thine.
I fear before Thee all the day,
O may I never sin.

Apostle F. M. Lyman

Addressed the Conference, substantially as follows:

As was quoted this morning from the Apostle Paul, no man can say that Jesus is the Christ except by the Holy Ghost, so it is in reference to this work; no man can say Joseph Smith was a Prophet except by that same spirit. These things can only be known by the revelations of the Lord, which come by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. We believe we are the children of God, that we are in His likeness, just as we are in the likeness of our parents and our children in ours. We believe in Christ and Him crucified and in His mission to save mankind; that for the cause of salvation He laid down His life and taught the law. His ancient Saints by their faith, repentance and baptism, and having the hands of the servants of God laid upon their heads, received the Holy Ghost. That Spirit bore testimony to them of the mission of the Savior and that their faith was perfect and their repentance genuine. They received a testimony that their sins were forgiven. Their faith became so strong that they endured persecution unto death. The history of those things have come down to us. We believe in the resurrection of the body, of which Christ was the first fruit. That His was the great atonement for the sins of man. We believe that those who follow His footsteps will be redeemed and obtain immortality and eternal life. We hold that men to have this faith, must obtain it through repentance and baptism, and receive the Holy Ghost through being pure and just. They must love their fellow men and deal justly by them. They must have the spirit of charity—the genius of Christ. If they do not they will fall short of a fullness of salvation.

God has sent none of His children to earth without their having the privilege of attaining to eternal life. Those who fail to reach that blessing will have themselves to blame. Man has his agency, and has from the beginning had power to resist evil and accept of and practice righteousness. Men will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. For all good deeds God will reward His children. Such works are the result of the inspiration of the Spirit of the Almighty. All good emanates from that source. All that is wicked comes from the evil one. The inspiration of Satan leads to the destruction of men.

We have the privilege to know that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which we have received. He established it and planted His authority on the earth. This knowledge has caused the Saints to gather from the lands of their birth. They have, in numbers of instances, laid down their lives in the cause of truth. Among those who have done so was the Prophet Joseph. We can afford to lay down our lives, when necessary, in such a work. All that we endure for righteousness' sake will redound to our advantage in the life to come. We are to be rewarded