

love begotten in our hearts for one another such as exemplifies to the fullest extent, considering our human frailties, the words of the prayer of our Lord and Savior. The love of kindred is overshadowed by the love that we have for our brethren and sisters in the Church; so is every other love in fact, in comparison with the love that the Lord has begotten in the hearts of those who keep His commandments and do his will.

I have said it might be thought presumptuous in many circles for us to say that we were to be the progenitors of a new world; but when we consider all that God is doing in this direction for us; when we see the miraculous power that is manifested by Him in the gathering of the people together, and in the uniting of the people of so many nationalities after they have gathered, is not the statement consistent, and is it not plain that the Lord has a great work for the Latter-day Saints to perform? It is evident that He has, because He is making of the Latter-day Saints an extraordinary people in many respects. There is no people on the earth like them. In many of the most admirable features possessed by man in past times, there is no people who are equal to the Latter-day Saints. I do not say this by way of boasting; I say it in praise of God and that which He is doing, and to glorify His name in the earth.

We profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus; we profess to have obeyed His Gospel; we profess to have done that which He has commanded us to do, and we point to the results and say: Are not these the fruits which Jesus said should attend obedience to His Gospel and to the keeping of His commandments? We say to the whole world, Come and look at us. We are human beings, very frail, very weak, very unworthy; but come and examine us, and test us by the standard that in the Lord has given in the Gospel or in the scriptures, and see if we do not bring forth some of the fruits, at least, that the Lord said should attend the preaching of His Gospel.

I have spoken of this love, and of the union that we have; but there are other evidences. The gifts that the Lord promised to the believers are in this Church. The Lord has given unto the Latter-day Saints the gifts of His Spirit. There are many gifts given. Elders who go out and contend for the gift of speaking in tongues have in many instances received that gift, and they have been enabled to speak the language of the people unto whom they were sent. Many have contended also for the gift of interpreting tongues, and the Lord has heard their prayers and given unto them the gift of interpretation. It is a well known fact that wherever our Elders go to foreign lands to preach the Gospel, there is a gift given them to acquire the language and preach in it with remarkable quickness. They acquire the language in a surprisingly short time. There are many instances of young men going to foreign lands and being able to declare the Gospel to the people in their own language and to understand all that is said to them within a few weeks after they reach there. And wherever they go and the sick apply to them to have hands laid upon them, and they administer that holy ordinance to them, the sick do recover, where they are not appointed unto death—for death is the lot of all men; but the gift of healing is in the Church, and that gift attends the ministrations of the Elders wherever they go. The sick are healed by the power of God; not by the power of man, but through the exercise of faith and the bestowal of the gift of healing.

I might go on and enumerate dif-

ferent gifts and manifestations that have been given and that are given in this Church. Take it, therefore, from the first principle to the last that has been proclaimed, and this Church is an exact fac simile of the Church of Jesus Christ in early days. There is not a feature that the Church of Jesus Christ possessed in the days of the Savior and His Apostles that is not possessed by this Church. Everything that was taught then is taught now—the same principles, with the same results. The fruits of the Spirit are manifested. The power of God is manifested. The gift of prophecy rests upon the people. I might allude to a case of recent occurrence. There were two young men chosen at our recent Conference to fill the vacancies in the quorum of the Twelve. The newspapers had for a long time been guessing as to who these men would be. Every man nearly that was conspicuous in the Church was mentioned, and the people saw the names that were published; but the two that were chosen had not been mentioned in public. I think the presentation of their names was a great surprise to the bulk of our people, but I have been greatly pleased to find how many Latter-day Saints there were that knew, by the testimony of the Spirit of God, that these men would be chosen. There was one case particularly that was brought to my attention. During the last spring conference at St. George, the authorities were presented as is customary, and one of the brethren said to some who were near him, "I have an impression that Matthias F. Cowley's name will yet be presented as one of the Twelve Apostles. I know that will be so, and you can write it down."

Another instance occurred in Davis county. One of our leading men there was talking to a brother of his who is an Apostle, and he said he was greatly impressed with the idea that Matthias F. Cowley would be chosen as one of the Twelve Apostles. His brother, the Apostle, thought he was mistaken. Of course, the other thought his brother ought to know, and he partly dismissed it from his mind; but when the matter was brought before the conference, he told his brother subsequently that he had not been able to get it out of his mind, he knew that name would be presented.

I was at a fast meeting last Sunday in the ward where I reside. One of the brethren arose and testified that Brother Owen Woodruff had been there preaching as a missionary at one of the meetings, and he had told his family that Brother Owen Woodruff would be chosen one of the Twelve. This was some months before. His family scarcely believed him, but he testified that it would be so.

I have heard of numbers of instances of this kind among the Saints, where the people have had it given them by the spirit of prophecy and revelation who these two Apostles would be, and it has filled me, as I say, with pleasure and with gratitude and thanksgiving that among the Latter-day Saints there is the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. This spirit does indeed rest upon the faithful. But a great many do not live so as to enjoy it. We exhort the people to seek for it. It would be an easy matter to control this people if they would only live so as to have the spirit of prophecy and revelation continually in their hearts. In fact, they would govern themselves. They would know what was right, and they would be governed by that which the Lord would communicate to them. But it is a difficult thing to control a people when many of them are in the dark and do not have the spirit with them.

You doubtless remember the case of Joshua and Moses. Two of the seventy elders who had been selected to receive a portion of the spirit that was upon Moses remained in the camp while the others had gone to the tabernacle. The spirit of prophecy which rested upon those who had gone to the tabernacle fell also upon these two men, and they prophesied in the camp.

And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophecy in the camp.

And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.

That is the feeling that the leaders of this Church have towards the members of the Church. You ought not to be led ignorantly and blindly. You should be full of light yourselves. You should understand principles yourselves. Every man and woman in this Church, and every child that is old enough, has the right to this, so that he or she may know individually. Then we would not have to reprove or warn you; we would not have to implore you, as we sometimes do, to seek for the Spirit and to know for yourselves that which is right.

This people are chosen to be prophets. God has given this spirit to you. He gave it to you to cause you to gather from the nations of the earth. He gives it to you now to cause you to love Zion and to say, "Wherever the people of God are, and whatever may be the hardships I have to encounter, I will cling to them; I will be one with them, in poverty or in plenty, whether the circumstances be adverse or prosperous." That spirit comes from God; it is not given to you by man. The Lord himself gives it to you through your obedience to the Gospel of Christ. Each one of us should live so as to have this spirit resting down upon him and her. I ask you, my brethren and sisters, where would be the value of this religion if we could not have the spirit and power of it? We have too much to contend with to endure it without having the compensation which the possession of the Spirit of God gives. We have to endure persecution; our names are cast out as evil; we are derided, maligned, and everything evil is said about us. What, therefore, is our inducement to be members of this Church if we do not have the spirit and gifts of our religion? If we do not have the love of God and the spirit of union which the Lord has promised, we are working and enduring without anything to sustain us. But the Lord gives to those who live for it His Holy Spirit. He comforts their hearts and cheers them in the midst of their difficulty and their poverty, and He lifts them up, and they rejoice because He is near to them and they know it. They know that they cannot ask Him for anything without His hearing their petition; and He is ready to listen to them and to give them comfort and peace and joy far greater than everything else that man can obtain on the earth. It is this spirit that sustained the Saints in coming to these valleys, and that buoyed them up in the midst of the privations of early days here. Hundreds of those who came in would have died rather than to have left this place, notwithstanding starvation stared them in the face for a while; they would rather starve to death than leave the people, because they had the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of God; that this was the place for them. It is this that makes us strong as a people. When we are devoid of that