

has not been because there was the least doubt or question in my mind of the correctness of the position that they had taken. My judgment was convinced that their position was absolutely correct, or I never would have subscribed my name to that document, nor would I, in connection with my brethren, have sought in various ways to awaken a class of reflections in the mind of our brother that would have brought him in unison with the council of which he is a member. My position has been such that I have felt the extreme delicacy, in every place and under every circumstance, in giving expression to anything that could in any sense reflect upon him. For this reason, in no other, in the midst of the deliberations of my own council, with that of the Presidency of the Church, I have felt extremely guarded, seeking to gain as much time as practicable in his interest, trusting that the time would come when the Almighty would touch his heart and he would feel the spirit of kindness that has welled up in the soul of President Woodruff, that has guided his counsels, and that has been the characteristic of every deliberation of President Snow in seeking to preserve one who was dear to us all. But there can be no question in the minds of the Latter-day Saints. There may come a time in all our lives when perchance, amid the temptations and allurements of ambition, our hope and fears for ourselves may be aroused; but in our soberness, and in the midst of the experiences of this life, the men who have received the Apostleship, who have been chosen by God Himself to be witnesses to His Son, must find themselves in that position that they indeed listen to the still small voice and recognize the power which God himself has established. I feel that this has been and is the position of that circle in which I move; and the unfortunate circumstances which have attended one of their associates in connection with this matter, is to me indeed a matter of extreme regret. I have prayed, I have pleaded, I have done everything so far as lay in my power in connection with these circumstances, trusting that our Father might so move upon the heart of our brother that he would meet his brethren with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and say, "I am with you heart and soul."

During this Conference, my brethren and sisters, the spirit of inspiration resting upon the brethren has been, give ear to the legitimate and proper counsels of the Priesthood. I presume there are none of us who have made a study of the organization that our Father has established that can question the wisdom of those counsels. If the people are to be united, it must be upon the basis that their hearts are in attune with the propositions upon which they would be united. We believe that God in this dispensation has restored the Gospel; that the Father and the Son came to the Prophet and bestowed upon him the knowledge that God did indeed live, and that Jesus Christ was indeed His Son; that all the keys, powers and authorities necessary to the accomplishment of His work, and that were exercised in former dispensations, were given to him; and that in all these things and in the organization of His Church, He presented us a complete and perfect pattern, that union might be

the result of their counsels and their action. We note the conditions of that organization in all its bearings, and when one of the cogs in this machine that God himself has established shall fail to be in attune with the balance of that machine, the results are manifest in the spirits of the people; for they read, and read understandingly under the influence of that Spirit, that these conditions do exist and that the machinery is not working as it should. Therefore we, recognizing the purpose and design of our Father in the completeness of that organization, keep in view the movements and actions of the men at the head, the spirit of their counsel and instruction, and we readily detect, while words may not speak it, the spirit of insubordination or a determination to not carry out and fulfill the obligations which our Father has placed upon His children; and recognizing this, a spirit of uncertainty, of fear and of doubt takes possession of many men whose minds are susceptible to that influence.

I trust that the spirit of the work shall indeed ever be with the Latter-day Saints; that the movements that are made, the efforts that are brought to pass to secure the best interests of the work and of its spread in the world, shall be written in the hearts of the people of God; and if they will attend to their prayers and fulfill their obligations, our Father will never allow one of them to drift from the path of rectitude and fail to maintain the honor and credit of His cause in the world. But if perchance a spirit shall take possession of us that we seek to avoid the responsibilities that may attach to us, and we desire the encomiums and the laudations of men, we may find ourselves carried away with our ambitions, and, catching our foot upon the applause of our fellows, will trip and fall and will not be found carrying the standard and proclaiming the truth as we should in the presence of all men.

I desire to bear my testimony to the truth of the work of God. I did not live in the flesh to know Joseph Smith. I did not live in the flesh to converse with him. The line, I presume, is broken when you reach me in the Council of the Apostles, as to those who knew him. But I am here as much of a witness of his mission as my brethren who saw him in the flesh. God gave me the knowledge of his mission. He also gave me the acquaintance of Brigham Young in the flesh, whom He raised up as well as the Prophet Joseph, to plant the standard of eternal truth in these mountains and to be a savior to this people whom he led into the desert, taught the ways of husbandry and the responsibilities and duties of the people of God. May the spirit of that Gospel well up in our hearts, and the knowledge that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was His prophet, that John Taylor was His prophet, that Wilford Woodruff is His prophet, live in our hearts, and grow and spread until we shall scatter that knowledge to the ends of the earth and all mankind know of its truth.

#### ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG.

I have a desire to say a few words on this occasion, and I trust that the same spirit of kindness will be in my heart that has been manifested by the brethren who have spoken. I am sure I feel very kind and lenient and feel sure to extend mercy to

my brethren, as I ask for mercy from my God. There was a time when I was absent from Utah for two years and a half. I left here in August, 1890. But I knew more than I cared to know before I left then in relation to this matter. I cannot see a man rise up and stand in open rebellion to his brethren in defiance of the pleadings of his quorum, and feel that he has the Spirit of God in him, which I witnessed previous to my departure in 1890; for I saw Brother Moses stand in open rebellion to his quorum. I have prayed for him, and I want to say to you that personally I have shed more tears over this situation since the death of President Taylor than over all the griefs, public and private, that I have had since that time. And I think this is the same with my brethren. But what can we do? What position are we in? President Woodruff has given us the keynote. No man nor set of men can place themselves in the way of this Church and its progress and stay there; for they will be swept aside. They cannot remain a stumbling block to the people.

There are a few paragraphs in the Doctrine and Covenants that I would like to read. I do not wish to multiply words, but I will say this: On a certain occasion, quite a long time ago, I went to President Woodruff and asked him the question, "What is the reason of this darkness that I see in the mind of a man whom I have loved like a brother, whom I had placed in my affection equal to any man upon the face of the earth?" This is the answer that he gave me: "He has sought to rule over his brethren, and lost the Spirit." I will read from a revelation that has often been referred to; it is "A Prayer and Prophecies, written by Joseph the Seer, while in Liberty jail, Clay County, Missouri, March 20th, 1839:"

Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

That the rights of the Priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principle of righteousness.

That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, or vain ambition, or to exercise control, or dominion, or compulsion, upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the Priesthood, or the authority of that man.

Where, brethren and sisters, will you get the channel of communication opened up between you and the powers that reign over the earth? The God that sits in the heavens, and the angels and saints that visit us—through what line of communication do they come? God has placed these authorities here to guide His people, and when a man cuts that thread for himself, then the channel of revelation is destroyed, so far as that man is concerned. If you and I ever consider that we can reach God and get His mind and will in relation to this great work without receiving it through the channel of those men who stand at the head, then all I have to say to you or myself is, we have cut the thread between us and the Spirit of God, and we are left to wander in bye and forbidden paths. One channel, one organization! And no man may rise against that and expect