

will love the gospel of Jesus Christ; only let it understand right from wrong and there will be nothing but the gospel in that child. If we set a proper example before our sons and daughters, the gospel will be manifested through all their actions, and there will be no evil desire in them.

I want to know the bounds of my prerogatives in the priesthood, and never want to go beyond those bounds.

[Prest. B. Young: Shall I give them to you?]

Yes, I want to know them. It is better for a man to run a little behind the line than to have him go before it. I know there are some things that I can say and do, and there are things that br. Brigham can say and do that I cannot; it is not my prerogative.

Here are br. Brigham, br. Heber and br. Wells, the First Presidency; then there are the Twelve; then right behind them come the Seventies and the High Priests, two mighty bodies of men whose business it is to act under the direction of the two first quorums; then come the Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons, who constitute the organization of the Priesthood in the church, and who are called to assist in preparing the way for Jesus to come. We are (all who magnify their calling and priesthood) trying to prepare a people for his coming, to purge out those that are filthy, and to put away every evil and wrong from us, and to prepare for the greater weight of glory that is to come.

In order to do this we are under the necessity of chastising, and the greatest proof to me that there is a man standing at the head who holds communion with God is, to see men receive chastisement in the spirit of humility, without a murmur, and be satisfied that it is for their good.

My opinion was, before I received the gospel, and is the same now, that the man who has the hardihood and boldness to rebuke his brethren and to tell them of their faults and of their errors, is a man of God. Brethren, I want to get rid of my errors.

Br. Brigham said to-day when he addressed you, that he wanted those who stand up to instruct the Saints to say something worth hearing, and hence there has been within me a feeling of extreme diffidence when arising to address you, not only to-day but on many other occasions, for there is not in me the power and wisdom to bring out great principles before the Saints; but br. Brigham and br. Heber can. I feel a delicacy in standing before such a vast multitude as are here present, knowing that there are many bright minds in this congregation.

Some think they could say a good deal, if they could have the privilege of coming upon this stand, but when they come here, every thing seems to be shut out from their minds and they can scarcely say a word. The vast amount of intellect, of knowledge that this people possess, often-times throws persons who speak before them into great confusion.

It is the most peculiar place, the most delicate situation that a man can be placed in, and hence I say that the simpler a man is the better. On this very account it is that I am contending with myself all the time and endeavoring to be pointed in my sayings, for I do not want to go round about but to say things just as they are.

When I retain the Spirit of God, when that light is in me which was with Jesus in all his counselings, at such times all the beings upon the face of the earth would not intimidate me; but with a mortal tabernacle we are subject to the weaknesses of mortality. To communicate intelligence to this people, unless God first communicates to me is impossible; but when He does inspire me with His Spirit and I speak the things right out, nobody need find any fault, and if they do, it cannot be helped, for we must speak that which the Spirit dictates.

I once knew a little boy who was in the habit of being whipped by his mother when he went to bed in order to make him go to sleep, and he became so habituated to the whipping that he could not go to sleep without it, and he would say, "mother, come and whip me."

I do not desire to be of that class, but desire to so live as to be able to discern true intelligence and present it before the people in a way that they can all understand.

Br. Brigham told me to get up here and say something. I have done so, and will now tell you that my all is invested in this kingdom; it is all for the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Not gold, nor silver, nor the perishable things of this world are invaluable to me; such articles will perish and molder away; but those imperishable treasures that can never be destroyed, the inestimable riches that God has put into my possession; for these, my life, my good will, my faith, my prayers and all that I can do and possess are devoted to the establishment of righteousness and the building up of the kingdom of God on the earth. All my substance and every faculty which God has given me are subject to the word of br. Brigham.

When a man thus surrenders himself, his family, his means and everything he controls to the servants of God, what will he have in return? We have left all and have come off into these valleys, in the midst of the Rocky Mountains, and what shall we have as a reward? Jesus said, "there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." Is there not a compensation here promised? There is.

Here is a key. When the devil comes to you and asks you if you want to serve God, tell him that it is none of his business, and that will bluff off the devil.

Br. Kimball has said that if I had not been sick I should have died, and I don't know but I should. I believe it has all been for my good, and I can truly say I have not felt so well for many years as I have felt since I recovered from my sickness last January. When a man is sick, if the mind is uneasy, it injures the body. Since I have got well I have made a practice of sitting

down, contemplating and holding communion with God and my own heart, and I do feel and know I am an heir of salvation, and I do not mean that any enemies shall take this hope and assurance away from me.

I have thought sometimes that I would never die till I had been to Europe. When we went to Quincy, after we were mobbed out of Missouri, and a number of brethren were selected to go on missions, I recollect what br. Brigham said on that occasion. He remarked, 'If they did not go and preach they will apostatize.' I do not know but he made the remark in my presence, for my benefit.

Well, we had just survived the bloody persecutions of Missouri and had got into Illinois and were all as poor as a church mouse ever was, and many of us felt almost disheartened. We had neither cow, nor ox, nor horse, not one in twenty of us, but the people were humane enough to take us in and assist us a little.

Finally however, the people of Illinois became hostile and would not let us live in their midst; and we were forced to seek a home in the midst of these mountains; and for one I feel to rejoice that I am here in this healthy climate, but as a Canadian would say, this is not a poor man's country; but I believe that it is the best place on earth for this people at the present time.

Br. Brigham has redeemed his word in bringing the people here, for he said he would lead this people to a healthy climate. We are here in the midst of these peaceful valleys and mountains, and I do not believe that we shall ever be driven from here if we do right, never, no, never.

I have no trouble about this, for I have been in the midst of mobs, and they once held a council and determined to murder me and my family, but the Lord turned away their anger. This was in Missouri. They demanded our arms, but the brethren said they would not give them up, that they would sooner die. I said, brethren, I am the captain of this company, and you should listen to me, and to my counsel, and give up your arms. They did so and by and by the hearts of those men were melted, (they were Kentuckians, who had been called upon to assist the mob) and they came to us and said, 'we will pay you for your arms when the war is over.' No doubt they talked the matter over, and said, these are good people, therefore let us pay them for their arms; at any rate they paid down the money, but we had to use stratagem.

I do not want to detain you, brethren and sisters, but I do rejoice that we are in these valleys where there is nothing to induce our enemies to come and drive us. We do not presume that they will come unless they are paid for coming. And if they ever do come, it is my earnest prayer that I may be filled with the Holy Ghost; then peradventure, I shall want to carry the flag and be foremost in putting our enemies to flight. But if this people will retain the Spirit of God, and keep fanning the flame of the reformation that is in them, our enemies will not come to distress us, we shall not be molested, for no power can disturb us so long as we are faithful.

May God bless us all, and preserve us upon the earth and continue our usefulness until we have redeemed our families and friends, till we all are brought up and fitted for his presence; which is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.—Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Cyrus H. Wheelock, Tabernacle, Sunday Afternoon, March 22, 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

I know, brethren and sisters, that I ought to feel thankful and I do feel thankful that I have the privilege of standing in the congregation of the Saints of God, and of enjoying the privileges which we enjoy, to be fed and to be inspired by the words of life which flow from the servants of God unto us from this stand from time to time, and wherever the servants of God address us, when our ears are open to hear. I know that I have stood right here in this place and enjoyed more light, more joy, more of the Holy Spirit and a greater degree of comfort to my heart and light to my mind than in any other place that I remember having been in on the earth; and I know I ought to feel so to-day. And it ought to be so with every servant of God who esteems the blessings and privileges of the gospel, letting alone having the privilege of standing as a Saint and as an Elder in Israel.

I will tell you why I enjoyed the most happiness and comfort here. It was on my return from my mission in 1853; it was the first time I had had the opportunity of meeting with the Saints in the Valley. I remember that br. Brigham and br. Kimball talked on that occasion, and I thought in my heart, when I looked in at the doors and saw them, that if God would help me, and if I could obtain His Spirit to enable me to be humble and faithful, that I would be diligent, ever looking for that Spirit, that I would endeavor to be worthy to be numbered among that people whom they spoke of, that I would never sin again nor complain of any duty that was laid upon me. When I came in I was kindly asked to speak my feelings, and I know that this thought came into my mind, I have been gone a long time, and my brethren are not acquainted with me, but I stand before my friends, before those that are worthy to be called Saints. I realized at that time that I was here to be weighed, to be tested, and I thought that I realized that I had made many crooked paths, and yet while I was abroad I had sought to honor the name of God, and I believed that these my brethren would be able to see into my heart, that they would know whether the right spirit was in me. I felt a degree of trembling, and I cannot but feel so whenever I arise up before them, but there was a power and spirit surrounded me then that I have never felt since; I knew that I was before a people who had the searching influence of the Holy Ghost in them.

I want to be with that people and to have that

Spirit with me to-day and to-morrow and I want to be willing while I dwell in this tabernacle, to be judged by them, and to be reprov'd inasmuch as my brethren see that it is necessary for me to receive such chastisement at their hands.

Although I have been silent, yet I have sought and prayed to retain in my mind the doctrines and principles that I have heard; truly they are sweet. The things I have heard from br. Kimball and his associates in the Council are sweet, for they filled my soul with joy, and I feel that if we who heard them could treasure them up there is no value to be put upon them. And I can say the same with regard to the good instructions we have received this winter in this Tabernacle, and it has been with this view that I have prayed that I might remember them and keep them in mind, that when peradventure I might be called again to go forth to the nations I might be able to carry those words of life with me, that with my brethren I might be able to do some good, that our spirits might be so pure, our hearts so clean that the Lord our God would deign in the proper times and seasons to pour out the Holy Ghost upon us and bring to our remembrance the doctrines and principles that we have had taught us the past winter, that those who might be hungering and thirsting after righteousness might be filled through our instrumentality.

I have endeavored to lay these things before the people where I have been called to minister, for I appreciate them far above the riches of the earth. I have thought and asked myself the question a great many times, have I got ears to hear and do I give attention to those things that are taught. Do I live by them? Do I retain them as the bread of life for my individual salvation? Where are our ears? Where are our hearts, that we do not understand and live our religion?

When Prophets speak to the people their words are more clear and more to the understanding than the written word, and I feel that no prophets ever spoke more clearly, more forcibly, nor more to the understanding in any age of the world, than has been spoken unto us the past winter, if we have ears to hear and hearts to understand. I believe that doctrine, revelation and commandments have come to us, which if we abide in and endeavor to carry out we shall soon prepare ourselves for the society of other beings.

If we never were to have any more revelation given unto us other than that which has been given unto us, if we could be faithful and observe what has already been given, the counsels that have been already imparted, we might esteem our salvation very certain.

I have taken pleasure in bearing testimony of the virtue and holiness of the servants of God, and in recommending their counsels to the world and to the Saints; this has been my mission. When I have been called upon to speak I have borne record of what I have been taught by my brethren, and by the Holy Ghost. I have not got up and selected a passage of scripture to preach a sermon from, only as I have been led to passages when addressing the people, but I have done the most good in bearing testimony in favor of my brethren, and of the spirit that has ever been with them, and also of the work of the last days.

By pursuing this course I have had power to bring some to a knowledge of the truth. I have delighted in doing this; and I cannot but think to-day that the happiest position I ever occupied was that of seeking to win souls for the kingdom of God. I felt thus when I was engaged in the work.

If we have ears, and those ears are open, and if we have hearts and our desires have been to live by the words that the Spirit has taught us, we shall never go astray. It is not alone br. Kimball who speaks, but it is the Holy Ghost speaking through him; and who hears him? Who hears br. Brigham, and who hears those men that are filled with the Holy Ghost? Their words are the revelations of the Lord our God unto us.

When men enjoy that Spirit, it brings things right home to them; it enlarges the mind, and though the things taught may appear simple and easy to be understood, yet those simple things, when uttered by the power of the Spirit from on high, illuminate the mind and increase the understanding.

When we see our past errors, the darkness we have been in, the crooked paths we have made, we ought to resolve never to do wrong again. I do feel so, and when crossing the plains, coming home, I have thought if I could have the privilege of enjoying the society of my brethren, of listening to their instructions, I would never sin any more, nor do anything to bring the censure of my brethren upon me.

If their words abide in me, and if they abide in this people so that the Holy Spirit is never grieved away, I believe that we can always obtain the blessings of the Lord; but if we have not that Spirit, we have neither ears to hear nor hearts to understand; and if we love the things around us, our comfort and our riches, our families more than we do the kingdom of God and his righteousness all these blessings will be of little permanent benefit to us.

Brethren and sisters, I desire with all my heart that I may live so before the Lord that I may have His Spirit and testimony to be with me always. I wish to be in my place, where my brethren would have me, and if I can feel that I am filling the place where my brethren want me to be, if it is in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, or America, I am satisfied; all is right with me. Nevertheless, my natural desire would be to stay at home. I feel sorry for my slothfulness in days that are gone, in not doing that which was given me to do; but I trust my brethren have forgiven me, and if the Lord's Spirit will be with me and help me, I will be more faithful and diligent.

Brethren and sisters, God bless you; I say so because my heart feels to bless the people of God, for my interest is with them and I wish to abide with them. I never wish to live to do or to say anything that will grieve God or any of my brethren, especially those that have the care of the

whole church. I desire to live only as long as I can be useful in building up the kingdom of God.

I know that I have let my heart wander after things that are in the future, and I have let my mind pry into things that do not belong to to-day. I now feel that this shall be my motto, where God shall place me, where his servants shall put me, independent of my own feelings, of the feelings of my wives, independent of poverty and of distress, there will I labor, there will I stay. This is my feeling and I ask my brethren and sisters to pray for me, that I may carry it out.

Whilst abroad, standing before the people to preach, realizing my weakness, I have felt to say, "O Lord, this is your cause, not mine, therefore bring to my mind through the Holy Ghost the words that I have heard br. Joseph, br. Brigham and br. Heber say, so that I may speak just as they would if they were here. Give me their Spirit, let it rest upon me, and give me power to administer to the people."

God has, at such times, brought things to my mind, and so he has to many others, things that we had learned in Zion. When we trust in our own wisdom and bind ourselves to rules and texts, we are sure to grieve the Holy Spirit from our bosoms, and we cannot deliver the people from their errors; but I know if we court that Spirit and live by the words of those men that speak to us, we shall not be barren nor unfruitful in the words of life; we shall never be poor. [Prest. Kimball: No, never.] Though we may not have a dollar in the world, nor an acre of land, nor grain enough to put on it, yet if we have their spirit and their power, we are rich, and without them we are poor.

I rejoice to say that there is not an angel, a devil, a good man nor a wicked man that ever heard me say a word against those men who hold the keys of this kingdom; and I trust there never will be, for I ever have felt pleasure in defending them and believe that I always shall. Brethren, these men I revere as I revere God, and I would as soon offend God as them. There is not a man among them in whose presence I do not feel free, and when they speak by the power of the Spirit, I feel that I could take them in my arms and bless them; but when they ask me to speak before them, I tremble, and involuntarily wish that I was away among the nations of the earth where there are none but boys and those who do not know very much. If they will forgive me for this weakness I will try to learn better.

Br. Joseph once said in Carthage jail, where he was shot, that if I would go and preach the gospel I should be successful. Br. Heber said to me in Nauvoo, when I wanted to go and hunt up my kindred and friends, and to try to save them, "do you see that Temple?" I said, yes. Then he said, "if you will stay here and do as we tell you, you shall receive your endowments and go forth with tenfold more power than you now have, and your Father's house shall be saved. I believed it, and by the help of God, through faith, I mean to claim it.

God bless you for ever, in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Henry Herriman, Bowery, Sunday Afternoon, April 19, 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

Brethren and sisters, it is not common for me to have a desire to stand in this position that I occupy this afternoon, but I feel at the present time, and I have felt for some days past a degree of anxiety on my mind, and wished to have the privilege of speaking a few words to the Saints and of expressing my sentiments and the feelings of my heart, in part, previous to going forth upon the mission which I am required to perform.

I felt desirous that the Saints of God in this place should know some of the feelings of my heart, more particularly in view of the things that have transpired for a few months past. I will say that I am thankful to God that I have the privilege of being a witness for the truth. I was called to be a witness for the truth many years ago, and ordained as one of the messengers to the nations of the earth, by the Prophet Joseph, and in so much as I have retained the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ in my heart I have continued to be a witness for the truth.

I have felt anxious for the salvation of the workmanship of the hands of the Almighty, and have oftentimes viewed and contemplated the goodness and mercy of God our Eternal Father in revealing the fulness of the everlasting gospel, bestowing upon man the holy priesthood again, and giving him power to go forth unto the nations of the earth to proclaim the truth, administer the ordinances of the gospel to those who are willing to be baptized for the remission of sins.

I can bear testimony, this afternoon, brethren and sisters, before the Lord, the holy angels and all people that the work in which we are engaged is true, and that it is of God, and that He has revealed it from the heavens for the salvation of the children of men. I feel thankful for the blessings I enjoy, and for being permitted to go with many of my brethren, especially with so many of the young men, who are now going forth to do something for the salvation of men, if nothing more, to bear testimony of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of the work which our Father has commenced in the dispensation in which we live.

I am confident that the Lord will uphold and sustain us in every position of life in as much as we keep faithful; we are assured of this by the whisperings of the Spirit of the Lord from time to time. We shall be sustained on our missions, for I have realized the goodness and mercy of God in days that are past and gone. I can bear witness boldly to the truths which I have learned, and to the blessings I have received.

No matter how difficult the circumstances may have been through which I have been called to pass, the promises of God have been verified,