

and John came down and ordained him an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, conferring upon him all the keys, authority and power which they held while they were in the flesh. We believe that that same authority and Priesthood are in the Church today. We believe that the man who stands at the head speaks for the Lord to the people. At the same time we believe in the right of every member of the Church to have the Holy Ghost and the light of God for himself or herself, that we may see eye to eye. We have been baptized into one spirit, into one body, and we see alike on the fundamental principles of our faith. Thank God, there is no division among us in regard to this. The prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: "The watchmen are lifting up the voice; with the voice together do they sing; for they do see eye to eye, now the Lord is bringing again Zion." We look upon Joseph Smith, who was the instrument in the hands of God of bringing in Zion, of opening this dispensation, of establishing this Church according to the ancient pattern, with Apostles, with Prophets, with Evangelists, with Pastors, with Teachers, and all the gifts, and helps, and graces and powers belonging to their ministry, as a great Prophet, because he has brought forth more truth, he has settled more difficulties in regard to doctrine, chased away more darkness, brought in more light, than any man that has lived upon the earth since the days of Moses, excepting Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. But we do not worship Joseph Smith, nor any other man. We worship God, our Father in the heavens, in the name of Jesus Christ, under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

I bear my testimony to this congregation that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Living God, and that he was killed, not for his transgressions, not for his crimes, but because he had the testimony of Jesus and the authority of the holy Apostleship, and wicked men sought his blood as they shed the blood of the prophets, and seers and martyrs of old. The same spirit that hung Christ upon the cross, that crucified Peter with his head down, that put John the Apostle into a caldron of boiling oil, drove the Saints from the places where they were congregated, and put to death their prophet and patriarch. I bear my testimony before the heavens and the earth that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Living God, and that he sealed his testimony with his blood.

I say to all this congregation, we are the children of God. Our time on earth is short. We must all meet before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account for the deeds done in the body, and then those who have obeyed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and received the witness of His Spirit, and have sanctified themselves before God, will shine like the sun in the firmament, no matter how much they were despised, and misrepresented and oppressed on earth. They will enter into the celestial glory, which is the highest of all. Others will occupy the terrestrial glory, which is like the glory of the moon compared with that of the sun. Still others, and they more numerous, will have a glory that is as the glory of the stars, and as one star differs from another star in glory so

also will it be with them in the resurrection from the dead. If you want a celestial glory; if you want to obtain a crown in the kingdom of the Father, seek unto the Lord, call upon Him; ask Him as I did, in the name of Jesus Christ, to manifest to you whether He has in very deed opened up the communication gain that has been so long lost between the heavens and the earth; ask Him whether Joseph Smith was His servant; ask Him if this Gospel that the Latter-day Saints have received, and as a witness to which they are gathered here in these mountain heights, is indeed "the Gospel of the Kingdom." If you will do this in sincerity of heart, and in faith, believing that God will give you an answer, He will reveal it to you. And if He does, beware that you do not reject it and turn away from it, and shut your eyes to the light; for "this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." Is it not true that Christ said, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you." Joseph Smith did that and he received his answer. The Lord appeared to him and made a prophet of him, and he has laid the foundations of this work, and the Gospel of the kingdom that he has introduced is being preached in all the world, and will be as a witness until the Lord shall come.

I pray God to bless this congregation, and bless the words and testimony that I have offered, and may we all be guided in the way of everlasting life, and obtain the rich inheritance of the one true religion, and be crowned with celestial glory in the presence of our God. This is my prayer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF:

I feel disposed to occupy a few moments in bearing testimony to the principles presented unto us by Elder Penrose. He has referred to the freedom of the soul, to the freedom of the mind of the Latter-day Saints toward other people. I traveled with Joseph Smith thousands of miles; been associated with him and with the Apostles of our Church almost since its organization. I have heard Joseph Smith say in public and in private that if he were the emperor of the world, and had control of every human being on the face of the earth, he would give every man, woman and child the fullest liberty to enjoy their religion, and sustain them in it, let that religion be what it might. Those are my sentiments. We have no contention with any man on earth because of his religion. Joseph Smith's argument upon this subject was this: There is no emperor, no monarch, no king, no president breathing the breath of life on earth who has created his subjects. They are the creatures of God; He created them; they are His children. Therefore, neither emperor, president, king nor ruler has the right to deprive any of his subjects of the right of worshipping God according to their consciences; for they are held responsible and accountable to their Creator for their religion, and not to man. If I had the control of fifty tabernacles, and any preachers of the Gospel, from

any sect under heaven, who had not tabernacles or temples of their own to go into to give their views, I would be perfectly willing they should occupy them. If there is a sect or a man on the face of the earth who has got a truth I do not possess, I want it. Why? Because I am going into the spirit world, the same as you are. The men whom I was acquainted with in early days in this Church, have almost all passed away, and I shall follow them very soon myself. This whole congregation, with all the Christian world, have to pass, in a few years, to the other side of the veil. Then deception will not answer nor be of any benefit to me. Any false testimony I may give, or anything I may do subversive of the will of God towards His creature, man, I shall be held accountable for before the bar of Almighty God, and so will every other man. Therefore, while we accord to every man the right to enjoy his own religion, to believe what he pleases and worship as he sees fit; we claim, as Latter-day Saints, the same privilege. This is a fundamental doctrine of our faith. What Brother Penrose has said here today is true. The Latter-day Saints are somewhat peculiar from other religious denominations; one of their peculiarities is this, that no man knows when he comes into this Tabernacle who is going to speak here. This is true, as a general thing. This is my personal experience. I have traveled one hundred and sixty thousand miles in the last sixty years of my life. I have been in the Church about that length of that time. I have traveled among the nations of the earth, the islands of the sea and in my own country. I have preached the Gospel, and I have never known, whenever I arose to speak to the people, what I was going to say. I have been dependent upon the inspiration of Almighty God, as have all the Elders in this Church. Brother Penrose has remarked concerning our manner of preaching. Who has the Lord called, from the creation of the world, to do this work? He has called, in a great measure, the weak things of this world. You may trace this in the whole history of the dealings of God with men. When He wanted a king in Israel, He chose a boy—David, one of the sons of Jesse. Who were the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He chose to stand by Him and to preach the Gospel? They were illiterate fishermen. Men in this day have been called from the plow, the plane and the hammer, and the various occupations of life, and thrust into the vineyard of the Lord. Why have they gone? Because they knew for themselves—every man has known who has embraced this Gospel and done his duty—that he has had to depend upon the Lord. That is the only dependence that we have. I never in my life, except in one or two instances in my early preaching, attempted to prepare anything to say to the congregation, and when I did I never touched the subject at all.

I will say to our friends who are present, you see a city here, you see a Tabernacle here. How did this come about? I came here with President Young, in 1847. We found a barren desert—as barren as the desert of