

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1895. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

DISCOURSE

Presented at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, October 5th, 1895. by

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may rest upon us throughout the remainder of our conference. It has been upon the brethren who have already spoken. The gathering of the Latter-day Saints in conference makes very important answers. They are for the transaction of business and the giving of instruction to the people who may receive instruction the true spirit, that the keynote may be given to them, and that the Latter-day Saints may enjoy that the Spirit so that they can have discern the truth, and then they shall not easily be deceived in regard to doctrine and principle pertaining to the plan of life and salvation. This revelation requires particularity that the Elders upon whose shoulders rest the responsibilities of the church should meet together frequently. In general conference we gather twice a year, in stake conferences four times a year, and at these gatherings all business is transacted, and it is done by common consent. Every member of the Church is entitled to a voice in the transaction of Church business, whether in the quorums of the Priesthood, in the gatherings of the people in wards and in sects, or in a whole Church. No man is out of position in this Church who is not of the fellowship of the people; and men in this Church never lose the fellowship of the people so long as they do right. For the Latter-day Saints believe Holy Ghost as their companion, and the Holy Ghost comprehends, not only doctrine and principle, but also the truth which is called to preside over us as the Holy Ghost. If they have excesses, the Saints discover them and they are not to their integrity to the cause. If man live their religion, the people love them and listen to them. If men live the religion of the world, they lose caste among the people. It is singular that the Latter-day Saints can discern so carefully and particularly the errors of the world, and yet so readily they will detect error, false doctrine or evil that may arise, or be presented among the true people by false men to the presence of the Holy

Spirit, to give him understanding and wisdom, and no latter-day Saint need to be led astray by false teachers; for the Spirit of the Lord, being their companion, they are entitled to comprehend the truth and to detect error, and to know their status before the Lord day by day.

But in order to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord, we must have a Heavenly Father has designed we should do, it is really necessary that we should serve the Lord, that we should be obedient to His commands, that we should be very careful in our lives, and that our hearts should not be set upon the things of this world, but that we should be seeking for treasures in heaven. The more we treasure are laid up in heaven, so I understand it, by men doing day by day, and by men doing day by day, laboring to improve and to elevate society. If society is corrupted by the spirit of lying, then it is the duty of every person to stand up and tell the truth to oppose against the spirit of lying, and so forth. If there is a spirit of infidelity affecting the church, then every man should be moved against infidelity, and labor to promote faith in the church. If there is a spirit of pride, it is possible to please God without faith. It is not possible to please our Heavenly Father without the spirit of truth and the spirit of love. These are the two sources of happiness to mankind, we are told in the scriptures, is the favor of God. If we please Him, He will favor us. If we love Him, He will love us. Saint under the sound of my voice yesterday had experience enough to know that the favor of the Lord is not upon doing nothing, but upon doing right. We have all done wrong enough to know that. I take it also that we have all done right enough to know that. I have enough to know that the favor of the Lord is upon us when we do right. Why should we do wrong? Why shall we not do right? Why shall we not please our Father and do right all the time? Why is it that we are not doing right constantly? Is there any power given to Satan to keep us from doing right? Is there any power given to Satan to compel us to break the Sabbath day and not to keep it holy? Is power given to Satan to keep us from doing right? Is it unjust or untruthful? I have never found it so in my experience. I have never been so compelled to do wrong, that I was wrong in my mind, with my eyes open. I have known what was

First, I have thoroughly taught by my parents and by my brethren; I have been taught by the brethren that the Lord's conscience has been lighted by the spirit and power of God, I have been able to comprehend very easily what was wrong in the world, and I have been able to discern. Before this vast congregation this morning, that every man has been graciously endowed by our Heavenly Father with the power of understanding and will. Every man in a normal condition has the power to do right. When the Gospel has been taught us, we have been able to discern the right from the wrong. When the scriptures have been expounded to us we have believed them. Men of the Lord's Church have been taught us that it was necessary that we should believe in God our Father, and that we should believe in Jesus Christ, willing to listen and to treasure up the truth that they taught us, and to believe it. The Latter-day Saints today believe in God, and in Jesus Christ, and in the angels who are in reality His children; that He is our head, and that we are indebted to Him for life and being upon this earth. We have been taught that the angels, by which we may be saved and brought back into His presence, by which we may become as He is, and inherit His glory, and that we may have the fulness of eternally. He has made all these things plain to us, and He has sent into this world His Son, our eldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was in a fallen condition. Adam came and felt that we might be, that by his fall came death, and that the grave was the place of the dead. He returned to mother earth, there to remain until the resurrection, and the resurrection was brought about by the power of the Father, our God. Our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, shed His blood for all men—men for His own, for He was immanently God. He has made it plain to us, His life that you and I should be redeemed from that death which had come upon us because of the fall of Adam. He has made it plain to us, that His blood are cleansed from the conditions of the fall. For Jesus broke the bonds of death, and all men are raised from the grave through the blood of Adam, in like manner as we are raised from the grave through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother. Every human being that is created upon this earth will have that tabernacle resurrected upon this earth, and will be resurrected before God to be judged for the deeds done in the body. In taking up the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are made plain to us in the plan of life that we should lay up our bodies in the watery grave, and that we should be resurrected from the watery grave into power of life, and to walk no more after the ways of men. It is required that we should not be resurrected into the world. As at times past we were sinners and transgressors, and were resurrected and indifferent in regard to the principles of the Gospel, we are to take principles should be our first

here we should love them. Wherefore we sought to lay up treasures on earth, now we should seek to lay up treasures in heaven. Our Father in heaven has intended that we should be united to God's purposes upon the earth. We should not live for the building of railroads and the development of mines and the like, but for the glory of God. Wherever we do of this kind should be done with the view of accomplishing the purposes of the Lord in the world, and bringing about that joy that was intended in our being upon the earth. As Adam lost that joy, he brought sorrow and grief to the world, so we have come to the earth that we might have joy in the presence of our Father, who dwells in heaven. We have come to the earth as Father and the object of our being. Therefore, our hearts must not be taken upon the things of this world. But if we are taken by the things of this world, His righteousness, all other things that are necessary for us our Father will add unto us. Though He may send us affliction, He will not take away from us. At this year, and some next year, all finally we will inherit all things. We will have the Father and the Son, relief from sin and cross back into the presence of God; it is necessary not only that we should believe and be baptized, but that we should have the Father and the Son. The doctrine of faith in God is the doctrine of repentance, as Peter declared on the day of Pentecost unto those who were gathered together. They were sent to His death. They were gathered in great numbers, and many were convinced under the instructions of the apostles. They were baptized, and were pricked in their hearts, and said: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter answered them, "Repent, and be baptized unto remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." What a glorious promise that is! The gift of the Holy Ghost! It was the truth in the days of Peter. I say it is the truth today. If it was necessary then that a man should repent, and be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and enter into the kingdom of the Father for the remission of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, how much more necessary is it now that we must please God and know His mind and will, say it is the same today. The Gospel given then is the Gospel given now. It is the same Gospel that was then given by Jesus Christ himself. And He has given to us the Holy Ghost, that precious gift that was so valuable in those days. It is the same gift that is being brought to the attention of the followers of the Savior all that He had taught them, and show them things to come.

I have said that I had been spoken of yesterday—the Bible, the words of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants—and they were speaking of the same thing. I said that I could not run an hour with all the books that were ever published. It is not possible to run an hour with God with Him. It must be by the living word of God. It must be by the men who are authorized by the Son of God himself to teach them. You cannot organize a ward, you cannot organize a quorum, you

kingdom of God, only by the living traces. You must have them all the time. Where a church has not the living traces, it is not a church. Where a man who speaks as I have authority, as Jesus spoke, I say that that is not the work of God; there must be the Apostleship; there must be the Priesthood; there must be the organization of the Church. I have said that I have no authority; what God has revealed to us, and it is the reason that this work is prospered. Has it ever grown less? Has it ever been less? Has it ever, away of one, has there not been an addition of a hundred? The Church has increased and grown right straight up to the top of the mountain. I am figurative in these words; you who know the Gospel is true. If any man has received the Gospel of Jesus Christ and has been baptized, he has received the truth. That knowledge is a part of the work. It is a part of the principles that men should know of the doctrine, and I have said that the Church is not held down by the law of God and you will find that He makes it positive. One day of His commandments I have brought, Every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. He do as ye say, and ye shall find that ye will obtain that precious promise; but He said, ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, if ye shall keep His commandments. Man himself was questioned by the Jews, who wanted to know why He came to teach them when he was not a Jew, and He said, My doctrine is not mine, but is finished in the schools of the day. He said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the Father, and whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. Now, I say that the latter day Saints have received the truth, and they were saved of God, and they know of the doctrine. There have gathered together and they have built temples, and are laboring for the souls of men, and they are saving other people on this earth are doing, and as no other people can do; for this, is no other people that has the Gospel. All that have been saved of God, and have a marvellous signs of salvation if no truth were in it. But I say if you were to take nine-tenths of the truths and try to make them up, you would be in vain. You must have the whole truth or the system is not complete, and perfect. I speak with all respect of the revelations of the scriptures. I have the same profound respect for every denomination that I ask them to grant me a word, and I want to have a Christian in their love, and to have them believe in Jesus Christ. It is much better than to have them, independent of us, and to have them that has the authority of God, with whom God is laboring all the time, you will find him who stands up like men with the sword and the shield, and he is the scribes and pharisees. We do know of what we teach, and we have hundreds of thousands of people who stand before this congregation if it were

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the Latter-day Saints, the Lord is sending the hearts of the people, and will continue to do so in the future, and make it possible for His Church to be established in every nation, and to have a breathing spell now. We have spread over all this intermediate region, not only in the United States, but into Canada, into Mexico, and we are going east and west, and spreading in every direction, and gaining strength and power. And these United States will be the center of the Latter-day Saints that are in it, for where the Latter-day Saints go, though they may be scattered, yet they will be in unbroken alliance with one another, and will be a people that will attract the world. We are told indeed of prominent men in the world who are looking for the Latter-day Saints, and they will make their homes, having the idea that their children can grow up in purity here as they cannot in the rest of the world. Get that? And we are going to the Latter-day Saints may be pure, and that the pure of the world may come in to be purified, to preserve their families in purity, and to be saved among us, and we will teach them the truth, and if they do not want it, if they cannot accept it, we will leave them, but their lives by the very best doctrines and principles that they can receive and live up to.

My testimony before this vast assembly this morning. May God bless us, and bless this conference and the labors of the Elders, past and future, and may we all be preserved, instructed and advised by our Heavenly Father in regard to the principles that are necessary for us to grow more careful and diligent in our lives. We have done in the past, so that we may be indeed Latter-day Saints, full of faith, and worthy of the favor and blessing of our Heavenly Father. Lord! I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

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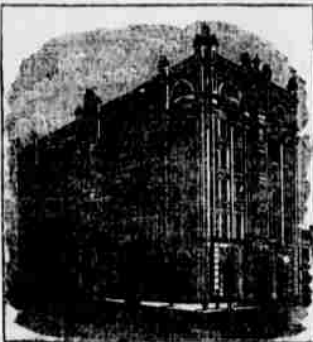
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