REMARKS
BY
ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN,

In the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, during the General Conference, Tuesday morning, April 5th, 1892.

While I attempt to speak to you, my brethren and sisters, this morning, I feel more than ever in my life the necessity of your faith and prayers, and I suggest that it is good discipline for the mind, whenever our brethren rise to speak or pray in our behalf, that we offer up a silent prayer, asking God to bless our brother in his speaking and in his praying.

These are precious seasons where so many Latter-day Saints meet together to worship the Lord and to transact business that pertains to the building up of our Father's kingdom in the earth. The Lord has been very gracious to all of us during this conference, and in spite of the bad weather the people have had faith enough to gather together in great numbers, manifesting their deep interest in the work of the Lord; and our brethren have been greatly blessed in speaking to us the words of truth and of instruction suited to the requirements of the Latter-day Saints.

We find that from the beginning the children of God have had seasons of trial. All the changes, all the revolutions, all the movements of the people have in a measure tended to try some of those who profess faith in the Lord. The trials of the people go as far back as we are acquainted with their history, not only in this dispensation, but in all dispensations. There seems to be a power and an influence opposed to the purposes of our Maker, trying to thwart the designs and seeking if it may be a human standpoint, the opposer of the Lord has been apparently successful; at least, a great many things have occurred that would seem to the opposer of the hopes and expectations of the followers of the Savior, and I suppose that to greater disappointment ever occurred in the experience of God's children on the earth than when the Savior Himself had down His life. With all that He had said, with all the reference that He had made to the laying down of His life, and with all that had been said in the revelations to the Prophets of old, no one was prepared for the death of the Savior. With all that had been said by the Prophet Joseph to his brethren and the Saints of God in early days, there was not the soul, save it might be the Prophet himself, who was prepared for the sacrifice of his life. No one ever thought that he would be slain. No one ever thought that his brother Hyrum would be slain. They were not prepared for it. Neither were they prepared for many of the revelations that the Lord gave. Although we are a people of revelation, founded upon the rock of revelation, yet there is hardly a revelation given by the Lord to the Latter-day Saints but takes them unprepared. They had not thought it would be just that way, but that something else would have been revealed. And those revelations and requirements of the Lord have always been, in a measure, trials to the people; not to all of them, but to a great many. Many people have turned away from the truth because things did not come exactly in suit them. Now, the instructions that the Latter-day Saints have had from the beginning have been to the effect that they should live their religion, keep the commandments of the Lord, and so live that they might have the testimony of the Holy Spirit abiding in their hearts. If those instructions had been followed very closely and carefully by all the Latter-day Saints, I believe that they would have been fully prepared, at least, to receive any order, any revelation and any changes that were made by the Lord for the accomplishment of the Lord's purposes in the earth. But we are a little carless and negligent in some duties that we should perform, and we do not order our lives as carefully as we ought to do. We are not so particular in regard to the worship of the Lord; we are not so particular in partaking of the sacrament; we have not learned to love the sacrament and to comprehend it as we ought to do, so that all Israel are gathered together on the Sabbath day to partake of the sacrament. We have not yet learned to comprehend the importance of prayer so thoroughly and perfectly, but we forget and neglect our prayers. They are neglected in the Saints' home, and in the sinner's home, and in the chapel, and in the house. We are careless also in regard to our tithing. Although the Lord has been so abundantly blessing us, and with fruitful seasons as He did last year, yet the Latter-day Saints become careless in regard to their tithing. And I suppose there is also a carelessness in the heart of every brother and sister and every family where there is a falling off in regard to tithing, in regard to prayer, in regard to attending the meetings and the conferences and to the worship of the Lord. I wonder what excuse we can make to Latter-day Saints for the neglect of our tithing. The reports of this year from many of the Stakes of Zion would include that the people are becoming poorer, that our industries have had a less harvest, or not been as much during the last year as in years before. Yet the fact is, we are increasing in number; we are increasing in wealth; we are increasing our merchandising; we are engaging in more business enterprises, and if we tried as well, and if the Saints were as faithful as they ought, as they might to be doing, our tithing fairly and honestly paid, should have been a little better. If you and I do not pay more, the people have to make nothing up, for there is a little generation of young men coming to maturity who should have become tithepayers independent of their fathers, and the tithings of the people should increase, unless there is a famine or some great reason why there should be a falling off. I desire to emphasize this before all Israel, that our tithings ought to increase year by year, and also our disposition to attend the worship of the Lord, to attend to our prayers, to observe faithfully the Word of Wisdom, and to increase in good works year by year. We ought to be better men. We ought to be more careful, more circumspect, more faithful and devoted to the Lord than we have been in the past. This is as necessary as it is that the child should grow from childhood to youth, and to manhood and old age. We ought to grow and improve in our morals, in our faith, in our internal and in our humility day by day. These ought never to be a necessity for the remarks that were made yesterday by President Cannon and President Smith. These ought not to be necessitating among the Latter-day Saints question the authority of God's prophets—the authority of the President, the Prophet, or the Bishop, or the President of Stake, or the Apostle, the First Presidency. From the First Presidency and the Apostles through all the other spheres there should be that proper regard for authority and seniority in the point of the priesthood that would be a blessing to us. I believe that we have not been as faithful as we should have been in regard to the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom to the Saints, and I do not think that it would be expected. Men may be weak, and have their failings; but we ought to honor the Priesthood that they hold and the authority that they exercise. I love to honor and respect a man that God honors. If the Lord has true men, the Priesthood is His service, I feel that I can afford to honor them. I care not what the degree of priesthood is (that is man honor), in fact, I feel that the man that has more responsibility will feel to keep His commandments and to humble before the Lord. I can see and respect such points in the ministry that they have to do, feel that they have the friendship and favor of the Lord, and I feel that I can honor and treat them kindly. And when it comes to my brethren who preside over me and who were associated with me in the mission to which I labored, and in between the Elders, Priests and the Seventies and the other officers, why it does seem to me that their words, their counsels and their admonitions should be so sacred that we could all honor and respect them. I know that in the quorum of the Apostles and with the President there is a feeling of respect, of honor and of obedience to those who preside over us. We defer to our senior, and we honor and respect them in their priesthood. If there is any lack of respect for the Presidency of the Church, in the Church or in any of the quorums of the Holy Priesthood, I should be very sorry to William R. I have always felt that President Woodruff was to me the same as President Taylor was—the vicegerent of God. I have felt that President Woodruff and President Taylor were the voice to me and to the Church as President Brigham Young, and they as the Prophet of God; for these men have walked right into the same authority and the same power, the same blessing, endowment and responsibility as leaders of Israel as was held by the Prophet Joseph Smith. And in the absence of President Woodruff, I have always felt—I speak for myself, I may speak for President Cannon, or whoever may stand in the place that President Cannon does today, is to me the same as President Woodruff, as the President of the Church and as the President of the Conference; and in the absence of the President and his first counselor, I feel that the quorum of the twelve is the same as the man who stands as the mouthpiece of God to the people. For these are three Presidents, I understand it. I understand that in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith he was the President of the Church, and that he had associated with him other two Presidents—a presiding quorum of High Priests—and that either of those in the absence of the other was perfectly competent to give forth the word of God to the Latter-day Saints. And I have always looked upon my brethren of the Quorum of the Twelve, and I have always felt Abraham H. Cannon, the last of the Apostles, as being perfectly competent to give forth the word of the Lord to the Latter-day Saints, to teach them, to counsel them, and to instruct them in the ways of life, while the Lord inspires them to do so. I feel perfectly that the word of God was given to us through President Cannon just as perfectly as though it had been through President Wilford Woodruff. And President Wilford said so. He knew it as well as we knew it. The Latter-day Saints who were present understood it, and felt the spirit with which he spoke. If we are in regard to what President Joe F. Smith said, and I know with the mind of the Lord given through the Apostle and President Cannon, I feel that we are assisted with the same power and authority, any put aside counsels, precepts, or words. All we have to do is to be obedient. When the spirit of God is upon men, it bear testimony, and to instruct, and to admonish, and to warn, and to comfort, and to direct the people in the way they should go. This is the nature of the authority and power that is conferred upon them, and it ought to be respected just as it is respect each other, as I think the people will respect, as we hold the Priesthood and authority which we hold. These men are called to labor in all the world, with all the energies and all the power, to teach, to instruct and to set good examples. I feel that these elder brethren in these quorums and these dominions are expected to set good examples, and the people looked to them and kept faithfully and faithfully with them. They are expected to set good examples in their lives, in their families, in their neighborhoods, in business, and in all their walks so as to be filled with the light of revelation and the word of the Lord on all occasions, to speak forth those counsels that the people require, so that the people may be warned of dangers and evils, just as we have been warned of the dangers of the people going into trouble. Some of the Saints have taken warning, and have heard. Now I want to say that I have not very low fears; I have great confidence in these Latter-day Saints, and I have had a long experience, from the early days of the Church. We are united day now. We have a few brethren that have been faithful from the very beginning. Then we have some that came in the next stage, and a few later, and some still later, and the Latter-day Saints are all kept by faithfully proves that what turned men from the Church and made them enemies to her Priesthood of the Church in the days of the Prophet Joseph is the same thing that would turn men away from it today. We have no good sense, and have been the thoroughly taught and schooled. We have the same feelings and spirit sometimes that men had in Joseph's time; yet when we are older, sometimes when we exercise a little reason and judgment, we acknowledge of the truth. We are grounded in our hearts that we cannot be shaken. We will stand firmly, we will discard everything that would make us think lower in our brethren and divine as in the spirit of the Gospel. We are expected to be one in the spirit of the Gospel, in the labors of the Gospel; for where division or party lines is necessary and course, it could never to make one party or bitterness between brethren. And I want to say to all Israel that I feel that kind of bitterness in great least because a brother, and that the spirit of brightness, you are to show, because we cannot show bitterness in our hearts toward our brethren; in fact, bitterness might not to be in our hearts towards our priests. If the world be filled against us and not supported by the Priesthood, we could not be faithful to our religious and political organizations, why should we not be faithfully to ourselves? We should have the Gospel, living spirit within us, so as to be judged by oppose the, but every man judge himself to be in the feelings in his own heart, so that I may come in the mind. We need not because your enemies, or troubled, in regard to the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom to the Saints, and I do not think that the situation you and I are faithful or not. And it is becoming year by year. Those who may not be faithful to be, we may not be so faithful in regard to the kingdom of God as we ought, we may not be so faithful in regard to our tithing, the word of the Lord, the revelations of the Lord, the word of God, the Gospel, the Latter-day Saints, and it is taking some back hearts, and it is making some back hearts, and it is making some back hearts, and it is making some back hearts, and they leave the spirit of the Gospel more or less to them, and they become like unto the world, and they will not altogether go to the devil. They may have some of an inclination and to Heaven, and there may be a few times with angry sometimes and to perform and varnish, but I tell you that the Lord is merciful, and He does not let the spirit in the heart of a man to be taken from him, and the messengers and ministers of the Saints, and the Latter-day saints are becoming especially interested with the spirit of the Gospel in the destinies of the Gospel that they are not as active as they used to be in great conditions. The Presidency have not lost their faith, and they are waiting them. They are not for their joining with the cause of the enemy, as we the one to the day of the Prophet Joseph. Have we any fears in regard to these Presidents in Israel? We never think of any of them being away, leaving the Gospel, and joining hands with the enemy. The reverend time is plural marriage, so-called, tried the people of a great many years. The Mormons tried a great many people. But not many have left the Church on account of it. The reverend time is polygamy, and the Church has become of the people and politics have the people and I tell you that every thing that comes along will try some of the people. I know that we are people tried and proven people so far that there will not be the apostacy, in proportion to our numbers, that there was in the early days of the Church. Some will apostatize, no doubt, and lose the faith, and die in that condition. But I tell you I am very low and distant, the most independent spirits that could be found in the earth, have been gathered into the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and of nations; those that were not afraid to have their names cast out as evil. Those are the ones that have been gathered in this very tremendous gathering, the like of which cannot be found anywhere else. No other people gather together as we do. And the Lord has tried and proved us. As only this, but the strength of the truth that we have embraced, and the faith and power that we have, that we have exhibited, and that we will work memorially to our heritage, though some of them may be lost.

I pray God to bless this Conference, my brethren and sisters, I love you, I love my brethren. God I feel to say God bless them. God bless President Woodruff and his counselors, President Cannon and his counselors, Brother Franklin D. Richards—these age men. God bless these younger men, who need a blessing more than the older ones, and who need to be proven and tried yet to try and have faith. God grant that we may be so faithful as they have been, so that we may be taken into the Five quorum of heaven. God bless brother Joseph Smith, who now has not his seat, separated with his quorum. I pray God that he shall place the Lord that he shall direct a man full of faith and integrity, that Elder Joseph Smith of Nauvoo, that he may be blessed with every blessing, so as not one without weakness, but that weakness be added the same faithfulness and spirit of the Prophet, and that Elder the Prophet, who, of all men in the Church, have been made to carry and are to be the most responsible, and the Bishops of the big wards and the little wards, and all Counselors, and all men to Israel who are laboring in the Priesthood, in the Lord's vineyard. May we tomorrow, with the faithful brethren, place the emphasis on that Temple. Oh, what a day! I was there when the foundations were laid, I was about fifteen years old. I thank God I had that privilege, and I want to see this tomorrow, and then I want my people to see the building completed and the people have the privilege of going in, tens of thousands of them, to perform their labors for the dead, for the living, and for the salvation of Zion, of father and mother, in my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lecture by Elder Wood.

Last evening the students and students of the Students' Society were highly entertained and instructed at the College building, in listening to the programme rendered. The audience was called to order by the chairman, who after invocation and the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, introduced Elder Joseph Wood as the lecturer of the evening. Brother Wood said he had recently returned from a three and a half years' mission to the Eastern States, and he felt to rejoice in the gospel of the latter-day saints, and in the spirit of the Gospel more or less to them, and they become like unto the world, and they will not altogether go to the devil. They may have some of an inclination and to Heaven, and there may be a few times with angry sometimes and to perform and varnish, but I tell you that the Lord is merciful, and He does not let the spirit in the heart of a man to be taken from him, and the messengers and ministers of the Saints, and the Latter-day saints are becoming especially interested with the spirit of the Gospel in the destinies of the Gospel that they are not as active as they used to be in great conditions. The Presidency have not lost their faith, and they are waiting them. They are not for their joining with the cause of the enemy, as we the one to the day of the Prophet Joseph. Have we any fears in regard to these Presidents in Israel? We never think of any of them being away, leaving the Gospel, and joining hands with the enemy. The reverend time is plural marriage, so-called, tried the people of a great many years. The Mormons tried a great many people. But not many have left the Church on account of it. The reverend time is polygamy, and the Church has become of the people and politics have the people and I tell you that every thing that comes along will try some of the people. I know that we are people tried and proven people so far that there will not be the apostacy, in proportion to our numbers, that there was in the early days of the Church. Some will apostatize, no doubt, and lose the faith, and die in that condition. But I tell you I am very low and distant, the most independent spirits that could be found in the earth, have been gathered into the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and of nations; those that were not afraid to have their names cast out as evil. Those are the ones that have been gathered in this very tremendous gathering, the like of which cannot be found anywhere else. No other people gather together as we do. And the Lord has tried and proved us. As only this, but the strength of the truth that we have embraced, and the faith and power that we have, that we have exhibited, and that we will work memorially to our heritage, though some of them may be lost.

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