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DISCOURSE DELIVERED BY ELDER JOSEPH P. SMITH, At the General Conference held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Tuesday morning, April 8th, 1879.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

There is a little time remaining,
and as I have been requested I de-
cided to make such remarks as may
occur to my mind. I have been
greatly pleased and edified during
the Conference which is now draw-
ing to a close. It has been very
gratifying to see the large number
of people that have gathered to-
gether during the two days that
have passed. It is evident that the
 Latter-day Saints are interested
in the welfare of Zion, and are
prompted to attend to the duties
which devolve upon them. That
part which belongs to them; in
adopting and sustaining the
measures proposed for effectually
carrying out the purposes of the
Almighty in relation to the great
 Latter-day work in which we are
engaged, and in seconding and sus-
taining those who are appointed to
take the oversight of all the affairs
of the Church, by the voice of the
people and by the voice of the Lord.

In doing this we are but doing our
duty, and it is the duty of every
one of us to do it. We are the
people willing to do our duty,
and especially so to see so many
cheerfully respond to their duty as
have done so during this Confer-
ence. It is certainly encouraging
to those who stand at our head to
see the people rally around them,
manifesting such faith, good feeling
and love for the work of God, and
for those whom the Lord has in-
spired with his good Spirit to lead
us. It is an evidence, at least, that
in a great measure, our desires and
our hearts are united.

There are a great many things
which are necessary for us to con-
sider, and so far as possible thor-
oughly understand. Not much has
been said during this Conference
in relation to our temporal affairs,
except so far as the reports which
have been read have shown the fi-
nancial and statistical condition of
the Latter-day Saints. We belong
to a temporal as well as a spiritual
kingdom, and it is very necessary
that we should take a lively inter-
est in whatever tends to build up
the kingdom of God temporal as
well as spiritual, and spiritual as
well as temporal.

I have never yet found any one
who can draw the dividing line be-
tween our spiritual and temporal
interests, neither do I know of any
one who believes that it is quite as necessary
that we should attend to the tempo-
ral, as it is to attend to the spiri-
tual duties which devolve upon
us, and vice versa. It will not do
to devote all our time to the spiri-
tual part, nor all to the temporal
part, but we must not neglect to
work of the Lord committed to us,
in all his parts, or bearings. We
should have sufficient of the Good
Spirit to make the temporal labor
light and easy to bear. I find that
when we have to carry on the tempo-
ral labor without the Spirit, or
the life, light, vigor, and power
of the Good Spirit, we are apt to feel
that it is burdensome and hard, or
difficult to bear; but when we enjoy
the companionship of the Holy Spirit,
we can and do joyfully perform all
the temporal duties and labors
which may be rightfully required of
us. The Lord will not require
of his people anything which he
is unable to perform. He will
not impose burdens upon his peo-
ple that they cannot bear; but if
they are faithful, he will give them
the light of the Good Spirit to guide
us, the most simple duties
and the easiest tasks may seem bur-
densome to the ignorant, and which
have been taxed the energies of
the utmost, or at least equal to
many of those brethren who have
enjoyed their leisure at home,
and have not the same ability in the
interests of themselves
and families. They have
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otherwise care for; yet these things
have not been considered, or al-
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they called upon God for help, and
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think that they have done enough,
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This is but a sample of what all
the people ought to be. We should
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What will a man not give for his
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that which is of the earth is earthy;
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If we do right, therefore, in this
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have not been considered, or al-
lowed to stand in the way, when
they called upon God for help, and
the blessing of the Church. They were
on hand, like the ready watchman,
scarcely stopping to think of them-
selves or theirs. This they have
done with all their strength, and
labors have never been regarded as
burdensome; but on the contrary,
they afforded them joy, pleasure
and comfort, and they were begin-
ning to grow weary, they do not
think that they have done enough,
as some have thought who have
performed a short mission, that is
have been sent to do a short mis-
sion, and they have returned, and
do something for themselves;
they are still ready and willing to
go or come, or do whatever may be
required of them by the Lord. All
times, their duties in the priesthood
of greater moment than any per-
sonal considerations. The Lord
has blessed them in their labors;
he made their burdens com-
paratively easy to bear; they have
not felt the load, but they have
gone on rejoicing, never failing to
accomplish the best of their ability
trusting in the Lord, at the same
time doing all in their power, for
the maintenance of themselves and
families.

This is but a sample of what all
the people ought to be. We should
all be willing to labor for the wel-
fare and salvation of the people; to
sacrifice our own desires and labors
for the good of the whole, being
perfectly willing to do the bidding
of the Almighty, with no will of
our own, but to serve the purposes
of the Lord. Is this not consistent
with the pattern set us by the Be-
nevolent? Jesus said, "Father, not my
will, but thy will be done." This
was the doctrine he inculcated
among his followers, and com-
manded them to obey; that their
will should be swallowed up in the
will and pleasure of the Almighty,
that they should feel in their hearts
that they are willing to serve God
even to the sacrifice of everything,
"counting all things but loss in com-
parison to the excellency of

the knowledge of Jesus Christ." When we possess the spirit of the
gospel and faith in God, as we
should, we will have no burdens
that will be difficult to bear. We
will find our "yoke" easy and
our burdens light, and it will be
a pleasure to do our duty, what-
ever that may be. If we should
be able to reach the gospel, we
will find it a pleasure to re-
spond, for we will feel that we
are united in the service of God,
for the salvation of mankind, not
for lucre, or worldly gain, but for
the salvation of souls, including
our own. What is there to com-
pare with this labor? Can we com-
pare houses and lands, gold or sil-
ver, or the wealth of the earth, to
the salvation of the souls of men?
What will a man not give for his
own life? And what will it profit a
man though he gain the whole
world, if he at last lose his own
soul? These are questions pro-
pounded by the Savior, who is "the
Author and Finisher of our faith,"
that which is of the earth is earthy;
it is corruptible, and it will pass
away when we leave this state of
existence, we cannot possess it be-
yond the veil, unless we live so
while here that we may be num-
bered with the Saints of the Most
High God—for it is said that
unto them shall the earth be given,
but not until they are prepared to
take the oversight of all the affairs
of the Church, by the voice of the
people and by the voice of the Lord.
If we do right, therefore, in this
world, we shall be able to take the
oversight of all the affairs of the
Church, and the fullness thereof shall be
given to the Saints of the Most High.

We will be numbered among
the Saints of the Most High. The
time has not yet come. The earth
and its fullness are not ours—if they
were we might remain here in
peaceful possession; but they are
not ours, and we are not to be
being committed to us as stewards
for a little season; therefore, our
worldly riches and possessions are
not ours, and we are not to be
numbered with the Saints of the Most
High. We are laboring for the
salvation of souls, and we should
feel that this is the greatest
labor, and so far as possible thor-
oughly understand. Not much has
been said during this Conference
in relation to our temporal affairs,
except so far as the reports which
have been read have shown the fi-
nancial and statistical condition of
the Latter-day Saints. We belong
to a temporal as well as a spiritual
kingdom, and it is very necessary
that we should take a lively inter-
est in whatever tends to build up
the kingdom of God temporal as
well as spiritual, and spiritual as
well as temporal.