

They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark xvi, 17, 18.)

The disciples went forth and preached that Gospel, God "confirming the word with signs following."

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, speaks of these gifts as part of the Gospel of Christ, as part of the very existence of the church. He likens the Church of Christ to the body of a man which is perfect. "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." Every part is necessary to the perfection of the physical being; and so with the Church of Christ. Paul showed that God had placed in the Church apostles, and prophets, and evangelists, and pastors, and teachers, and helps, governments, diversities of tongues, and healings; and he goes on to say that there are diversities of gifts, but by the same Spirit.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gift of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor. xii c 4-27.)

He describes these various gifts, the Spirit "dividing to every man severally as he will;" and he goes on to show that these are a part and parcel of the Church—that is, the Church that Christ built up, and that the Apostles added to establish. We have had a great many churches since their time, and the people have got into confusion, and men preach for doctrine the commandments of men, one contradicting the other, and all believing that they are right. But they cannot all be right, because they conflict, and truth never conflicts with itself.

Some people seem to have the idea that religious truth is different from other truth. When you talk about mathematics or any of the sciences, you expect that one truth will harmonize with another, and that if anything is out of harmony with what you know to be true, that is false. But in religion they seem to think that everything will do so long as a man is sincere. Well, sincerity does not make truth, and it is the truth that we need, it is the doctrine of Christ that will save, and it is the word of the Lord that will lift up. These different churches that have been established have been built up by the wisdom of man, and we can trace their origin. We can go back to their beginning. Did any of them originate by revelation from God? Did God command men to organize them? We cannot find it so in their own history. Reformers have arisen from time to time to introduce improvements on that which existed, and in many cases it has been an improvement. All this has been like a John the Baptist, a forerunner to prepare the way for the revelation of the truth in its glorious effulgence and fullness in the last dispensation—the dispensation of the fullness of times.

After the Apostles were slain, the disciples of Jesus Christ were taken out of the world. Those great gospel lights were put out by wicked hands. Darkness came in like a flood, with idolatry and corruption, false doctrine and that merchandise in the souls of men which Peter predicted. "Darkness covered

the earth, and gross darkness the people." And from that time to the present, sect has multiplied upon sect, society upon society, and there have been different organizations springing up according to the various notions and vagaries of men. As I said before, no doubt there have been good and sincere people, who have been blessed of God according to their faith and sincerity. But did they have the truth as Jesus Christ proclaimed it? Did they have the Gospel as Jesus Christ revealed it? Did they have men among them ordained of God, as Christ was ordained and as He ordained His Apostles, to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and to lay hands upon the baptized believer, that the Holy Ghost might be imparted? Was the Holy Ghost given to them as enjoyed by the prophets of old? If it had been, they would have been "joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." That was the effect of receiving it in the days of the Apostles. The Apostle Paul said,

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor. xii—13.)

They were united together, so that they formed a compact body; such as Paul describes in his epistle to the Corinthians; and they enjoyed these gifts and blessings. That unity has departed, that divine authority has been withdrawn, and darkness and division have come instead.

Now, this is the condition that the world has been in for a long time, my brethren and sisters and friends. I hope no one will be offended if I speak this truth plainly. I do not do it to offend anybody. I desire that mankind may be saved. I desire that God's truth may be paramount. I desire that the word of God may go forth to victory. I desire that the clouds of darkness, error and superstition which have clouded the minds of the children of men may be dispersed, and that the radiant light of the everlasting Gospel, the glorious rays from the Sun of Righteousness, may shine forth and penetrate to every land, that there may be light, and life, and liberty, and the word of God, which endureth forever. So I say to you, my friends, that after this long night of darkness—when men have boasted about their great light and understanding, and have still been in darkness—the millennial morn has dawned, the light of the Lord has shone forth again, the voice of God has been heard once more from the eternal worlds, God the Father and Jesus Christ, His son, have descended and appeared unto man, and have restored the same Gospel that Christ preached when He was in the flesh, and men have been called and ordained to the same apostleship that Peter, James and John held. The same Gospel, the same Holy Spirit, and the gifts and powers of that Spirit, are enjoyed now as in times of old; the Church of Christ has been built up again with prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers, with gifts and blessings, miracles and signs; and he that doeth the will of the Father can know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether we speak of ourselves. The voice of the Lord is to all mankind; "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," to the preacher and the

congregation, to the priest and the people, to the king and the peasant, to the high and the low, the rich and the poor, of all ages and degrees, everywhere; the voice of God is, "Repent; yea, repent, O ye inhabitants of the earth, and believe in me and in my Son Jesus Christ, and be baptized in water for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, you shall know that I am God, and that I have established my church again upon the earth, and you shall be brought into sweet communion with me, the light of God shall shine in your souls, and you shall know that you are set at liberty—that your sins have been remitted, that you have been born of water and of the Spirit and are true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ." This is the word of the Lord to all nations, and hundreds of our brethren are going out, without purse and scrip, as the ancient servants of God did, to preach the Gospel for the salvation of mankind, without fee, without reward, without pay of any kind. Their desire is the salvation of the children of men.

My friends, this is a serious matter to all of us. If it is true that God Almighty has spoken again from heaven; if it is true that the Church of Christ in all its purity, fulness and power is again established upon the earth; if it is true that we again have apostles and prophets and inspired men to declare the word of the Lord, should not we seek unto this with all our hearts? Is it not worth seeking after? To me, it is worth everything, or it is worth nothing. If it is a myth, if it is not true, then I have placed my faith upon a false foundation. If it is true, then am I blessed indeed of the Lord. I bear you my testimony that I have no more doubt about it than I have of my existence. I bear my testimony that I know that God has done this thing; that He has established His Church again on the earth; opened up the strait and the narrow way that leadeth unto eternal life; visited the sons and daughters of men again by the power of the Holy Ghost, the light of heaven which revealeth the things of God, and which "searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." I bear testimony to you that God has opened to the Latter-day Saints a vast treasure house of knowledge and wisdom in regard to eternal things—things that the inhabitants of the earth know nothing about. The beginning of that Gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; the next step is repentance; the next, baptism by one having authority from God to baptize for the remission of sins. When that is performed, the sins of the individual are remitted—washed away, not by the water, but by the blood of Christ. He is born again. The new birth is a type of the first birth. As man came into the world by water, and spirit and blood, so in the second birth he comes by water in his baptism, and by the blood of Christ which cleanseth from all sin, and by the Holy Spirit which guides into all truth and shows the things of the Father and of the Son. I testify to you that these things are true, and I do it in the fear of the Lord, expecting to meet this in the great day when all mankind shall be judged according to their works.

It may be a query with some, if this is the only true Gospel what will become of all people who have lived under