

And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as he will.

And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that you remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.

And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men.

Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity.

And, except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope;

And if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity.

And Christ truly said unto our fathers, If ye have faith, ye can do all things which is expedient unto me.

And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth, That if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief.

And wo be unto the children of men if this be the case; for there shall be none that doeth good among you, no not one. For if there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God.

And wo unto them who shall do these things away and die, for they die in their sins, and they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God; and I speak it according to the word of Christ, and I lie not.

In the words of this Prophet we have clearly revealed to us the causes which shall bring about the withdrawal of those gifts to which reference has been made. He says that if they are ever drawn away from among the children of men it will be because of their unbelief. He also informs us that it is the design of God that they should continue among the children of men as long as the earth shall stand. And why should not this be the case? We have had reasoning upon this effect this afternoon, and this reasoning is consistent—that if one generation needs the spiritual gifts of God which are bestowed by the presence of the Spirit of God, another generation which needs salvation, and which stands in need of the assistance which these gifts bring, should likewise have them bestowed upon them.

It is the greatest folly, it is a fallacy of the worst, and, I might say, of the most damning character to assert that one generation needs these gifts and that another generation can be saved without them. Such a statement is the refuge of those who have no faith, or who do not believe that God is "the same yesterday, today and forever;" that He does not deal with His children

justly under all circumstances and in every generation alike.

Now this is a cardinal principle in the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ. I would not give a fig for a religion that did not possess these powers and gifts. I do not consider a Church a Church of Christ unto which Christ does not communicate His mind and will. I would not consider this the Church of Christ if there were not communications from Christ, if He did not direct it, if He did not guide it, if He did not in all things control its affairs, and make plain the path that it should pursue. It is this which constitutes the Church of Christ. If man were to govern the Church, then it is the church of man. If a church be named after man, and he be the head of that church, then it becomes the church of man; it is not the Church of Jesus Christ.

But the Savior, in laying the foundation of His Church, gave to it His name; His Apostles were called by His name. They were the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. They went forth proclaiming His name as the only name under heaven whereby man can be saved. When they went forth with this authority—authorized and empowered by Him—the promises which they made unto the children of men were literally fulfilled. If this were not the case today, then this would not be the Church of Christ.

But there is this grand feature about the Gospel as it has been restored in our day: The men who go forth claiming the authority of heaven to administer the ordinances of salvation unto their fellow-men do not depend upon the credulity of those whom they address. They do not appeal to them without having good ground for belief that they will have the evidences given to them from heaven that they are the servants of God. In every land wherever the Elders of this Church go they are accompanied by the power of God and they make promises unto the inhabitants of the earth which no human being could fulfil of himself. It is this which constitutes the strength of the Church today. When a man goes forth, he says unto his fellow-men: "If you will believe in Jesus Christ, if you will repent of your sins, if you will in sincerity go forward and be baptized for the remission of your sins, you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Now this is a great and grand promise. It is a promise which no human being can fulfil. It would be an impossibility for any man of himself to fulfil such a promise as this. Therefore, when that promise is fulfilled it is an evidence to the person who receives its fulfilment that the man who made it is a servant of God, because God would not lend Himself to any deception; He would not bestow a gift upon a man because some other man said he should receive it, unless that man had the right from God to make that promise and He was bound by His own promise to fulfil it.

It is in this manner that the Gospel has been preached in our day as in ancient days. It has not been preached by scholarly men, by men who have been trained in schools or seminaries of learning and theology; but God has used His own instruments as in ancient days. The Savior chose the humblest men of the land of Palestine—fishermen and others who were not of a literary turn; He gave them the authority; He laid His hands upon them and ordained them. They went forth empowered by Him, and wherever they went they had these blessings upon them. They came back rejoicing, and said to their Master, "Even the devils are subject to us." They laid their hands on the sick and they recovered, and did many mighty works; and after His death they bestowed the gift of the Holy Ghost on all upon whom they laid their hands, thus witnessing by the bestowal of this blessing that they were His chosen servants.

In this way there was a great Church built up—a Church which would suffer all the persecutions to which reference has just been made, without faltering. Its members had received a testimony from on high. It was not man—it was not Peter, nor James, nor John, nor any of the Apostles who had converted them and given them a testimony. But it was the Almighty power of our God. It was by the opening of the heavens and the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon them, a testimony which they received from heaven that convinced them that they had obeyed the Gospel of the Son of God. Therefore when persecution came they were sustained by that knowledge. They could go to prison, they could go to death, and suffer all manner of hardships and afflictions, supported by the knowledge which God had given them and which they had not derived from man. There can be no Church of Christ unless this is the case.

As I have already said, it is folly for man to claim that there is such a Church on the earth if Christ does not recognize it—if it has not obtained spiritual gifts and blessings to distinguish it from those who are not of the Church of Christ. If there were no distinguishing features between the Church of Christ and the churches of men, what efficacy would there be in the Gospel of the Lord? None. But there are distinguishing features; there are powers, there are heavenly gifts, there are blessings, and they are bestowed upon the children of men according to their faith. Some may have faith to receive one gift and some another, and these gifts are distributed according to the good pleasure of our God upon His people. There is one blessing, however, that everyone who enters into the Church of Christ can claim and will receive, if they enter it in sincerity and humility, repenting of their sins—the gift of the Holy Ghost.

If you do not, as Latter-day Saints, possess these gifts, remember it is because of unbelief, for God