

it, and have received a testimony from God that it was true. The Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and they have had the gifts of the Spirit of God. As we were told this morning, the sick have been healed in answer to prayer, according to the words of the Apostle, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick." The blessings that God promised should follow the believer have followed the preaching of this Gospel, wherever the Elders have carried it.

Any man who visits through these valleys will say the people here are different to any elsewhere. If his eyes are not blinded by prejudice, he will be forced to acknowledge this. He will see a people living together in love, and helping one another. We were told this morning in the report that there are 1700 people in this Stake being supported by the offerings of the Latter-day Saints here. We have record of that, and there is a great deal done that no record is made of. At our last meeting every Thursday in the month the people contribute to the support of the poor. They impart of their substance for one another's benefit. There was a time, not many years ago, before the railroad was completed, that 500 teams, four yoke of cattle to a team, were sent annually to the frontiers to bring up poor people. Where on the earth can you find people doing such things, and without pay—carrying flour and other provisions, and caching that on the way, so that they would have a supply as they returned? Five hundred teams, with four yoke of cattle each, means two thousand yoke of cattle; five hundred drivers, with guards, amounting to nearly six hundred men; five hundred wagons, and provisions to supply all these and the immigrants. What was this for? Was it to make money out of these poor people? No; it was because they believed it was their duty to assist the poor, and they spent their time and means freely for that purpose. This was done year after year before the railroad was completed. Who ever heard of such things being done among men in these days? Why was it done? Was it to build up a few individuals? No; it was to save the children of men, bodily and spiritually; to bring to them salvation in every way; to save them from poverty and sin. If we had our way, there would not be a liquor saloon throughout these mountains. There would be no gambling dens. There would be no houses of ill fame. There would be no places where the young could be seduced and led astray. The most delicate woman might travel unattended from the extreme north of our settlements to the extreme south without ever hearing an improper word, or witnessing an improper gesture, or having anything done to her that would cause a blush to mantle her cheek. This was the way we did live. I do not talk about this as though it was a theory. We have lived this way in these mountains. Drunkenness was unknown, profanity was unknown, gambling was unknown, whoredoms were unknown, violence was unknown. I speak now in general terms. If we had our way, we would make these mountains as

safe as the streets of the New Jerusalem, so far as violence is concerned. But we do not have our way. In the providence of God, this is denied to us at present. But it will come, because truth is in the earth, and God has spoken concerning it, and it will spread until it sweeps the earth as with a flood. The time has come for righteousness to be introduced; and though it seems so hopeless a thing to establish it, nevertheless, it will be done, because God has said it shall be done, and His word cannot fail. Wickedness will be abolished. I thank God for this promise. I thank God that I live in a day concerning which He has made such promises. I thank God for my posterity, and for the hopes that can be indulged in concerning them; that if I should pass away, the generation to come will witness the fulfillment of these things. The heavens have lent themselves to this. God has promised it, and in order that it might be established, He has revealed Himself from the heavens, and has sent angelic being to give man the power and the authority to build up His Church in its ancient purity and power. And there is no power on earth that can stop it. They may kill men. This is in the power of man to do. They have done it. They can rob and destroy, burn and drive out, as they have done. Nevertheless the chariot of the Almighty will roll on and nothing can stop its advance. There is no power can prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of God concerning these last days. We shall have scourges, wars and pestilences, and perhaps famine, and various visitations, to cleanse the earth; for God has said it shall be cleansed, and His word will be fulfilled. The Scriptures are full of predictions concerning this, and these things will come to pass.

It is to escape these dreadful calamities that God has given to those who give heed to His message the spirit of gathering; and no man ever embraced this Gospel, no matter where he lived or to what race he belonged, without having immediately a desire in his heart to gather with the people of God; and men and women have left their homes and everything that they valued on earth for the sake of gathering with their brethren and sisters in this distant land. Now, this is a strange thing. But you are witnesses to the truth of it. These facts which I recite are well known to you. Among the hundreds of Elders that are here, not one of them, I am sure, ever knew a man or a woman to join this Church, in sincerity, without being seized with a desire to leave their home and to join the people of God. In every land and among every people this has been the case. It is the universal effect that accompanies the preaching of this message. Why is this? Because God has blessed them in the last days. Scourges and calamities will be poured out upon the wicked, and you know how it was in the days of Lot—the angel of God had to hurry him out before the city could be destroyed; it could not be done till he got out. The Lord does not want the righteous mingled with the wicked if he is going to pour out calamity and destruction. Therefore, He has given this spirit unto the people who have received His Gospel in the last days; and if all the inhabitants of

the earth would receive it, then the earth would be converted into just such a place as Zion ought to be; in fact, it would be Zion. But while there is a large element of those who will not receive the Gospel, and who will persist in their wicked ways, it is necessary that those who receive the Gospel should gather out to the place which God has designated. And it will be the same with the Jews. God is moving upon the Jews, His ancient covenant people, and their minds are directed toward Jerusalem, and they will leave the nations after a while and go to their own land—the land of Palestine—and fulfil the predictions of the holy Prophets concerning that land. This is a gathering dispensation—a dispensation when God will gather all things together, and when there will be a separation, at least to some extent, between the righteous and the wicked. This is the reason why the Latter-day Saints have gathered together as they have done. This is the reason why they did not break up and scatter when they were driven from their possessions in Missouri and in Illinois. They could not do it; it would be doing violence to every feeling of their nature. They could have made money by scattering through the different cities when they were peeled and stripped of everything; but they could no more do that than they could deny their religion. The spirit of their religion was to gather together, and they clung together. Those who stayed behind lost the spirit of their religion; while those who came out here retained it, and have retained it in the great majority of instances ever since. A man that belongs to this people can no more scatter from this people than he can do anything else that is wrong. It is a strange fact, but nevertheless true. This is one of the evidences that God has given that it is our duty to gather together and to remain together. We feel best when we are together, and we feel very badly when we are separated from each other. How shall this be accounted for? If we do not give the glory to God, to whom shall we attribute this? What is it that has sprung up in the minds of these two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints in this Territory that makes this a peculiar characteristic of theirs? Was it Joseph Smith's power? Was it Brigham Young's shrewdness? Was it, or is it, the power of any other man? Certainly not; it is preposterous for anyone to imagine such a thing. It is implanted in every heart, and it cannot be eradicated. It is the power of God, and nothing short of that. It descends upon those who receive the Holy Ghost, and remains with them as long as they nourish and cherish it.

Brethren and sisters, we ought to be thankful that God in His infinite mercy has condescended to pour out upon us His Spirit. It has been the joy of my entire existence. The sense of loneliness that, it seems to me, I would have if I did not have this Gospel would be overpowering. But here I am connected with my brethren and sisters, the children of God, in this life, and if I am faithful I shall be connected with them by indissoluble ties in eternity, and we shall go on doing the works of righteousness in eternity. We will make this earth a heaven sooner or