

I will not speak of myself; but I do not believe there is one of these men holding the apostleship who would not gladly, had it been God's will and the sacrifice would have sufficed, have given up his life to save this people. The three Hebrew children in taking the course they did involved only their own lives; their action did not involve the lives, liberties, and future of a great people. Therefore you can see that the analogy between their case and ours is not a complete one.

When Daniel went into the lions' den he himself was the sufferer; it was his own life only that was jeopardized. But suppose just for a second that the leaders of this people had said, "We will stand and resist this we will carry out this command of God in the face of the whole world?" What would have been the effect? Why, it would have involved this entire people, every member of this Church, every man and child in it. And how many are there who would have obeyed that doctrine and shown their faith? How many would perhaps have said, "You have no right to drag us into this—to involve us and our lives and our future, and everything that we have on earth in a sacrifice which only you yourselves are concerned in." Can you not see the difference between the three cases I have quoted? It is as plain as it can be.

God guided those men of old to do as they did. God has guided His Church until now; He guided us to do what we have done, and in the history of His dealings with the children of men it will be recorded that we have made as great or greater sacrifices than any people that ever lived.

Now I wish to say this much because I have heard expressions such as those to which I have referred; I have heard them too many times from those who themselves have shown their faith in the doctrines sufficiently to obey them. Well now, brethren and sisters, this is the great point of all I have said thus far: Each one of us should have the light of the Spirit of God shining in his heart so that he may know for himself that which is right, that when we hear the voice of the true Shepherd we will recognize it. We may not be able to tell all the details, but we will know by the testimony of the Spirit of God within us that which is right. This is the testimony which it gives to the Latter-day Saints. They know when they hear the voice of a servant of God, and they understand it. They may not be able to explain all of the reasons connected with this, but they have a living testimony of the truth within them.

Go and plead with the Lord; ask Him to remove the darkness from your minds, to give you the light of the Holy Spirit, that it may shine upon your understanding, that you may comprehend it, and you will not wait upon Him in vain. I can assure you that He will hear your prayers and answer them; He will fill you with peace and joy, and you will know for yourselves that this is God's work; you will know that all your wisdom, the wisdom of men, of those standing at your head, is not alone sufficient to guide this Church. We may mark out

paths for traveling, but the Lord directs our ways, and we cannot walk safely without. We may have our ideas as to how this work is going to be built up and established, but the Lord will show us, as has been quoted in our hearing by Brother Franklin D. Richards, that "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than man's ways." We would never have reached these valleys had not the Lord guided us; and we can look back and see how wonderfully His promises have been fulfilled in our behalf. Scarcely a step could have been taken of our own choice if we had not been upheld by God and had He not sustained us in all our doings. So it will be to the end, and we will be obliged to confess that his wisdom has done it all.

There is another subject that I would like to mention before we adjourn this Conference. Remarks have been made to us concerning home industries and their importance. Talk about revelation! You go and read the sermons of President Young, and if you do not believe now that he was a prophet, I think after you have read them you will be sure he was, because he talked as a prophet to this people concerning their future, and his words were full of godlike wisdom, and he poured them out in a constant stream during his lifetime. One of his great themes was that we should become a self-sustaining people. Our minds have diverted from this to a great extent. I believe, however, that circumstances will be so arranged that we shall be compelled to pay attention to these matters. It should be the aim of every man to try and become self-sustaining, and to have his family self-sustaining. It is my desire to raise everything that is eaten and drunk by myself and my family. I have striven for this. I would like to have it so that I could have everything we wear produced here also. But what I wish to refer to now is this:

We are allowing our young men throughout these valleys, by hundreds, to grow up in ignorance of skilled industries. I was recently at a conference in one of our Stakes—a large Stake, noted for the thrift of its people—and upon inquiry I found that there were only two boys in the settlement in which the conference was held learning trades, and very few anywhere else in the Stake. This to me is ominous of trouble, ominous of poverty—our young men growing up destitute of knowledge concerning skilled branches of business. I am in favor of education. I think no one who knows me will discredit me when I say that. But I am not in favor of book education at the expense of education in skill at manual labor. I have a number of sons, and I would rather they should be destitute of book learning, much as I value it, than be destitute of a knowledge of using their hands and their bodies in earning their living. I believe they would be better citizens if they would learn how to work than they would be, with all the learning that they could get, if they did not possess these other qualities. But there is no necessity that our children should be taught one branch alone. They can be given a good education, and at the same time be taught some skilled

branch of labor. I think it is an error for us to send our young men to school till they are eighteen, or nineteen, or twenty years of age without teaching them some industrial occupation, because it is from fifteen to twenty that boys learn to use their muscles and how to toil without it being burdensome to them. But you take a young man after then, if he has learned nothing but what is in books, and put him to hard manual labor, and he shrinks from it. Very few men can stand it. They want to get easy employment. While I do not think it necessary that all should follow manual labor, it is necessary that all should be taught these branches, so that they can be useful. Then if they can make their living by following some lighter occupation that will be more congenial to them, they can do so. But it seems to me, brethren and sisters, that this is a subject that ought to receive our attention. We are importing skilled laborers from abroad—carpenters, brick-masons, etc., to supply the demand in this city and Territory. It think this is deplorable. We should be in a different condition.

Pardon me if I allude to my own case in this matter, as I happen to be familiar with it. I have several sons, and I have offered each of them for one year to any of our brethren who would teach them mechanism. I have done this with all the sons that I have grown up, because I thought an education of this kind was very valuable. I would like my boys to learn every kind of trade. I would like them to be skillful. I would like them to use these glorious hands that God has given us, and this glorious brain, in a skilled manner. The man who can do this is a much more useful citizen. It is bad to see so many learning to drive a team and following teaming as an occupation. Almost anybody can learn to drive a team. A girl can learn it. I have seen girls that did it excellently. There is very little skill about that. Of course, a good teamster is a rare article; I am aware of that. Then we have men following farming who do not study farming and make a business of it. If you are going to make your children farmers, give them that knowledge that will qualify them; give them a knowledge of agricultural chemistry, so that they will understand the nature of soils, and how to improve soils, and the best manure for soils, and the best soils to produce certain articles. Give them skill in this direction. Let us take advantage of the opportunities that God has given us. There are no brighter intellects in this world than are to be found among the Latter-day Saints—young men of capability, young men who will make their mark if you will give them any kind of a chance. These young men will grow up and be a mighty race, if we will take the course that we should do with them. I feel that when a child is born the parents are indebted to that child. To bring it into the world as a waif, to launch it upon society without giving it a proper education and proper training and assistance is a great wrong. If we did this we would be like animals. It is the duty of every man and every woman who has a child to do everything in their power for that child, to qualify it to be a useful man or woman, and no