

accomplish in the interest of God must come to us through the operations of His Holy Spirit, and this, too, according to the faith which we exercise while together on such an occasion as the present. Hence we should endeavor as far as possible to forget all worldly matters which grieve and vex us, and fix our minds upon the Lord, having a sufficiency of His Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to receive such knowledge and suggestions as will help us in our onward path.

I believe there never was a time since the organization of this Church and Kingdom of God upon the earth when it was more necessary than now for us to obtain spiritual aid and blessings, in order that we may be prepared for the great event which seems now to be rapidly approaching, and in which our collective interests are deeply involved. In the past history of the Saints there have been times when God has seen proper to bring about such circumstances as would try our faith and see what progress His people have made in a knowledge of those principles which He has revealed to us. How far we have been successful in securing that amount of testimony and knowledge from God in relation to the importance of keeping his commandments, it is not for me to say.

We have been told that there exists disunion to a certain extent among the Latter-day Saints—that there is not that feeling of sentiment of union and mutual interest among the people of God which should prevail. In order to prepare ourselves for that which is coming, we ought to look around and try to discover clearly what are the privileges to be obtained through the Gospel which we have embraced. I believe there is a way by which perfect union can be effected if we will but understand things aright. Jesus urged upon His disciples the necessity of union—that the same should be promoted among them as existed between Himself and His Father. We must perfect ourselves before we can attain to the great exaltation and glory which have been promised unto the faithful. We should at all times be willing to make sacrifices for the Gospel's sake, no matter how disagreeable the duty may sometimes be.

I see before me this afternoon thousands of people who have received the Gospel of Christ from among the various nations of the earth. They have made sacrifices which have astonished the world at large. Leaving all that was near and dear to them they have come and settled in these mountain vales, exposing themselves to danger both upon sea and land, and journeyed to a place of which they knew comparatively little. What inspired them to do this? The Spirit of God opened their understanding; it removed part of the veil which hung between them and the knowledge of God, and they became convinced by His power and intelligence of a supernatural nature that there was something which could not be reached through any other source of life, through any other system or

order of things than the Gospel which had been proclaimed to them.

I had an intimate acquaintance with Joseph Smith, the Prophet, for a number of years. The position he occupied before the world and the declarations which he made were of an extraordinary character. It was a position which no individual before or since has attempted to assume. I knew Joseph Smith to have been an honest man, a man of truth, honor and fidelity, willing to sacrifice everything he possessed, even life itself, as a testimony to the heavens and the world that he had borne the truth to the human family. We, as a people, have been making sacrifices for the last sixty years; we think our religion worth all else, and it most assuredly is.

Having spoken of some of the trials and persecutions through which the Saints have passed, including imprisonment and long separation from relatives and friends, Apostle Snow said they were willing to continue to undergo them for the Gospel's sake. They would yet be successful in their work among the children of men. No impediment placed in the way would ever prevent the onward progress of the Church of Christ. Dark clouds may sometimes pass over our heads, we may be sorely tried and perplexed, and efforts made to thwart us; but the truth is mighty and will prevail. The world, which knows not the purposes of God, may think that "Mormonism" is now about to be destroyed, that the voice of the Latter-day Saints and the Priesthood will never be heard again throughout the world; but when these dark clouds thicken about us, and the Saints are put to the test, it is then that God is more glorified, in the fact that we are ready to show our willingness to pass through the fiery ordeal. We make no complaint, but feel thankful that we are able to show how precious is to us the religion which we have espoused. Let us go on rejoicing.

Apostle Snow next related some of the extraordinary manifestations of the power of God which he witnessed when in Kirtland some fifty-three years ago, among these being the speaking in tongues, visions, and the ministering of holy angels.

There is no danger of this Church being destroyed. We know too well the strength and value of our religion. The speaker cited the trials through which Job was called to pass by way of testing his faith; the Lord even permitted the prince of darkness to have dominion over him for a time, and but for all this Job's name would probably never have passed into history. So with the trials of the Latter-day Saints.

God bless this people is my prayer continually, especially in the obtaining of knowledge and intelligence from heaven, so that we may be able to withstand the difficulties, trials and afflictions which may arise in our path.

BISHOP O. F. WHITNEY

said, in substance: I have felt more of the spirit of listening than to speaking. Had it pleased God to have

led the mind of His servant to choose some one else to speak and let me remain in my seat, I should have been satisfied; for I have rejoiced in the instructions given during this conference. I have a testimony regarding their truth, wisdom and inspiration. They have been dictated by the Holy Spirit.

I have realized that the testimonies of the brethren regarding this being the work of God would not suffice for me. It takes an individual knowledge to save. There is no testimony so strong, no tongue so eloquent, nothing so convincing so far as relates to another individual that will stand in the place of the knowledge I must have for myself. God has shown unto me that this is His work. This knowledge I hope to live by and, if need be, die by. I did not always have this testimony. I did not get it until thirteen years ago. I was then placed in a position to know for myself that this is the work of God. My mother had taught me the principles of the Gospel and to revere the memory of Joseph Smith as a Prophet. The latter stood next, in my estimation, to the Lord Jesus Christ. At the October Conference of 1876 I was called on a mission to the United States. I had just enough faith to be willing to go and fill it. But it was not that response of the soul I would feel today were I called to go on a similar errand. It was not long, however, before I became imbued with the testimony of which I have been speaking. I was then laboring in company with Elder A. M. Musser. I became interested in writing for the Utah press accounts of the scenes I witnessed, so that I did not engage in my spiritual labors with that zest which I should have felt. But right then God gave me that witness, which I now esteem as more precious than life.

I dreamed that I was in the garden of Gethsemane. I saw the Savior and three Apostles enter a little gate at my right into the garden, and I stood, as it were, in the background, or in the foreground, of the picture, which I beheld as plainly as I now see the faces of those before me. They did not see me, but I saw them. The Savior stationed the three Apostles in a little group and asked them to pray without ceasing, while He went to the left of the scene, bowed Himself down and prayed also. Presently He arose, and walking over to where Peter, James and John were kneeling, fast asleep, He shook them, woke them up, and again asked them to pray. He returned to His place and prayed again and again. He went back to them and found them sleeping. Awaking them once more He exhorted them to pray, to keep their eyes open, and not to sleep upon their watch. Again He returned to His place, until this had transpired three times, and as He knelt there praying to God to give Him strength to perform His mission, to pass through the ordeal which was before Him, to drink of "the bitter cup" prepared for Him by His Father—as He called upon God in the agony