

bosom than false doctrine. The one can only kill the body; the other will destroy the soul. How blessed it is that we have among us the living oracles of God! President Woodruff stands up here and condemns a doctrine which has been entertained and advocated by some. How blessed it is that we can have the word of God in regard to these things! And not only is it competent for President Woodruff to announce to the Church and to the world the doctrines that are true, and condemn those that are false, but it is competent for the Twelve Apostles, it is competent for the Presidents of Stakes and the Bishops of Wards, in their Stakes and Wards. They ought not to be deceived; the High Priests and Elders and the Saints ought not to be deceived. The Spirit of the Lord is given to every man to profit withal, and to enable him to discern truth from error, and to enable every man possessing it to know truth when he hears it. If it were not so, and we were not endowed with the Spirit of the Lord, we would be liable to be led astray. One man would receive a doctrine as true; another would receive it as false. But now we are enabled by the Spirit of God to know the truth, and to be united, and to see alike and comprehend alike the principles of life and salvation. Whenever I find a brother who can entertain error as truth and can be deceived by it, I always feel as though there is some reason for it. Consider it in regard to yourselves. Will the Lord allow His Priesthood and His people to be deceived, if they hearken unto Him? As I said, every person who has received the testimony of Jesus Christ, has power from God to walk in rectitude to salvation and exaltation in His Kingdom. If that be so, then when men fall and take some side-track, when they entertain wrong ideas and incorrect doctrine, is there not some reason for it? Have they not neglected some duty? Have they not grieved the Spirit of the Lord? Is there not some good reason why they are thus deceived and led astray? Certainly there is. It should not be necessary for every member of the Church to have at his elbow a Bishop, or a Teacher, or some other person, to correct him and keep him in the straight and narrow path. Every Latter-day Saint is entitled to the Spirit of God, which is better than any human teacher. This Spirit should be with us on all occasions, at home or abroad. Wherever we go, in whatever labor we are engaged, whether it be for our own benefit or in behalf of the Kingdom of God, this Spirit will be with us, if we are true and faithful. If we mingle among the corrupt and the wicked, on a mission of salvation, we are entitled to have this Spirit with us, so that we may not be corrupted. So long as a Latter-day Saint lives so that he does not grieve that Spirit, he is entitled to it at all times and under all circumstances; and when he possesses it, he will not entertain error, he will not be intemperate, he will not become angry, warlike and belligerent; but

he will be peaceable, laboring for the salvation of those whom he may meet and who need salvation. He will be safe from false doctrine, safe from the insinuations of the adversary and from every influence that would injure him. We need this Spirit at our homes. Fathers need it, mothers need it, children need it. It is needed both by the priest and the people.

No more important exhortation could be given than that which President Woodruff gave this morning. He exhorted us to be united, in order that we may be the Lord's, and be approved and accepted of Him. When I hear of division, of contention and of difficulty among the Saints, I feel troubled that the people should be divided, either in a Stake, or a Ward, or a family. Whenever I hear of difficulty between husband and wife, between brethren and sisters, I always know that there is wrong existing somewhere. But when I hear good reports—Stakes united, Wards united, families united, brethren and sisters fellowshiping one another, loving one another, and attentive to the table of the Lord, to partake of the sacrament, the gifts and blessings of the Gospel being enjoyed, the sick being healed, and every interest of the people being properly cared for by the servants of the Lord—then I feel to rejoice. Whenever I visit a Ward and find that there are troubles and difficulties existing there, I always feel more or less troubled, because I know that these divisions sometimes grow to be chronic and become quite serious. Men become convinced of their own losses and the injury they may have sustained; they feel offended, and the Spirit of God leaves them; and when the Spirit of the Lord is out of a man, I always fear for that man. Where, for any reason, there is contention or any local trouble, I feel hurt in my spirit. But where the people are united, it is joyful and pleasing for us to come together. We feel free in speaking, we feel well in listening. Hence, I feel the importance of the injunction which President Woodruff gave this morning—that we should be united. The Presidency of the Church should be one, the Apostles and their Counselors should be one; the Presidents of Stakes and Bishops should be one; and the Saints should be one, in all their labors. And if we are clothed with the spirit of charity, we will not be divided; for we will forgive those who trespass against us. It is the want of charity, the want of forgiveness, which causes disunion. When we are injured we do not always forgive. We have not charity sometimes for those who transgress. We are often not so kind and forgiving to them as we ought to be. We are liable to be hard and exacting. We seek to bring everybody to the line, and in doing this we are not apt to see the wrong we ourselves do. We sometimes find brethren pitted against each other. Each one thinks he is on the right side and is only requiring what is his just due, when possibly they both

may be wrong, and frequently they are where they contend one against the other; for if a man is right he does not need to contend; he does not need to be harsh in his requirements; he is willing to submit the matter and say, "Brethren, if I am wrong, I want to know it." But when you find a man who is contentious and anxious to triumph over his opponent, and is not willing in his spirit to be the loser, he is the one that makes trouble. We should cultivate the Spirit of the Lord and humble ourselves in prayer before God. Instead of feeling in our hearts, when we go to the house of the Lord, that our brethren are harsh and cruel towards us, let us seek for a spirit of forgiveness, that we may be able to say, "Father, if we are harsh, if our brethren are harsh, soften our hearts, that we may eat of the bread and drink of the cup, in memory of thy body and blood, with pure feelings, being willing to yield rather than be too exacting."

It will never do for Latter-day Saints to be harsh in their ways. It will not do for us to be harsh with our wives and children, but to be tender and kind and loving. Love begets love, charity begets charity, kindness begets kindness; and when our brethren see that we are willing to suffer wrong rather than do wrong, that we are willing to yield something for the sake of peace, they will appreciate our motives and respect us for them. Better to yield among ourselves than to divide and tear asunder. We cannot afford to do that, because the Spirit of the Lord would be grieved and evil influences would come in and darken our minds, so that we would be liable to get a spirit, not only of contention, but of destruction. I have sometimes witnessed such a spirit among those professing to be Latter-day Saints. This should not be. We should all feel generous and mel- low in our feelings.

I feel that there is a good spirit here today in this conference. I rejoice that Presidents Woodruff and Cannon are here, and that we are permitted to hear their voices. I am thankful that we have a degree of liberty granted unto us. I expect the liberties of the Latter-day Saints to increase instead of growing less. I expect the liberties of individuals to increase. I expect prosperity to attend Zion and all her interests, and I expect her to remain firm in the land and not be overturned or destroyed. And wherever we have lost anything, wherever troubles have come upon us, wherever divisions have existed among the Latter-day Saints, possibly valuable lessons of instructions may be drawn from these calamities.

I pray, brethren and sisters, that God may preserve us in the truth, and that He will not allow us to break ourselves in pieces, but that we shall be kept stable and firm in the Gospel of Christ, and know more of the Lord and His doctrine, so that we may be firmer each day of our lives and better established in the principles of the Gospel than heretofore, that we may endure to the end. May God bless you; may