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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It affords me very great pleasure, my brethren and sisters, to meet with you in this conference, and to listen to the reports of President Partridge and President John. These reports give us to understand partially the condition of the people, and the Spirit of the Lord, I trust, will enlighten us further so that in speaking to you we may give such instruction as will tend to strengthen our faith in this great work. I presume that the object of organization, of authority and of Priesthood in the Church is for edifying the Church and strengthening the faith of the people, that it may be a living faith; for living faith is productive, progressive and saving, while other faiths are not. We should be active and engaged constantly in performing works of righteousness. I believe the secret of success to us as individuals and to the Church is the constant labor of the members, their devotion and fervency; and that the Church advances and develops in proportion to the works performed by the people. I find here on the 219th page of the Doctrine and Covenants some scripture:

For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.

I understand, my brethren and sisters, that when we become members of this Church it is important for us to be anxiously engaged in this good cause and in bringing to pass much righteousness. We are under obligations to be workers. We have been warned, and have been blessed of the Lord with a measure of faith, and the measure of that faith is determined by our devotion as individuals, exercising the agency that God has given us and the power with which we are naturally endowed; for we have power within ourselves to do right and to work righteousness. We may put ourselves in condition to receive faith from the Lord, to receive from Him the power of the Holy Ghost,

and to be endowed in a manner superior to people who have not entered into covenant with the Lord. If we take stock of ourselves today we will find that we receive of the Lord faith, intelligence, wisdom and revelation in proportion to the exercise of that native power which God has endowed every human being with. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the law of liberty, the perfect law of liberty. There is no compulsion exercised by the Father upon the souls of the children of men.

We have perhaps three hundred people here this morning in this Tabernacle—I am informed there are five hundred. I hope there are, because I would like to have a great many people hear me. I do not come here very often, and the more there are here the better. We like to be heard by a great many people; for when we visit you and labor with you, we labor as the servants of the Lord. We are in the service of our Master. We are not here on our own account. We have not even called or appointed ourselves. But our heavenly Father has called, empowered and appointed us to this ministry. We are very anxious that the Latter-day Saints should be under the sound of the voices of inspired men; for that is a great blessing. What a blessing it was to brethren who could sit under the sound of the voice of the Prophet Joseph and hear him talk, and also the Apostles who were associated with him in the early history of this Church! What a great blessing it has been to the people who had the privilege of listening to the voice of the Prophet Brigham Young during his long presidency, and to the voice of President John Taylor, and to President Woodruff and the Apostles! It is a precious privilege, a privilege that cannot be so generally enjoyed by all the people in the future as it has been in the past; for the people are becoming widespread and numerous. The Stakes of Zion are numerous, there being thirty-seven in the Church, and five hundred Bishop's wards; and the Church has become a very important organization—the most important organization upon this earth today. I say therefore the more that are here the better. I thank the Lord there are five hundred. It is a splendid improvement, and I felt encouraged this morning when I saw the people pour into this Tabernacle, although there is plenty of room left. We have received of the Lord His favors and blessings, and the light and inspiration of His Holy Spirit. The Church has been in training now for sixty-six years and over. There are a few members who have been in the Church nearly that length of time; possibly there may be some in the Church today who have been sixty-six years in it, and

others for a great number of years. But the members of the Church have become fairly well established; and it is the experience and training of the members of the Church that determines as to the solidity of the Church and its advancement. Not that I would feel that when the Church was made up of but few in number, the Lord could not maintain it; but I argue, from our experience in early times, the people were untried and unproven. But it is not so now. The Church is numerous, and the people have long been tried, well tried, and proven. The doctrines and discipline of the Church are so well understood by the people, and we have passed through stages of trial and experience; for there are points that are like the narrows in the road occasionally, and it is a question as to who will be able to stand and go through the narrows and endure the hardships and the trials and the onslaught of the enemy that is arrayed against us, the power of Satan that is arrayed against us and against our heavenly Father, and has been arrayed against Him and His purposes on the earth from the very beginning, and will be until the end, until Satan's power is finished upon this earth. But we can determine ourselves individually as to what strength and power of endurance we are possessed of. We can determine why we do not possess more, why we are not stronger, why we are not better established and fixed in the Gospel than we are. For, though the strength that we have comes from the Lord, it depends upon us as to the measure of that strength and faith that we receive, upon the exercise of our judgment and upon the execution of the will of God by each of us; for the power is in us, in connection with our agency, to bring to pass much righteousness. And we are expected to be occupied therein. I have noticed how ready and willing our heavenly Father is to bestow strength and faith upon us, and how quickly it is done, when we put ourselves in proper condition, as we are able to do. I say that every man in this Church is able to put himself in a condition to receive what the Lord has to bestow upon him. We have ability, for we are the sons of God. We inherit life from him, and spirit and faith, understanding and wisdom. As natural men, mortal, fallen men, we are endowed with a measure of understanding, intelligence and power, every particle of which comes from our heavenly Father. But He has yielded it to us; we are entitled to it; we inherited it; for we are His sons and daughters, and we inherit what He has and the power that he possesses. We are like Him; we are His children, born as He was born, and tried and proven, and having like experience