

men could begin to baptize their fellow men who believed in Jesus and repented of their sins, with the same authority that John himself exercised when he baptized the Savior and others in the river Jordan. Thus the foundation was laid for the administration of that holy ordinance by which the sins of the children of men are remitted.

But there was still lacking power and authority. John the Baptist said: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." John did not pretend to have the authority to bestow the Holy Ghost. It did not belong to his Priesthood. Therefore it was essential that there should be others come in this dispensation; and who, may I ask, more appropriately than the three Apostles whom the Lord had chosen—Peter, James and John? They came and laid their hands also upon these men—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery—who were called their fellow servants, and they bestowed the authority of the Apostleship and the power to lay on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and also the power to ordain others to go forth and do likewise.

In this manner the Church of Christ in the last days has been founded. It has not been done by man. Man has been but the instrument. Man cannot be glorified for any of this; it does not belong to him. The man that would seek to take glory for it God will condemn. No, it has been done by God's power. It was God that sent these glorious messengers; it was He who authorized them to bestow this power upon their fellow servants. And the moment that authority was restored the work of God was founded in a way that it had not been for centuries. Although the faith of the people, in consequence of traditions and false teachings, had become very weak, nevertheless the power of God was restored and miracles began to be manifested: the sick were healed, prayers were answered, the blind were restored to sight, the deaf were made to hear, just as I have read from this revelation. And, greater than all these gifts, the gift of the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the people, and the hearts of the people were united as never before since the days of the Apostles. A love, a peace and a joy filled their hearts that tongue could not express, exceeding anything that the world could give. A new era dawned upon mankind. Spiritual starvation began to cease. The famine for the word of God and for the gifts and graces of the Gospel ended; and from that day until the present there has been no need for any soul to starve for the want of spiritual food or for any of the gifts and graces that men received in the most favored ages of the world. Prophets were raised up, the gift of prophecy was poured out upon the people, and by that gift this Church has been led from its foundation until this day. To the precious gifts of prophecy and of counsel which God has restored do we as a people and as individuals owe our present safety, our present prosperity. We have not been without the word of God. There has been no need for us to go hungry in this respect. There has been no need for us to grope in the dark, or to be uncertain as to the path which we should pursue. For by

the restoration of these glorious gifts and powers all these evils have been obviated, all uncertainty has been removed, and knowledge and light have taken the place thereof. God has done this.

"Ah! but," some say, "we don't believe that the Lord warrants men in exercising that power and authority in our day. We can believe it about the Apostles of the Savior, but we cannot believe it now."

Well, those who will not believe this will have to perish in their unbelief just as the ancients did who rejected the word of God in the days of Noah. The people then did not believe that Noah was a prophet and they rejected his message and perished because of their unbelief, and so perished also the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Jews at Jerusalem did not believe, and they were either destroyed or were scattered abroad. As it has been, so it will be in our day. Men will refuse to believe. Then they will have to take the consequences of their unbelief and their hardness of heart, just as other generations have done which have refused to believe and have prided themselves on their unbelief, and ridiculed those who did believe. That is the spirit that prevails today. You speak about a vision, or about the spirit of prophecy, or about anything of this kind coming from God, and men will turn away, will sneer at you and say, with a look of pity and contempt, "What poor deluded creatures these are, believing in such manifestations."

They have done this to us all the day long, have they not? They have sneered at us, derided us, and said that we were following men and thinking we had prophets and apostles and inspired men. They have regarded it as the height of folly in this age of science and enlightenment, for us to follow after such strange things. This is the spirit of this generation, and this is the manner in which they treat the servants of God when they go in their midst. We go forth and declare that God has sent us with a message, that He has revealed himself in these days and made known his purposes concerning this generation, and we tell them that trouble and calamity are coming and that the Lord is going to fulfill the words that He has spoken through the mouths of His ancient prophets, and that we are sent out to warn them of this. How do they treat us? Just as they always did the servants of God. Occasionally there are found honest souls who, as soon as they hear the testimony, receive it. They pray to God to know whether it is true or not, and God answers their prayers. In that manner He is gathering out from the nations of the earth His elect; for the elect know the voice of the true shepherd, and are not deceived. I have had people come to me after holding a meeting and say they have seen me before, and that they knew I was a servant of God, the Lord having revealed it to them. How often has this been the case with the honest in heart. As soon as they saw the Elders and heard their testimony, they were prepared to receive the Gospel. Of course, this has not been the case in all instances; some men are slow to receive things of this kind, and are very cautious; but in the great majority of instances in this Church, I believe I am safe in saying, the people have had a testimony con-

cerning the servants of God and they have known that they were indeed what they professed to be. Some may rail and scorn and fight; but there are others whose hearts are touched, the Spirit of God rests upon them, and they receive a testimony for themselves that this is true.

Can you destroy this power? As has been said from the beginning, all earth and hell combined cannot destroy this work. This Gospel has come from heaven to stay. It has come to effect a great revolution in the earth. It has come to restore the old faith; it has restored it, and the old gifts and powers and graces; and it will continue to grow, it will continue to attract honest souls from every land; and there is no power that can arrest its progress. Men may fight it; the powers of earth may combine against it; the powers of hell may exert themselves, as they have done, to the very uttermost; they may spill the blood of the members of this Church; but they will not stop the work of God. God has spoken concerning it; the servants of God have prophesied that it will go forth in power and in majesty to the accomplishment of all that the Lord has designed for it. This work will fill the earth, because it is true and is from God. Its principles are divine; they cannot be destroyed. You may destroy those who believe in them, but you cannot destroy the principles themselves. And the Lord will not permit the people to be destroyed. There may be some, as there have been, slain for the testimony of Jesus; but this work will endure just as long as the earth and the heavens endure. There is not a principle believed in by this Church that is not true. It is free from alloy; it is free from dross; it is free from every element that is impure or that is not from God. Therefore, while God lives and endures, like the throne of the Great Eternal, this work will stand, and everything connected with it will progress and go forward. It will spread until it fills the earth. It will be like leaven, and will leaven the whole earth. It has done it, and will continue to do it until the whole lump is leavened, and everything that is contrary to the mind and will of God will be cleansed from the earth, preparatory to the ushering in of that glorious reign of righteousness towards which all the holy and pure have looked forward, when Jesus will come and reign on this earth as king of kings and lord of lords. It will come to pass just as sure as God lives and has spoken.

Now, Latter-day Saints, what is your duty? Why, to live these principles. Remember that which I read: "He that receiveth my law and doeth it, the same is my disciple." Those are disciples of Jesus who keep His law. But, "he that saith he receiveth it and doeth it not, the same is not my disciple, and shall be cast out from among you." It is not profession that will do it; it is not putting on your religion as a Sunday garment that will do it; but it is by carrying out your religion and keeping the commandments of God, that will save you. We may talk with our mouths, and say we believe in these laws and commandments, and yet not do them. Then we are hypocrites, and God will spew us out of his mouth. Therefore, if any of us expect salvation, redemption and exaltation in the presence of God, we must be as true as the principles that we profess, and they are true, because they