

that none but the Prophet could lead the Church of God, that when he had laid down his life for his testimony they actually looked for him to be resurrected at once and sent back to his earthly duties; but we may all rest assured that the Lord always knows where to lay His hand on the tool which this work requires.

He has given the keys and powers of His holy Priesthood to His servants on the earth, and has promised that they shall never be taken away from you until the Savior shall come.

We who have received His precious gifts and been entrusted to perform His work, may expect many tribulations and difficulties, much opposition and reviling, but the Lord has spoken, and this word will be fulfilled to the very letter, His Kingdom will grow and prosper, and His work will go on.

He has all power, and cannot be thwarted by the puny strength of man, and He will prove it to them on every occasion as He did when the wicked had slain His Prophet. He raised up another in his stead, filled him with the Holy Ghost, thus enabling him to discharge every duty belonging to his high station. Those who were present on a certain occasion bear witness to the veritable transformation of Brigham Young before their eyes, when he spoke with the voice and bore the countenance of the Prophet Joseph. From that time Brigham Young, through the inspiration of the Holy spirit was quite capable of discharging every duty belonging to his responsible and difficult position.

See too, how the Lord has blessed and favored our present leader, Wilford Woodruff. His life and strength are long spared, and he has been delivered in times of affliction in a remarkable manner, and preserves his vigor of mind and body to old age.

Thus God will continue to raise up and inspire suitable men so that we shall never be without an efficient leader.

When He sent his holy angels to ordain and prepare mortal man for His service, He promised never to take that priesthood away from the earth again.

Men who had lived in former times and had been intrusted with certain powers, visited the earth and bestowed those powers upon the chosen of the Lord. Moses gave the keys of gathering Israel, Elias bestowed the keys he held, all gave as was necessary to make this Latter-day Dispensation indeed a dispensation of the fulness of times.

Could this wonderful work of gathering the people of the Lord from every nation, kindred, tongue and people ever have been accomplished by purely human means? No, the combined wisdom of all men could not have so moved the hearts of men with the desire and spirit of separating from the world and cleaving to each other for the truth's sake.

The Lord has certainly redeemed His word that He would perform a marvelous work and a wonder in this latter time; and there are greater wonders yet to be performed by Him, but when they come they will not appear more strange than this. When the Ten Tribes come, according to His word, as they surely will, it will be no more marvelous than this gathering which

has been accomplished only through the bestowal of the keys of gathering upon Joseph Smith, and by him upon his successors. They will remain in this Church until all things foretold by the mouths of all the holy prophets have been fulfilled to the uttermost.

Let me repeat: We may be afflicted, imprisoned, deprived of our property and of our political rights, for these are things within the power of man; but man has no power to thwart the purposes of God, or even to hinder His work; and His kingdom will triumph.

It would seem that passing events are sufficient to convert all men to a belief in the fact that our religion is divine, and under divine protection. All schemes against us fail, all plans come to naught, the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon the people, and they have rejoiced in the midst of their afflictions, and given thanks to their heavenly Father that they have been deemed worthy to suffer for His name's sake, and for his cause upon the earth.

Still there are and have been times when men and women too, have felt downcast, and have wondered if God had forgotten them; but I say to all such, Fear not, the clouds will pass away, the light will shine, and your joy and courage will return. If you preserve your integrity and wait for the salvation of your God, it will surely come and seek you out. He always has delivered and comforted His people, and he will not forsake us now; His arm is not shortened, He is not asleep nor gone on a journey. He will succor us in the deepest distress, and deliver us in the direst extremities, if we will live so that we may have the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, which is the minister of God, and whose presence is the presence of God.

Without that blessed communion, we are blind and helpless; and if we do not live so as to enjoy it, we fail to rise to our privileges as Saints.

It is indeed our right and privilege to have the companionship of the Holy Spirit of the Lord, and we need it.

Even children may have it if they will, and need not be left to walk alone on earth. Every woman should win and keep it for herself, and never try to walk by another's light. If she puts her whole trust in another, even if he be her husband and a good man, he will surely some time fail her. Let her learn to stand alone so far as human aid is concerned, depending only on God and the Holy Ghost.

Do not, brethren, put your trust in man though he be a bishop; an apostle, or a president; if you do, they will fail you at some time or place, they will do wrong or seem to, and your support be gone; but if we lean on God, He never will fail us. When men and women depend on God alone, and trust in Him alone, their faith will not be shaken if the highest in the Church should step aside. They could still see that He is just and true, that truth is lovely in His sight, and the pure in heart are dear to Him.

Perhaps it is His own design that faults and weaknesses should appear in high places in order that His Saints may learn to trust in Him and not in any man or men.

Therefore, my brethren and sisters, seek after the Holy Spirit and His unfailing testimony of God and His work upon the earth. Rest not until you

know for yourselves that God has set His hand to redeem Israel, and prepare a people for His coming.

If any present have it not, let me advise you to begin seeking for it this very night. Pray, fast, study, and open the doors of your hearts that wisdom may enter; and you shall know when you have received the Holy Ghost by a great increase of faith, courage, strength, understanding, and all good gifts. This is indeed a precious gift, the source and fountain of all other gifts. Ask for it, therefore, until you receive it, because we should have it.

We sometimes ask for things which are not best for us, and often feel grieved and disappointed because we have not received that which we asked, or not in the way and manner which we desired; but let us consider, in such cases, that the thing for which we asked was unsuitable to our needs or condition and strength, and was withheld in love and kindness. Think of our own children who ask us so often for things which we dare not give them, and trust that our Father will answer us according to His wisdom and tender mercy.

He is sure to give us all the blessings we are able to bear, and we should not dare ask for more. Men sometimes receive more. Think of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon. They who saw angels, who heard them speak and bear witness to that book and the divine mission of Joseph the Prophet, turned away from the faith, said Joseph was a fallen prophet, and the Church which he organized gone astray.

But well for them, they never did fail to bear their especial witness faithfully. No pressure from any source was ever strong enough to shake that great testimony; and because they were true to that trust, there was mercy for them. Two afterward returned to their former faith, humble and penitent. It seems to me they received greater blessings and glories than they had strength to bear.

Oliver Cowdery was ordained by the same angels, to the same Priesthood as Joseph Smith, but that did not save him from falling away from the truth. Then pray for blessings, and always remember to ask for the strength to bear them, and the wisdom to honor them.

I will give you a rule by which to judge if you have received the Holy Ghost. It gives strength, it gives hope, it gives wisdom, it gives joy, it gives love of God and man, and if you follow its guidance, it will lead you into the presence of God because it is the spirit of God and the power of God. All that His servants know of His will comes to them by that spirit, because it is the spirit of revelation, and the only source whence such knowledge can come.

It dwells in the hearts of men and does not mask a man outwardly, nor change his appearance so that he may be known in that way to possess it, and thus we may know from the fact that even the Savior was with difficulty recognized as the Son of God, even by His own disciples.

Brother Lyman promised to pray for me if I would speak first, and even then I fear I have spoken too long; but Brethren and Sisters, we who have come here to visit you have a great desire for your welfare, both spiritual and temporal.