

veins, which reaches the extremities of our bodies, and tells our whole being that this is the work of God. This testimony it is possible for each to obtain and to retain by a constant observance of the requirements of the Gospel of the Son of God. I have heard men relate that they have prayed to see angels, and they have seen angels through their repeated importunities before God. Those same men today are outside of the Church. I have known men who have testified that they have seen the dead raised unto life; but these same men are today outside of the Church. I have known men to testify that they have spoken in tongues, and that they have prophesied; they are today outside of the Church. I know men and women who have not seen or heard any of these things that were remarkable, but have had a testimony of the Spirit, and they are still in the Church, firm, to all appearances, as these everlasting hills that surround us. Their feet are grounded upon the rock of revelation, and they never seek the Lord in prayer but they receive an answer, when they ask for those things which are for their good.

It is fashionable in the world now to ridicule men for praying to God. Infidels make light of the petitions which are sent unto the throne of grace. God always gives to those who seek Him in prayer the things that will be for their good. What would you parents do if your child should cry that he might have in his hands a live coal? Would it be wisdom in you to place in his hands that which would burn him? Would it be wisdom in you, because your child cries for some poisonous substance, to permit it to partake of it? No; you would be unwise to do so, though he would plead with you to receive that which his childish and foolish desires might prompt. Instead of giving it a live coal, or some poison, you would seek to give it something that would satisfy it and would be for its good. So it is with our Eternal Father. We pray to Him sometimes for those things which would bring about our destruction, if granted unto us. With our limited vision we cannot grasp the result of such giving; but God, who knows the end from the beginning, and who overrules all things for good, understands what would result from our receiving the desires of our hearts, and He turns aside from us those things which we seek and which we fail to receive, and gives to us that which will be for our good. Take your own experience, brethren and sisters, in this and you will be able to see that God has operated with you, if you have been faithful, in your whole career through life. You have asked Him for blessings; they have seemed necessary to your welfare and to your success; you have not received them; your faith perhaps has been weakened at the time, because these things were forbidden you; but allow the time to pass, and in after years, looking back upon your experience, you see frequently wherein the reception of these things for which you prayed so earnestly would have been to your great injury here upon the earth and in eternity.

Sometimes in your pleadings with God for your sick you see that they do not realize the healing power of the Spirit of God. Your faith is exercised; you pray earnestly to the Lord, and He

seems at times to be near unto you; you call in the Elders; they are led in a certain way, and they promise life unto the one who is afflicted; yet you see this same sick one fail and die. How does this happen? The faith of men is tried in this respect. Is it because God does not hear prayer that your sick are not healed? Is it because He has turned a deaf ear to our entreaties that He takes away from us those we love? No, it is not. It is for some divine lesson He desires to impress upon our minds that He permits these things to occur—sometimes perhaps to try our faith and see if we will be true to Him under all circumstances. In administering to your sick you sometimes see that they recover for a short time under your administration, and time and time again the administration of the Elders and the faith they exercise seems to give new life to the one afflicted; and yet after repeated trials and the repeated exercise of faith, we are sometimes led by the Spirit to pray to the Lord that He would rather take the afflicted one from us than that he should be continued in his suffering, and that we should continue to hold on to him by the exercise of faith.

It is proper for us to feel this way. It is right for us in our prayers to God not to set up our wills and our desires in opposition to Him; but when we have expressed to His, with all the faith which we are capable of exercising, our desires, either concerning our friends or ourselves, then it is the duty of every Latter-day Saint to say as the Savior said when He prayed that the cup might pass by Him, "Not my will, but thine, be done;" and even though afflictions come, the Lord will pour out upon us of His Holy Spirit, so that we may submissively yield to His righteous will and reap the blessings which even sorrow and trouble bring upon us. Better far to do this than by our faith—as I believe has been the case among the Latter-day Saints—rescue the sick from death, and yet see these same children who have been saved by our faith suffer something that is worse than death; for some children who have apparently been snatched from the grave by the faith exercised by the servants of God and their parents, have in time lost the faith, and have brought sorrow and affliction to the family to which they belong. There are things in this life far worse than death. There are sins which burden our hearts with grief far worse than to follow to their last resting place the bodies of our loved ones. It is better by far that we take to the tomb our loved ones and bury them in their purity and holiness than that by our faith and our constant wrestling with God we save them from temporal death and consign them to an eternal punishment.

I testify to you, my brethren and sisters, that the Lord is a God who is near unto us. He hears and answers prayer, and He gives to His children who serve Him faithfully the blessings which are for their temporal as well as their eternal prosperity and happiness. I would admonish the young people to seek Him while He is near. There are troubles coming upon the earth which are to try the souls of men, and those who lean upon the testimony of others are leaning upon a broken reed, and at a future day they will find themselves without the support of those whose

testimony is now so strong to them. It is necessary, in order to secure eternal life, that every man and every woman should have within himself and herself the unquenchable testimony of the Spirit of God, and then whatever comes will only serve to strengthen our faith in Him, and will only chasten us to receive in greater measure the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

A FERTILE VALLEY.

OVERTON, Lincoln Co., Nevada, June 2, 1894.—In the southern part of Lincoln county, Nevada, is a large, beautiful valley, well watered, which would sustain three large cities. It is about 35 miles long by eight wide. The soil is good and yields abundantly all kinds of grain, root crops, fruits (except apples) and vegetables. Especially does the sweet potato flourish. Cane and cotton also grow finely. Watermelons, squashes, etc., are produced in abundance. In fact, nearly everything that a community consumes can be produced here. The parched ground has yielded its dryness to the almond fields and vineyards. Beef and pork of excellent quality and quantity are found here; also the different varieties of poultry, the product of which brings a good price—25 cents per dozen for eggs; butter 25 cents per pound. Of the latter a most excellent quality is produced, owing to the sweetness and richness of the hay, which seems to contain all the qualities of mountain grass. The grain also produces an article of flour that for family use is unexcelled for sweetness if it does lack the ghastly whiteness of many roller mill products. The cotton plant prides itself in outstripping all other plants in the abundant yield of the crop. Flax also has been grown, not for the manufacture of linen, but for the medicinal properties of the seed. An excellent quality of molasses is made in this sunny clime, and experts claim it to be the finest article of the kind in the Territory. It certainly is a superior production.

The climate is so mild that early garden vegetables find their way to the table very early in the season. In fact the gardener rejoices in being able to produce two crops a year of vegetables, melons, tomatoes, etc. It is said one can almost see the growing of the plants. One year's growth of a cottonwood tree measured ten feet in length and an inch and a half in diameter. It takes nearly all winter for the leaves to fall. The trees are used for wood, grow very rapidly and every farmer has his wood without going to the canyon for it—and a most splendid article of fuel it is, the ashes of which can be utilized in a money saving way to good advantage.

The great stacks of hay and grain give a sense of comfort, security and satisfaction, that is a stranger to the hearts of many inhabitants of our prosperous little Territory, much less the many thousands who depend upon the labors of others for the staff of life, and who own not the ground they stand upon for a home. To secure these comforts and necessities our brethren show that they are not afraid of a little expense of bone and muscle, else they could not sustain themselves so com-