

for if there is a gift in the Church of Christ, patience is a gift. This comes from God and He gives it to His servants and people when they ask in the proper way for it. We can conquer our tempers in this way, by seeking to the Lord for this gift; and if we are inclined to be selfish, to think more about ourselves than others, we should pray for this gift of charity, so that we may think and feel for others, and be charitable to them and their feelings and faults. These gifts are placed in the Church for the perfecting of the Saints. There is no one that has a defect in his or her character but what there is a gift in the Church, promised by the Lord to correct that defect. I have seen some persons who have been guilty of indiscretion, who have shown a lack of wisdom, and say and do things that had much better been left unsaid and undone. There are no gifts in the Church which God has promised us but what He will give if we live for them. Are any of us unwise? I think we all are more or less at times; then let us seek for wisdom, asking in the name of Jesus for it, and we will receive it. We can contend for this gift through prayer and the exercise of faith.

There are now many things existing, and which our people are brought into contact with, that are calculated to deceive. Especially is this the case in the early lives of both sexes, who are apt to be deceived by appearances—by judging men by their outward appearance, expressions and sometimes by their dress and demeanor. There is a gift in the Church of God which if obtained enables us to escape deception, and detect all kinds of spirits and evil. It is the gift of discernment of spirits. The Lord has promised unto us this gift, so that we shall be able through that gift to discern the spirits of men and women who may be brought in contact with us, so as not to be deceived by them. Some persons have this gift. It is natural to them while others seem to be utterly destitute of it, and therefore easily deceived, because they have no discernment. Now we can ask God for this gift and have it bestowed upon us. If we seek for it in faith it will be given us. There are some men who cannot talk in public before a congregation of people. I have known of such. I have listened to Elders who have been sent on missions to preach the Gospel who could not express their ideas. It was an exceedingly difficult thing for them to arise and address a congregation, because they did not have the gift with them in that direction. I have seen these same men exercise faith before the Lord; call upon Him in the name of Jesus, and receive the gift of utterance, which gift God has promised unto His Saints. These brethren have then been able through the power of the Lord to express themselves, to teach and instruct according to the spirit of their office and calling. This gift of God is placed in the Church. There is also the gift of hope, by which those who are inclined to be low-spirited and gloomy, may be comforted, and their minds filled with hope and good cheer. Also the gift of faith, which gift, when it is received, enables its possessor to overcome doubt and unbelief, to become strong in the

Lord, and to rely implicitly on His promises. There is also the gift of knowledge, by which persons can have a knowledge of things in the future. This gift is promised unto those who seek for it, and is called the spirit of prophecy. To the gift of prophecy is added the gift of revelation, through the Spirit of the Lord, and this is the gift of the Holy Ghost, which He has promised unto His Saints and to all those who keep His commandments. By the exercise of faith we can obtain these gifts and become perfect.

It is my duty and your duty to seek to be honest. If tempted to deceive, it is our duty to ask God to give us a portion of His spirit and live above this. If we are inclined to take advantage of our neighbor in trading or dealing with him, it is for us to overcome this feeling, and pray for power to resist and overcome the tempter. One man should not take the advantage of another, but strive to correct every defect in his life. We should pray earnestly for strength to correct every evil. If we have done anything improper, we should repent of it. If we have injured any man, woman or child in any way, we should not rest until we ask their forgiveness. We should confess our faults wherein we have erred, and not wrong a soul. If husbands have wronged their wives, or parents have wronged their children or have done them any injustice, make it right with them. Every man and every woman should respect their children sufficiently to ask forgiveness of them when they have wronged them. This will inspire the children with a love of justice, and with a love of true admiration for them. Parents ought to extend to their children that respect due them. If a wife has wronged a husband in any manner or has said anything to grieve him, it is her duty to make it right with him and not take liberty with her husband. A husband should be very careful not to offend his wife; not to grieve her, nor take any undue liberty with her, or with the children, but respect them. Children, on the other hand, should not take liberty with parents, but love and honor them. Each should respect the other in his or her place and maintain that regard due to each other. In this way we will preserve that harmony in our households and in our families that should exist, and the influence will go out of our houses and families to other houses and families, and spread in other directions, and the Lord will be pleased with us.

Brother Grant has given us a great many practical suggestions today in his remarks. He has testified concerning attending strictly to our duties and the blessings following. Some people imagine that it is irksome to go to their meetings on the appointed day and mingle with their brethren and sisters there. Some people of this city perhaps imagine that it is irksome to come to these meetings in this Tabernacle on the Sabbath day. They justify themselves by saying that they have to labor hard during the week, and as to the Sabbath they say it is a day of rest, and they want to rest. In very many instances these same people hitch up their horses and vehicles and go out riding on the Sabbath day, for

recreation and rest. We justify ourselves in neglecting our duties, in neglecting our meetings by the most frivolous reasons. We say that we are engrossed through the week and need something of this kind in order to refresh us. I am sure I speak the experience of every man and woman who have attended their meetings strictly, and have attended to their duties as they should do, when I say that they are more refreshed in body and in mind on Monday mornings and better able to resume the labors of the week, than those are who have spent their time in some other direction. We are commanded to keep the Sabbath day holy, and there is a blessing attending it.

I have watched through my life the man that neglected this, and discovered that he has not been as successful as the one who observes strictly the Sabbath day. The man who does not rest on the Sabbath day, but is out attending to his grain, or watering his land, or doing something else that need not be done on this day, will find this spirit grow upon him to his condemnation. He will not prosper as he would do if he were not to do this. Those who refrain from all labor on the Sabbath, and attend to their duties as becometh Saints will be greatly blessed of the Lord, much more so than those who deenerate it. All men of experience in this congregation, who have kept the Sabbath day holy, know that they have been prospered. They who have rested from their labors on this sacred day and attended to their meetings, no matter how weary they may have been before they came to the meeting, have enjoyed real rest and been refreshed.

I would say to wives and mothers, put off doing those things on a Sunday that should be done during the week days, remembering that this is a day appointed to all in Zion to rest from our labors, and to pay our devotions to the Most High. After the week's work is ended, some actually supplement it by the performance of some labor on the Sabbath that need not be done.

I live outside this city and scarcely a Sabbath day passes but I see troops of men and women driving out in vehicles, with apparently little thought that they are breaking the Sabbath day. Some of these make it a habit to go down to the river to fish, and, as they call it, enjoy themselves. There is no real enjoyment in such things, though they do not seem to think so. They do not have enjoyment. They may fancy they have, but it is not profitable to them. It does not benefit them, neither does it add to their honor, but rather detracts therefrom. Anything of this kind is demoralizing, and has a very bad effect upon the children.

Owing to circumstances which you are all familiar with, there has been and still is an increasing disposition to break the Sabbath day; to violate it in a flagrant manner, by those whom we are now surrounded. Formerly, when we were alone here, the Lord's day was held in remembrance; but a great change for the worse has taken place. Now we see men plowing, fencing, carpenters at work, and various other occupations a going just as on the regular week days. Such things were not seen or heard of here a few years