

and self-control. I would admonish all that they cultivate diligently the spirit of prayer and supplication. With this vast tide of prosperity, with this influx of wealth and inflation of prices, many men are forgetting their prayers—old and young—and they are having so much business and so much hurry, they cannot stop to pray, neither at morning nor at night. I warn you, my brethren, if you cease your prayers and do not keep that connection between you and your God, you will dry up and be blown away. These influences will contaminate you. They will hunger your soul after the things of the world, and the cares of the world will choke the word, and the Spirit of the Lord will withdraw from you, unless you find speedy repentance and turn to find the favor and presence of the Lord again. It is of the utmost importance that we should keep the connection complete between us and the heavens. We know when there is a storm, and we put in a telegram to send abroad and we do not get an answer, that there is something the matter—the poles are down, the wire is down, for there has been some storm. But when the wires are in order, the message goes through and we get the answer. Just so it is about our prayers. If we live as we ought to do, the spirit of prayer and supplication is with us, and we are increasing in strength, in faith, and in fellowship with God, with the angels and the spirits of the just made perfect. And these things will be hastened on; according to our diligence and faithfulness, will the purposes of God be brought about unto us.

We have had, to my understanding, a most precious season during this Conference. It has seemed as if the gamut of the gospel has been traced towards us, in every keynote of it, from personal confession up to the highest principles of the gospel. It seems to me that every soul must have been fed; every afflicted, sorrowful one must have been comforted; every tried and tempted one must have felt the benefit of these instructions to refresh his soul and renew his strength before the Lord. I wish to testify that I have been greatly blessed of the Lord.

I obtained the first testimony of the Holy Spirit to the truth of this great work in the midst of what is called the grand prairie in Missouri. I was crossing it on foot one day in November, 1838. I had just heard that the Prophet, the Apostles and the Elders, the number of thirty or forty, had been taken off to Richmond, Liberty and other places, to prison, and that we need never hope to have them with us any more; for the wicked had determined that they should not dwell with us, nor we with them. I felt as a boy seventeen years old would naturally feel under those circumstances—about two thousand miles from his native home, in search of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the servants of God. Right there in that lonely place it was that the blessings and glory of God shone around me, and it was shown to me that we would have them

again; it was the work of God, it could not be destroyed, it could not be broken up, it could not be impaired. It was shown to me how it looked to Peter and the brethren anciently when Jesus Christ was crucified, and the Apostle has written for us that his hopes were well nigh gone. When the Lord made this manifest to me, I rejoiced exceedingly, and traveled over that prairie with great lightness and testimony, and got up to associate with the people of God.

That was the first testimony I received from God concerning the work. And during the last fifty years that I have been traveling with you and throughout the nations in preaching the Gospel to this and European countries, I have been blessed with testimonies repeatedly, such as healings, tongues, interpretations, prophecies, revelations, and the still small voice and in divers other ways. I know this to be the Church and Kingdom of God, I know it to be the work of the Lord, just as truly as I know any earthly thing I have to do with; and, knowing this, I feel, and have all the time, to consecrate myself with what little I am and have, to help build up this Church and to advance its interests in any humble capacity in which I may be situated.

You will recollect that some few years ago one among the Apostles had the senseless inconsideration to feel and to say that our Savior was only as another man; that he was tried and convicted, sentenced and executed as any other culprit should be; and you will remember that he was moved out of his place. This thing struck deep into my heart. I was ordained, as you know, here in these valleys, in 1849, being then the youngest member in the Council of the Apostles. But this circumstance struck me all through like melted lead. It went down into my soul, and I thought, what do I know about our Great Captain, our Lord Jesus Christ, our Great Redeemer, and called to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. It came home to me with an earnestness that set me at work with prayer and with fasting, and with searching the scriptures, until God in His pleasure showed it to me; and I can say that I know that my Redeemer lives, and He will come and stand upon the earth in the latter day. He came and went through His ministry, until the earth and the inhabitants thereof did what they listed with Him, and when they had done the last thing they could do with Him, He triumphed over death and hell and went on high. He lives there and will remain, there until His enemies shall be made his footstool. You and I are called upon to prepare ourselves in body and in spirit, in all that we are, with all that we have, with all that we can control, and prepare our surroundings, for His coming, His glorious return, when He shall bring His ransomed throngs with Him.

No earthly potentates, be he czar, emperor, king, lord or noble, or of any title, has had the prestige and the attention of the human family

as has this our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The most ancient time we hear of—in the Garden of Eden—it was said of Him that He should come in the meridian of time, and sacrifices were given and required to perpetuate this knowledge, that He was to come as the great living sacrifice, and by the wisdom of the Eternal and man on the earth it was so perpetuated; and every great man that had any knowledge of God offered sacrifices and perpetuated that knowledge till Jesus came and dwelt in the flesh. These records that President Woodruff referred us to this morning contain testimonies that have come down through the ages of time unto us, and we know that He has come, that He has passed through this ordeal, that He has wrought out salvation and the resurrection for all mankind.

We live in a period of time when people's hearts are hard. The nation seems to be beclouded. Terrible thought! our nation is filled with lies concerning us. They do not know us. We have not the power to make ourselves known to them. They are unwilling to know. They seem as if they are afraid we are right. We cannot get them even to that first birth, by which they might see the Kingdom of God, much less enter into it. Oh, what a terrible condition they are in! Parts of the United States will not listen to an Elder; other parts are now receiving the Gospel a little. But what has the Lord to say about this matter? We understand, by the revelations, that the great father of lies is the author of this condition of things. He was a liar from the beginning, and he has imposed these lies and false ideas upon the human family, and he is keeping them under that cloud lest they should come unto a knowledge of the truth. What did the Apostles say anciently? That "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Oh, terrible fate, terrible judgment, terrible consequences; right here in the flesh, without wanting to get out of it, to find the torments of hell as promised by some! For God has decreed that he will sweep away this refuge of lies with the besom of His destruction as promised by his ancient prophets.

This is the condition of the world. And now while it is so that we cannot be heard by the preaching of the Gospel, we say, as our President has said, let us go to the dead. Let us get the records of our ancestry and go to work for them; and very soon we will find that they will be at work for us, as those who are laboring in the holy places do find. This is a work that has to do with the generations of the dead for ages that are past.

The testimony of John is true concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, who was in the beginning, in the creation, and without Him there was not anything made that was made. He had control, as He was the character known as Jehovah.