

of His soul and asked Him if it were possible to let that cup pass from Him, the tears streamed down His cheeks, and, gazing upon His mental agony, I was constrained to weep in unison with Him.

Presently He arose and beckoned His Apostles to Him. Then the circumstances seemed to change. The scene remained as it was; but instead of being in time before the crucifixion, it now appeared to be after that event. I thought He was about leaving the earth and taking these Apostles with Him. My heart was so drawn out to Him with love and sympathy for His great suffering that I ran out from behind the tree where I had stood gazing upon the picture, and fell down at His feet, clasped His knees, and asked Him to take me with Him.

I shall never forget the look of indescribable tenderness, affection, and compassion with which He gazed down upon me as I knelt before Him. He lifted me up and embraced me. I could feel the very warmth of His bosom, against which I rested; and as He took me in His arms with all the tenderness of a father or an elder brother, He shook His head and said: "No, my son, your work is not finished; you must remain and perform your mission. These (pointing to His Apostles) have finished their work and they can go with Me; but you must remain."

I was so anxious, I felt such a love for Him and a desire to be with Him, that I clung to Him and pleaded with Him to let me go. But He continued to shake His head. I then said: "Promise me that when I have finished my life I will come to You at last."

Again he gazed with tenderness and compassion, and uttered these words in tones which pierced my very soul, "That, my son, will depend entirely upon yourself." I awoke and it was morning, but I knew that I had been gazing upon a vision, that God had indeed spoken to me, and that He had told me the truth in plainness and simplicity. I saw that I, too, must be awake, that I must not sleep upon my post, I must not consider any of the things of this world as of paramount importance to the mission which I was sent to perform as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have often reflected upon the wisdom of the answer which He gave me when He told me that it would depend entirely upon myself.

This is why I aroused myself and determined that I would give the Lord no rest until He gave me that testimony which so many of my people could bear. I obtained it; for God had respect to my desire to walk in His paths and glorify His name. He made plain to me that what is called "Mormonism" is the gospel of life and salvation. Yet it is only thirteen years since my eyes were opened to this fact that had been before me from my childhood. I can feel charity for my young brethren and sisters whose hearts are set upon worldly things. I can look back at my own precarious condition and see where I stood until the Lord reached forth

His hand and plucked me as a brand from the burning. I expect to see Him do the same by others.

Parents should not despair for their wayward children nor cease to pray for them. Do not treat them harshly nor cast them adrift. The speaker here cited, as illustrative of the point treated, the merciful dealings of God with His children. It would not have benefited me if my parents had threatened to cut me adrift and expel me from home. The better way is to show our children that we still love them and have a desire for their salvation. I feel this way because of my own experience.

I believe there are tens of thousands who will yet flock into this Church. There are many people in the nations awaiting the needed process to enable them to see what we see. We must make allowances for conditions of birth and surroundings. There are many wayward young people whose minds are a little darkened and they have wandered off for a little season. It is not the mission of Christ or His servants to shut the door against that class. The parable of the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine of his flock and going in search of the one lost sheep illustrates this point. There are ecclesiastical courts for the passing of judgment upon our brother or sister. This is not our prerogative in a private capacity. Allowances must be made for the differences of disposition and temperament of our fellow beings. Some have weaknesses that are not known to others. We should be careful not to be hasty in rising up in judgment against those we imagine to be guilty of error. God says, "I give unto men weaknesses that they may be humble, and My grace shall be sufficient for them."

My soul is filled with gratitude for the blessings of the gospel, and the manifestations of the goodness of God during this Conference.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

was the next speaker. Following is a synopsis of his discourse: It is the purpose of our Heavenly Father that mercy shall be extended to sinners to the utmost limit. I am a believer that so long as hope remains in the human breast there is some chance of repentance for them. But when that hope has been banished, there is a question in my mind whether it is possible to awaken to a sufficient degree any individual standing in this position to claim that Spirit, to enjoy the things thereof, and turn from the evil of which he has been guilty. The remarks of Brother Whitney in regard to the principle of charity were very appropriate, and all of us who have become conversant with the Gospel should indeed cultivate it. We have been made to understand that charity covers a multitude of sins, and while this is the case, our hearts should go out to our sons and daughters, to our friends and kindred, and we should seek to lead them into the way of life; we should remember that there are laws of God governing in all these matters; that we ourselves, as parents, friends and

neighbors must guard them with extreme care. So far as I am individually concerned, looking to the interests and well-being of the offspring which God has committed to my care, in understanding fully how far I may be responsible for the transgressions of my children, I intend, by the grace of God and the help of His Holy Spirit, to follow them to the utmost limit, so that not one member of my house shall be lost through anything that I may do in pushing them away from saving principles.

I am a believer in the idea that they who are taught in the principles of the Gospel in the early days of their life—while they may be wayward and thoughtless at certain periods, there has been implanted within them by a consistent father and mother an understanding of the principles of life that will ultimately lead to their salvation.

I am extremely anxious that the impress of the spirit of the Gospel may be felt among the children of the Latter-day Saints. I am a firm believer that the sons and daughters of Zion who have been born and reared here, and to whom knowledge has been given of the truth of the principles of the Gospel of life and salvation, will be found treading in the way of life, that their names will not be blotted from the book of remembrance, written there by our Heavenly Father.

My testimony is that this work in which we are engaged will remain and spread and accomplish its great purpose; for nothing can arrest its progress. Onward and upward will be its mission, until the sons and daughters of God throughout the broad earth have accepted or rejected the truth, exercising that agency which the Father has given them.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

The Seer, the Seer, Joseph the Seer!
We sing of the Prophet ever dear.

Benediction by Counselor John W. Young.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

October 6th.

The choir sang:

Arise, O glorious Zion,
Thou joy of latter days,
Whom countless saints rely on,
To gain a resting-place.

Opening prayer by President A. O. Smoot, of Utah Stake.

Singing:

Sons of Michael, He approaches!
Rise; the Eternal Father greet;
Bow, ye thousands, low before Him;
Minister before His feet.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards, who had been detained from attending previous meetings of Conference on account of sickness, was so far recovered as to be present this morning and appeared on the stand, in his place among the general authorities.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF

said: I will say to this assembly that we propose to attend to our business matters this morning. There