

was one with the Father. Says He: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." This union was never broken between the Father and the Son. The first revelation given to Joseph Smith was that of the Father and the Son. The heavens were opened, and the Father, with His Son, appeared to Joseph, in answer to his prayer, and He pointed to His Son and said, "This is my beloved Son; hear ye him." This is a peculiarity that I have no recollection of ever being manifest in any other age of the world. Another peculiar feature connected with this dispensation is that the God of heaven has bestowed upon almost all the male members of the Church the Holy Priesthood.

This union was necessary between God and the prophets and apostles of old. Unless that union had existed between Him and His servants it could not have extended throughout the children of Israel or among the children of men. It is also of vast importance to us in this Church and kingdom. I will say myself that I do not believe there ever was a man, save Jesus Christ, that was more closely united and associated with God the Father, and God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, than the Prophet Joseph Smith. The power of revelation was with him from the day that he was called to receive the Priesthood up to the time when he was martyred. The power of inspiration was with him day by day. This is plainly manifest in the revelations contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. Whenever the Lord felt disposed to reprove him, Joseph Smith, through his own mouth, had to reprove himself; and he did not hesitate to give the word of the Lord, though it was against himself. He was united with the Lord; he was united with the Holy Ghost; he was united with the angels in heaven, with Peter, James and John and with John the Baptist. He received the Priesthood from under their hands. Joseph called twelve Apostles. Who were they? The Lord said to him: "The twelve are they who shall desire to take upon them my name with full purpose of heart; and if they desire to take upon them my name with full purpose of heart, they are called to go into all the world to preach my gospel unto every creature." The history of these twelve Apostles we are somewhat acquainted with. I have been associated with the Apostleship for over fifty years. I knew those men. I knew their lives. When the Prophet Joseph organized the Quorum of the twelve Apostles, he taught this principle of union to them. He gave them to understand that they must be of one heart and one mind, and they must take upon themselves fully the name of Christ; that if God commanded them to do anything they must go and do it; that if they married a wife they could not stay at home three or four years to take care of her if they were called to go to the nations of the earth.

I myself started on a mission six weeks after I was married, and I was gone two or three years. So with others of my brethren. It mattered not what temporal work we had to do, when we were called to go abroad we had to go. This was one of the requirements of the Apostleship. We also had to be united. We could not contend one with another. If we did, the Spirit of God would be withdrawn from us, and we would receive chastisement at the hands of the Lord. Under the celestial law of the Kingdom of God men must unite together; men must love one another; men must stand by this Holy Priesthood and maintain the powers of it while they dwell in the flesh, in order to honor God and to be prepared to receive their inheritances in the world to come.

As I have said before, I have been a member of the Quorum of the Apostles for over fifty years. I have been acquainted with its ups and downs. I have been familiar with the apostates. I have also been acquainted with the union that has existed. I can say that I never associated with a class of men that ever manifested the same love for one another as the Apostles of the Church have when they have been faithful. Of course, we have seen days of sorrow. After that first Quorum was called of God; after they had had the ministration of angels and seen the power of God manifested, some of them yielded to temptation. They said, "We have served God long enough, and now we are going to serve ourselves." They stopped praying and went to merchandising. They stopped serving God, and took a decided stand against the Prophet whom God had raised up to lay the foundation of this Church and kingdom. What were the consequences? It sent them to perdition. Their power fell like lightning from heaven. Their priesthood was taken from them, and sealed upon the heads of other men. It has remained so to this day, and will, for all I know, to the endless ages of eternity. With all the light they had, with all the power they had, and with all the manifestations they had from God out of heaven, they turned from these things and rejected them. Those were days of sorrow to me and to those who remained faithful; for one half of the Quorum fell and turned against Joseph. But the Lord was with him. So was Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball and others of the brethren of the quorum. They stood by him; while others deserted him and were cut off the Church, and they to-day are in the Spirit world, without the Priesthood, without their crown, without their glory, and without the celestial blessings that were promised them on condition of their faithfulness.

With this exception, the Quorum of the twelve Apostles have been united. We knew this was the work of God. We knew the God of heaven had laid this Apostleship upon our shoulders. We knew, as Joseph Smith told us just before his martyrdom, that if we did not round

up our shoulders and bear off this kingdom we would be damned. No man can receive this Apostleship; no man can bear this Priesthood; no man can be called to this important calling, and then turn from it, without condemnation or being cursed by the hand of God. It matters not what sacrifices God requires at our hands in the building up of His kingdom, we have got to meet these things and trust in Him.

The Prophet Joseph, in his day, consulted with the Apostles and sought their views on important matters and principles. He would say, "I want you to tell me your views and feelings about this, that and the other." The agency which God had given us was never taken from us, either by Him or His Prophet. We used to express our feelings to the Prophet, and we did so with all good conscience before God. As a general thing our views were alike; but if there was anything in them different from what Joseph considered was right, when we got through he would tell us thus and so. Then we did not stand against that, but we united upon it. One of the Apostles once brought before the Prophet Joseph a very peculiar kind of a system. Joseph listened to him very patiently, and when this brother got through he says, "Brother Joseph, what do you think of that?" "Why," says he, "Brother —, it is a beautiful system, and I have only one fault in the world to find about it." "What is it?" "It is not true." Of course, when a man gets up a thing that is not true, he has to lay it aside.

I want to say, for the comfort of the Latter-day Saints, that God is not going to fail anybody. He has carried out His purposes in every age and generation of men. As Brother Snow said today, He raised up old father Abraham to stand at the head of the House of Israel, because he was a noble spirit. Before he was born he occupied such a position with God, in his agency, that he was given supremacy here on the earth. He stands at the head of his posterity, and at the head of Israel, and will occupy that position forever. The Lord is not going to disappoint us. He has fulfilled His work up to the present time; and now comes the consummation, the winding up scene, and the fulfillment of all those prophecies and revelations which God has given to inspired men, who were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Those revelations you and I are fulfilling. Joseph Smith laid the foundation of this work. He holds the key of the Kingdom today, and will to the endless ages of eternity. He has passed and gone. Over twenty Apostles have passed away. Those who laid the foundation of this work are now in the Spirit world. But we are alive here, and have yet a few days in which to work. Today we have a Quorum of Twelve Apostles. When men have died or apostatized, others have been called to fill their places. When the Prophet Joseph was taken away, President Young occupied his