

people, raising the dead and doing other wonderful works very few believed on Him; the reason was they did not possess and enjoy the same spirit which He enjoyed and possessed, and hence they could not see as He did.

The same causes are operating in the Christian world to-day, and they lead to the same results,—general unbelief in Christ; and it is no more a marvel or wonder now than then. How can it possibly be that the Christian world are what they profess to be, that is in honesty and uprightness, say nothing of morality and faith? How is it that they do not believe in Jesus at this day? Have they the spirit of Christ? Yes. There is no man or woman born on the face of the earth but what has the light of Christ within them at times, and they will possess it from time to time until they have passed through ordeals in which they prove that they are unworthy of it; until they sin against light and intelligence to that degree that the spirit is forever withdrawn from them and they walk in darkness henceforth.

How much of this spirit must you and I possess to believe the gospel in these latter-days? Just enough to lead us to forsake every error, falsehood and false doctrine on the earth. This is the amount we must have. Have the Christian world got honesty? Yes, and the heathen world too. But how far? What is the nature of our honesty as Christians? we might ask. "We are just honest enough many might say, to have the Lord own and bless us, we are honest enough to acknowledge Him." But do you know Him? "No, but we believe there is such a character as God. We are honest enough to believe, as far as we know how, and to acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ." Are they, I mean the Christian world, honest enough to take up their cross and follow Him? If they were, they would believe the doctrine that we, the Latter-day Saints, preach. I can say of a truth that I have preached the gospel of the Son of God enough to save the world, the last man and woman, and to bring them into the Kingdom twenty times over if all had been as honest as the very few. How much honesty must a person have to obey the gospel of the Son of God? I say again just enough to sacrifice every will, every false idea, every false principle and practice, every sectarian notion and every vague idea with regard to religion, to acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ and to take up the cross and follow Him according to his dictation. What does He dictate? We and the Christian world acknowledge that Jesus established the gospel of life and salvation; that He was the authority; that He held the keys of life and death. According to His declaration and the doctrine He taught He is and was and ever will be the Mediator between God and man; He possesses the keys of the holy priesthood to open the door of salvation to every living being on the face of the earth. All this many of the individuals of the Christian world, but not the nations and communities, acknowledge. So far this is good; it is right as far as it goes. Where is the man in all the popular world who says "I believe enough to go forth into the waters of baptism and be baptized for the remission of my sins?" Many would say so if it were popular. Say they, "make this a leading question, make it popular, and I will believe it with the rest; but if the popular world denies it we will reject it." Then you have not quite enough of the spirit of the Lord upon you. The Christian world may say "we have not light enough within us to receive the gospel when it is preached unto us." I dropped a word yesterday that I will refer to in this way. Let Jesus or any of the old apostles go into the city of Rome, or within the confines of the "Holy See," and say to the Pope "I have the words of life for you; I possess the keys of the holy priesthood of the Son of God, and I can officiate and open the door and admit you into the kingdom of heaven; I can seal on earth and it will be sealed in heaven; I can bind on earth and it will be bound in heaven; I can loose on earth and it will be loosed in heaven." What would be the result? "Doorkeepers, you lock up that house, do not admit such a man," would be the cry from the Pope, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and members of the "Holy Catholic Church;" and not only from them but from the members of the Greek Church and so on down to the very last Protestant sect that lives on the face of the earth. I do not know that there would be an exception. If there was a priest who would open a house to the Savior or to one of His apostles, I expect the deacons would steal the keys and lock it up so that they would be prevented cross-in the threshold of their sanctuaries to preach to the people the words of life and salvation.

We may ask, have they the spirit of the Lord? Yes, they have at times. Have they enough of it? Not quite. How much must they have? Enough to receive the truth. What proportion do they receive of the spirit of the Lord? Enough to convict them of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and to enlighten their minds and to instruct them. The candle of the Lord is with every individual when born into the world. As Job says, "there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth it understanding." All are entitled to this spirit of conviction, and the condition of the Christian world, forty, fifty or sixty years ago, was proof that the influence of this spirit was very generally felt amongst them. What their condition is now I do not know; but then there was

reformation after reformation; protracted meeting after protracted meeting; camp meeting after camp meeting; prayer meeting after prayer meeting; anxious bench prepared after anxious bench, and the people entitled to those benches were prayed for that they might get religion. Did they get it? Yes. What kind of religion? The same as the others enjoyed. They felt the influence of the spirit of the Lord enlightening their minds, convicting them and teaching them that they were sinners. Did they receive enough to justify them? Many of them did. Would it justify them provided the gospel was preached to them and they rejected it? It would not. They received enough to justify them according to the knowledge which they possessed; and I am happy to say that many of that class have been gathered together by the preaching of the elders of this church. They are the ones we are after; they are the ones who will receive the gospel. Many of them do receive the spirit of conviction and justification, and they feel that God has forgiven their sins as far as possible, and as far as they can understand it. But let the gospel be preached to them, let light come and them reject it, and condemnation follows. Jesus said, "This is your condemnation that light has come into the world." And again He says, "Men choose darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil," and they will not come to the light lest their deeds should be reproved. The popular world fear the consequences of accepting the truth, for the truth is not popular. Many of you, my brethren and sisters, have experienced this. You know very well what you have passed through, what sacrifice of feeling you have had to endure. Was it hard for many to give up their good name, to have the finger of scorn pointed at them? How was it with you, my brethren and sisters, who worked in old England and other foreign lands at this or that trade? Have you not often felt, "If they find out that I am a Latter-day Saint they will turn me out and I shall not be able to procure bread for my family." But when your employers did find out and you were put to the test, how was it with you? Did you deny your religion to save your bread? No, you at once acknowledged, "I am a 'Mormon,' as you call it, or a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." "Then you can have no more work here." In numberless instances the members of this church have been exposed to poverty and suffering on account of their religion; but they have felt and said, "I will starve sooner than I will give up my religion. I have received the truth, I have obeyed the truth; I believe in Jesus, I have obeyed His commands, I have been baptized for the remission of my sins; I have been healed when sick by the administrations of the elders, I have seen others healed and foul spirits cast out; I have spoken with new tongues; the spirit of prophecy is upon me, and I can prophecy that if you turn me out of your factory, woe unto you, evil will come upon you! I can prophecy that the Lord will sustain His people; He will fight their battles, and He will open up the way for me to gather home to the land of Zion." Has this been the experience of any of the Latter-day Saints? Yes, of many of them. Now, how much faith and of the spirit of the Lord must you enjoy to be just right! Enough to yield strict obedience to the requirements of Heaven. Any man or woman that is short of this comes short of obeying that law which will bring them into the celestial kingdom.

Again I will ask: "Do the Christian world enjoy the spirit of the Lord? Yes, they have enough to convict them of sin." When I was quite young I was talked to a great deal by the elders and ministers of various Christian sects,—those who led and dictated the reformations. I said nothing, but thought within myself: "Your talk is right enough, perhaps, but I cannot understand this religion, it is nothing like that of which I can read in the New Testament;" and my heart would beat this sentiment: "Lord, save and preserve me until I can judge for myself."

In riper years I would say to them: "I cannot understand your religion. I will search and see what you believe in; I can read your creeds and doctrines, but I cannot understand this coming to the 'anxious bench,' this being prayed for, and repenting and sinning, and sinning and repenting, &c. I cannot understand this God that you talk of, but whom you know nothing about." When I got older I would ask the ministers: "Can you tell me where Heaven is? Can you tell me anything of the character of the God you say you worship? Can you give any idea of the doctrines of faith, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost? Can you tell about the gifts and graces that God set in His Church?" "We do not know anything about them," would be the reply of the flaming Presbyterians and Methodists and others who were ready to evangelize the world, to preach the gospel to every creature and to bring all to the "anxious bench." They could not teach me the first lesson, or teach me the first sentiment with regard to God or the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Said I: "I will wait until I can learn for myself, for I perceive that you know nothing about it; you have no understanding; and though your preaching may excite the feelings and passions of the people it will not answer my purpose. If I believe any-

thing I want to know why I should believe it.

If I wish to know anything in regard to mechanism I want to know by practice and experience. I do not want to learn how to frame a house and know nothing about making the frame. I do not want to study architecture alone, I want to know the practical as well as that which is theoretical. If we had all the architects in the world to teach us the theory of building houses, temples and so on, it would profit us little or nothing until the actual labor of constructing houses and temples had been performed. But suppose we had architects who told us there were nothing but beams and stringers to the house? So with regard to the gospel: all the teachings I ever heard from the ministers and sects of the day were nothing to me; I wanted to know for myself, and their teachings amounted to no more than a partial theory, without practice.

"When the gospel came sin revived within me." Not in the same sense as Paul said it. I was not guilty of holding the clothes of any man while he stoned an apostle to death; but sin revived within me and taught me that I did not understand the way of life and salvation, and I could not, unless somebody taught it unto me. Had I experienced the spirit of conviction? Certainly I had. The spirit of justification? Just as far as any man on earth. And I tried to refrain from evil and to do well before the gospel came to me, and I felt justified therein. But I felt that I was not a Bible Christian. I realized that there was not one on the face of the earth. I realize to-day and know that there are no Bible Christians on the face of the earth but these despised "Mormons." They are the only ones who have the truth; they have the gospel of life and salvation. Can you find it in the "Holy Catholic church?" No. Can you find it in the Greek church? No, neither can you find it among any of the protestant churches on the face of the earth, though they all believe portions of the truth, but they are destitute of the priesthood and the plan of salvation. As to their creeds, beliefs and knowledge, I understand them thoroughly. I have studied their creeds, and I have tried to study and learn their practices. Have they experienced the spirit of God to justification? Many of them have; and when they hear the gospel they will come to the light, their deeds will be reproved and they will receive the truth and be baptized for the remission of their sins. But those who have not the yielding principle within them and resist this good spirit, when they hear the truth the light that is within them will become darkness; light will depart from them and darkness will take its place, and how great will be that darkness! Are these things true? As true as the sun now shines; as true as to say there is an earth and that intelligent beings dwell upon it; as true as to say that we are men and women and human beings, and enjoy the light, the pleasure of hearing, handling, tasting or any of our natural senses. Just so true are these things I am telling you. We have the gospel. Why do not the Christian world receive that gospel? Because they will not bow down to the Savior; they will not have the man Christ Jesus to rule over them; they will not yield obedience to the law of Heaven. They set up themselves as patterns; they make the road, and say "the Lord must come to this. We will make a creed in which we will believe; we will make our own path and ask God to bless us in walking therein." But the spirit will be withdrawn from them after they hear the gospel. Will they tell the truth? Yes. I heard one of our elders say that he heard a minister tell the truth, while preaching for money in the East. What was it? Our elder said "I sat and listened to every word he said, but the only truth I heard him tell was 'O, God, we acknowledge that we are the greatest sinners on the face of the earth.'" Said our elder, "I believe that, and that is the only truth I have heard you tell."

Are there honorable men on the earth? Yes. Good men? Yes, there are; and if we read the revelations that the Lord has given to us, we shall find that all men are not blessed with a like capacity, that all are not capable of receiving as much as some are. All are not alike in their organizations and in their tabernacles. The spirits which enter their tabernacles may be pure and holy; but the organization of their tabernacles, the influences which surround them and their education and circumstances alter their lives and change them very materially. There are honorable men and women who cannot see, believe or understand the truth. Such men and women will receive a glory according to their knowledge and conduct in life. They will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. Will an honorable man reject the truth? No, if he cannot see and understand it, he will never abuse it, and will never blaspheme the name of God in opposing it. But take the ungodly, the hypocrite, the unbelievers who will not have Christ to reign over them and they will sin a sin that will not be forgiven.

Now, my brethren and sisters, what are we here to-day for? To receive instruction, to see and be seen, and to hear and obey the words of life and salvation. If you have enough of the spirit of revelation and are in a correct state of mind and feeling this morning, you will know whether you do or do not hear the truth. We have the words of eternal life; we hold the priesthood of the Son of God and the keys of that priesthood on the earth. Is this boasting?

No; it is not. It is God's mercy; it is God's loving kindness to His creatures. He has revealed the priesthood; somebody or other must receive it; and it has been our good fortune to have the spirit of the Lord to that degree that we have received the truth, received the priesthood and the keys thereof.

When I look around at the acts of the children of men who profess to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent I can exclaim in the words of Jesus that some of the good seed that has been sown has fallen on stony ground. Such seed takes root; the earth is very warm, and it springs up forthwith; but does it bear fruit? No. The sun rises and scorches it, and it withers and dies because it is sown on stony ground. Some seed is sown on good, rich, fertile soil, but the love of riches, of gain, the pride that is in the heart and the love of the world choke it so that it cannot bring forth good fruit. But some falls on good ground, and it grows up and bears fruit, some thirty, some sixty and some a hundred fold. Are any of us in the condition of the character who is referred to as the stony ground? If we are, our condition is most pitiable and lamentable. What is the condition of each and every one of us? Have we received this seed in good, honest ground, or hearts? Will this seed bring forth fruit to the glory of God? or will we receive the cares and love of the world and the love of riches until the seed is choked so that it cannot bring forth good fruit? I say God forbid! I would that the Latter-day Saints would live their religion, live according to the faith that they have embraced; live so that they will know and understand the mind and will of God concerning them. Is there any thing to hinder? Who hinders you and me from praying? Who hinders us from worshipping God? Who hinders us having our hearts ascend to the throne of grace morning and evening, and every leisure moment—every minute of our time that is not occupied with the cares of life? What is there to hinder us offering up at every such moment the heartfelt prayer, "O Lord, give me thy holy spirit! Father, I ask thee, in the name of Jesus Christ to preserve me from sinning against thee, or any being on the earth or in the heavens! Preserve my feet in the path of rectitude, honor and uprightness! Preserve me in the various avocations of life, and help me to keep thy commandments all my days!" Who hinders us doing this? Have we not the privilege? We have. And when business or duty calls us to do this, that or the other, do it. Preach, pray, labor, toil, work to build up the kingdom spiritually, and temporally, if you are disposed to call it so. But when our kingdom is built up, and Jesus reigns king of nations as He is king of Saints, I reckon we will all be willing to call it spiritual.

My brethren and sisters, we are here to encourage you in living your religion. Will you suffer this or that to draw you astray? Mothers, will you preserve your daughters here? Fathers, will you preserve your families here in purity? Will you set that example before them that you can say, from morning until evening, from week to week, and from year to year, "family, follow me as I follow Christ; follow my example, and we will go into the kingdom of Heaven." If you do this, who is there that will have power to clutch one of them from your grasp? If you live so that God is with you, you are full of the faith of Jesus, and who can pluck them out of your hands? This is your duty; it is my duty, and there is no excuse for us if we do not live in this way.

What think ye? Have you received the gospel? Do you know God,—the only wise God? Do you know Jesus, whom He has sent? Do you understand anything about His nature and plan? How simple it is as contained in the Bible! The God whom we serve is not that imaginary God who dwells on the top of a topless throne, without body, parts or passions. Our God dwells in the heavens, in the celestial kingdom. He dwells with His angels. His influence and His spirit fill the immensity that He occupies. He is the Creator of this world. Can you understand Him? Can you understand Jesus, born of Mary? Can you understand that He had a mother? Can you understand that God is His Father? Certainly you can; perfectly easy, on natural principles—what we call natural principles. Without the process that God has revealed no being dwells here. We understand our being partially. If we did but know ourselves perfectly, we would know from whence we came and from whom we are. But we understand ourselves only in part; if we can understand God we can understand ourselves, and if we learn ourselves, we shall know a great deal of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Savior.

What more shall I say? Are there strangers here to-day? I expect there are some. I want to say to them that we have believed the gospel simply because it is true. It is of God, and not of man; He has revealed it from the heavens. If we are the instruments through which He promulgates this gospel to the world, all right; if we are not, then let any wise man or philosopher come and prove to the contrary if he can. Is there an infidel here to-day? Yes, we may say, infidel to many things. Is there a man here who does not believe in God the Eternal Father? I wish to inform such persons that it is a hard matter to prove a negative. The negative of false declarations sometimes can be proved; but the negative of a fact cannot be proved, because that would prove truth a lie. I am here to-day in this house, and this can be