

continue in the enjoyment of the right spirit, these blessings will remain with us, and we shall be acknowledged of God as His children; and only when we depart from the right way and fail to do our duty, will God withdraw His spirit from us and leave us to ourselves.

I feel thankful we are approaching the dedication of this Temple. After forty years sojourning, so to speak, in the wilderness; forty years of labor and toil upon that building; forty years of expectation and hope in our bosoms, we are now within a month of the realization of some of our hopes in regard to this matter. I do not know what the hopes and expectations of others are concerning this; but I know what my own are. I expect that the Lord will accept of that house at the hands of His Saints. I have great reason to believe this, for the faithful have done all in their power, so far as they knew, for the accomplishment of that work. Many of the Latter-day Saints have been liberal in their contributions towards the completion of that building; and many have deprived themselves of comforts and have sacrificed their own feelings and wishes, to a great extent, in order to furnish means that that Temple might be completed in the appointed time. Some men have had to borrow the means, and are paying interest on it today, in order that they might contribute what was needed. They have taken upon themselves burdens, and will carry these burdens until, by the blessing of the Lord, they can be removed from them. I believe that the Lord will bless such men, that He will accept of such offerings, and they will be sanctified to the good of those who have thus contributed toward the completion of the house of the Lord. It has been an expensive building. It has cost an immense amount of means. But it has given employment to the Saints. The most of the means that has been expended in the erection of that building has been distributed to the Latter-day Saints. Hundreds, perhaps, of them today owe their comfortable homes and surroundings to the means given to them for their labor in building that house of God. I have heard it remarked that this city would have been stricken today with a great deal more suffering and want than it is to compare one of the hard times if it had not been for the vast amount of means that has been distributed to the people in payment for the labor that has been going on, especially this last winter, in that building. I want to tell you, too, my brethren and sisters, in answer to an infamous remark I heard of yesterday, that the means contributed by the Latter-day Saints toward the completion of that building has been devoted honestly and strictly to that work, and it has not been diverted to something else. Had it not been used in the proper channel the work would not be today so far advanced as it is. I believe that the energy and push that has been exerted there this last year, if it had been distributed over two or three years about thirty years ago, would in that time have completed that building, and we would have had it all these years past to use. It would have required, of course, more means than has just now been put in, because then the walls were unfinished. But it has been in a

measure neglected. We have worked on it little by little, and it has been slow work. Whether the Lord will blame us for being so long about this work or not, it is not for me to say. I do not think He will. I think that there is an overruling providence in all these things. I believe that Temple will be completed just as soon as the people are prepared for it; and, I am afraid, before many of us are prepared for it. But I believe that it will be completed just as soon as the Lord designed it to be, and when it is completed, that the Lord will accept it.

Some one may say, "Brother Joseph, what do you expect to see manifested there when that Temple is dedicated?" I will tell you what will satisfy me. When we go into the dedication of that house, if I can feel in my heart, together with my brethren, a sense of perfect union among the Priesthood, and hear the whisperings of the still small voice that the Lord is there by His Spirit, by His love, and by His approbation, it will be sufficient for me, it will satisfy me that God is pleased with the labors of the Saints, and that He will accept of them. Some people have thought that we will have the house filled with the glory of the Lord. What if it is? I do not know whether I dare trust myself, however faithful I may have tried to be, to witness such an event. I am afraid that if God should come there and allow His glory to shine upon me, I might not be able to stand it; and I do not want anything to happen there that will cast me, or any of us, out of the house of God nor from the presence of the Almighty. Therefore, I shall be perfectly contented, so far as I am concerned, if I can hear the whisperings of the Spirit of God in my heart, "It is acceptable to me." That will be all the testimony and witness of the Spirit that I shall claim. Now, if any of you go there with greater faith than mine, and with greater perfection, with greater purity of heart, with greater power, and the visions of heaven are open to you, and you can see the Father and the Son sitting upon the throne, or the angels descending to and ascending from the midst of the congregations of the Saints, God be praised! and may such visions and such privileges be blessed and sanctified unto those who have this faith, for all time to come, and may they continue to be worthy of such gifts and such blessings. But I do not look for any such manifestation as this under the conditions that we are in, and with the faith that we, as a people, possess today; with the knowledge that we have, and with the purity that we have. Brother Cannon has been talking to you in relation to the Word of Wisdom. Of course, the Word of Wisdom is a very small matter; but if I were to ask this congregation how many of you have kept this simple principle in honesty before God since you embraced the Gospel what would be the result? I would not like to put you to the test. I would not like those who have kept the Word of Wisdom strictly since they came into the Church, or even for years past, to rise up in this congregation, for fear the number would be so few that they would be discouraged. I would not like, for the same reason, to ask you to stand up, who have never tasted, nor touched,

nor handled the intoxicating cup since you became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or within the past few years (although there may be many such), since you have been, I suppose, preparing yourselves to enter into God's presence, in the dedication of this house. I would not like to ask you to exhibit the scarcity of those who really are unspotted and undefiled before God. What can the Lord do with such a people as we are? Are we prepared to enter into His presence? Are we prepared to inherit His glory? Are we prepared to receive Him? I am not, I confess to you; and yet, I will vouch for it, though not in boasting, that I am about as well prepared as some of the rest of you, but I feel like asking my heavenly Father to forgive and accept of me notwithstanding my weaknesses, my failings and my imperfections. O God, receive me; accept of me; and wherein I have failed, wilt Thou cleanse and strengthen me, and make me worthy to stand before Thee, to witness Thy mercies! And this is what I want to see the people of God desire in their hearts above everything else. Let it be your earnest prayer, my brethren and sisters, that God will accept of you, forgiving your faults, your weaknesses and your imperfections; that He will cleanse you, and bless you, and acknowledge you as His children, that when we do go before Him we may, at least receive some measure of the power of God and of the witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, so that we may feel we are not cast out or discarded by our Father, but that He does own and acknowledge us as His children, and that we are still worthy to stand before Him and minister in sacred places.

If I felt in my heart that I had wronged one of my brethren; or disobeyed any of the laws of God; or that I had dishonored any member of the Church, or any man that presides over me in the Church of God, I should feel that it was my duty to go and make it right before I go into that house to witness the dedication of it to God. If I have done you any wrong; if I have robbed you of any right; if I have not been true to my promise with you; or if I have done anything that has in any measure debased me in the sight of God or my brethren, I ought to go and try to make reparation before I attempt to go into the house of God. Yet I would not want to do this simply for the purpose of going into that house. I should want to do it because it is my duty to do it; and in order that I might be worthy to go there, and stand at any time after in sacred places before the Lord, I ought to make all things right with any brother that I may have wronged. I ought to show honor to those unto whom honor is due. I ought to honor God my Heavenly Father, now, and from this time, henceforth, and forever. That is the principle upon which I should do right, make recompense and settle difficulties. I have heard of brethren associated together in family ties, as well as in the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant, who are at variance with each other, with bitter feelings existing in their hearts, one toward the other, and neither will humble himself to go to the other and acknowledge his faults, or to try to bring about a re-