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## GROWTH OF FAITH AND WORKS.

*Discourse Delivered at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, April 7, 1894, by*

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

Beloved hearers, I rejoice greatly in the opportunity that is given us in this Conference. The testimony that has been given by the brethren who have spoken has been so varied and diversified that it would seem as if every inquiring mind must have found something that he could take home to himself and feel that he had been fed, edified and enlightened in the knowledge of the truth. The growth of the work of God in these latter days brings to us from day to day such new developments of experience as to call forth also corresponding instructions suited to our every condition; so that as varied as our circumstances are, or may be, we get line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, for all the conditions through which we are brought to pass; and it brings to those who are truly living their religion increased testimonies of the truth. Those who were in the world living honestly before God according to the light they had, prior to the revelations of the present dispensation by the Prophet Joseph, were in a position of justification. Nevertheless, there was a constant yearning for something more, which we did not yet possess; and in looking around and trying to find that something else which would satisfy the human soul, we could not find it among our fellows. They who claimed to be our teachers had it not to give to us. We were told we must not pry into mysteries, and that what had been revealed and laid down was all they had the right, or the power, to offer us.

When this Gospel came to us and we were permitted to look into it; when our near kinsmen came and told us that God had raised up a Prophet, that He had given new revelations, that He had revealed a record called the Book of Mormon, behold, what did we find? We found that in searching these principles thus revealed, there was that which satisfied this hungering and thirsting that we had after something more. We found that in giving obedience unto these principles there was given us in turn from the heavens a testimony that made us to know, and that verified the word of the Lord wherein He had promised that if any man would render obedience to those doctrines he should know, and that knowledge should be in-

creased. We commenced thus searching, and in that search we have been successful to find that which satisfies the soul, even the most intelligent among mankind, when they apply humbly at the feet of Jesus for the knowledge of the truth and the testimonies of His Spirit. Finding a fulfillment of His promises at the very threshold of our search into the order of the kingdom of God, we were thus satisfied, thus fed, thus strengthened, and led to feel that for these testimonies we could offer ourselves, all that we were and had, and lay our lives upon the altar, for the knowledge which God had thus given unto us. This was the solid and satisfying start that we made in our search for the truth. And oh! what blessing it gave to the repentant sinner to know that by going down into the water and coming forth out of the water, under the hands of one authorized of God, his sins were forgiven and remitted; and further, to receive by the laying on of hands that gift of the Holy Ghost which should abide with him. It abode with us, and led us from knowledge to knowledge, from faith to faith, increasing our light, and it has been growing brighter and brighter, as the faithful can all testify to this day.

With the knowledge of every new principle our joy has been increased, our cup has been filling up; and if we have been active laborers in the ministry, our influence and power have been increasing and extending, not merely with our fellow men on the earth, but with the heavens, so that the blessings and favor, intelligence and revelation to which the Saints are entitled, have been increasing and growing brighter and brighter until the present time. The great and grand object with us is that they shall by our faithful lives grow brighter still until the perfect day, when what we now see in part we shall then see in full, and when we, having placed our evil propensities under our feet and triumphed over them by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and by our testimony, shall obtain the crown in the kingdom of our God. The pathway to this is through obedience to every principle that has been revealed, and that shall be revealed, making it a part of our lives and practice.

The Lord graciously told the brethren in the early days that "the Priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers, for ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and your lives have been hid from the world with Christ in God." What a glorious development! What! the Priesthood come down from the days of the ancients, through the dark and bloody channels of war and rumors of war, crusades and persecutions? Yes, certainly. It is

evident the eye of God has been over us, and the eyes of His angels have watched over the continuation of the fathers down through the generations that have come unto us. This is shown by the very fact that the Lord has cared for a lineage which has given you and me the right to the Holy Priesthood, and has awakened our souls to trace back that lineage as far as it can be discovered by records, or dreams, or visions, or revelations, or by the Urim and Thummim, until we go back with our labors on that lineage, and thus return the only grateful acknowledgment we can make to them for being our fathers and mothers and giving us such honorable birth, and at such a period of time, when the Priesthood is revealed again, and that we can receive blessings of untold worth, that we never ourselves shall know the full value of, until we overcome this mortality, put on immortality and enter into the exaltation which is promised unto the faithful.

Speaking concerning the testimony of Elder Lyman about those who have sought to rise up and appear to the world as having a right to the Presidency. They claim to have obeyed all of the revelations which were given to the Prophet Joseph. The Prophet received the word of the Lord that it was our duty in Nauvoo to build a temple, which, said He, "my people are always commanded to build unto my holy name." Yet concerning those who make the claim to being the only true Latter-day Saints on earth, we have not heard even of their undertaking to build a temple; while we have built half a dozen of them. I need not stop to talk about that. We are on the road to exaltation, in intelligence, in fellowship with the angels and with the just made perfect, and are already made partakers in some measure of the powers of the world to come.

How glorious it was after that Elijah had come and revealed this ancient order of things concerning the fathers and the children in the Temple at Kirtland, in pursuance of what the Prophet Malachi had said he would do, before the great and terrible day of the Lord! How our fathers that have gone before have turned unto us! And so have we turned as children unto our fathers, to love them and to seek after them, and to know that we cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us. It is a glorious work. People come into the Church and gather with the Saints almost from the antipodes. They have received the Holy Ghost, and what does it do? It makes them just as one of the Apostles anciently said: "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into their hearts, crying, Abba, Father." They naturally incline after the lineage