

they are deluded. I wish all the world were deluded in the same manner. I wish all the world would repent of their sins, humble themselves before the Lord, and come to the Elders of Israel and say, "We desire righteousness to be established upon the earth. Let us be associated with you in this great work of redemption. Let us assist you to build your temples and officiate therein. If you have the Holy Priesthood, let us have this power, that we may be one with you, that the kingdom of God may be established upon the earth in power." Do you think that that would be a dreadful calamity to come upon the human family? I do not. I have a kindly consideration for all my brethren and sisters, who are in the image of God, and I have plead with them and for them many times that they would accept this Gospel, and I have pointed out in the Scriptures what Peter said on the day of Pentecost, when he lifted up his voice and the people were pricked in their hearts: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Why is it that we are not educated in these principles from our youth up? When Philip went to Samaria to preach the Gospel of the Son of God, the people believed and were baptized, and "when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John." What for? To lay hands upon them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. These are simple principles of the Gospel, that you would think were easy to be understood; and wherever you find a servant of God he will preach these principles. If you were to meet the Apostle Peter, he would tell the repentant sinner just the same as he did upon the day of Pentecost. This was the doctrine of the Redeemer, and there was no need for disputation. There would not be any reason for disputation now if men would humble themselves before the Lord and obtain the witness for themselves, and not rely upon their own interpretation of the Scriptures and their own self-sufficiency. If mankind could understand something of their own nothingness they would humble themselves in the dust, and they would ask our Heavenly Father to pardon their transgressions, their false teachings, and wherein they had erred, and would come unto the throne of grace and receive the blessing that the Father hath appointed for the repentant sinner. I have frequently said: I do not wish you to take my testimony alone. You have your individuality, have you not? Do you wish to be saved in the Kingdom of God? Do you wish to be associated in the redemption of the human family? If you do, then go to the Father. To whom else should you go? Here we have so many religions that the question naturally arises, Which is right? Therefore, go to God, and in faith believing ask Him.

Are these not plain and simple principles? If we wish to attain to an understanding of any science, is it not necessary for us to accept the first

principles? Did not the Lord Jesus tell Nicodemus that unless he was born of the water and of the spirit he could in no wise inherit the kingdom of heaven, and that unless he was born again he could not see the kingdom? That is what is the matter. Men do not go the right way to obtain this knowledge. Wherever you hear a servant of God he will tell you these principles are the fundamental principles of the everlasting Gospel, which is without beginning of days or end of years.

Now, if we desire to be saved, we must appeal to our Father. This is individual salvation, and every individual has the right to appeal to heaven, has the right to the revelations of the Father, that he may not be led astray, nor be the victim of priestcraft, but that he may obtain that light and intelligence which is promised unto all.

I will tell you what is the difficulty with us, and that is, the practice of the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ; the bringing of our individuality in harmony with those eternal principles, in order that we may purify our character and be fitted for association with our Heavenly Father. We are so anxious for the things of this world—we have so much pride—so much desire to wear costly apparel, and the like, that we are not filled with the necessary desire to be humble, and childlike, and full of truth; with the anxiety to walk in the light as God is in the light, that we may have sweet fellowship with each other, and the blood of Christ may cleanse us from all sin. This should be our anxiety; for if we will reason a little we will readily realize that we brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it, except the intelligence that we have obtained here. If it is of the earth earthy, it will not avail us much in the heaven; but if we have striven to obtain the pearl of great price, to know God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent, to live in accordance with those divine principles which are expressed in His commandment, we will be filled with thanksgiving and praise. When we lay down our bodies at night it will be with thanksgiving and praise; when we rise in the morning it will be with the same feeling. We will have no hardness in our hearts against our fellows. We will love the Lord our God. We will love the brethren. And herein we will know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love them and are willing to sacrifice for their good and benefit. It is natural for us to have a kindly consideration for each other when we have the fellowship of the Spirit of God. I remember that lately my beloved friend and fellow-laborer, Professor Karl G. Maeser, came to Mexico. We had been associated together in the early days of our experience in the Church, and we had learned to love each other, and I could not help but say upon our reunion:

If our fellowship below

In Jesus be so sweet,

What heights of rapture shall we know,

When round His throne we meet.

I felt the power of the brotherhood that is in Christ Jesus. This is the reason that we call each other brother and sister. It may seem eccentric to our unbelieving friends who were not educated this way. We also were

brought up to say Mr., or Mrs., or Madam; but when we came to the light of Christ and received His glorious Spirit, and became enrolled in the royal family of heaven, we then understood what it was to love each other, and to call each other by this endearing family name of brother or sister, because we are now adopted children of the same God. We understand that He had drawn us into His fold; for "no man can come to me," saith the Lord Jesus Christ, "except the Father which hath sent Me draw him."

My brethren and sisters, do you understand that our Father has drawn you into His fold? Do you young people, who are sons and daughters of the pioneers of this work, realize that God has appointed the bounds of your habitation, and that He hath given you the honor of being the sons and daughters of High Priests, Seventies, Elders, Patriarchs, and Apostles of God? Do you understand that your names are enrolled in the Lamb's book of life, and that it was foreordained from before the foundation of the world for you to be born in the latter days of goodly parents, to have the privileges of the house of the Lord, and to assist in the redemption of the living and the dead? If you do realize this, surely you will manifest it in your works. You will be gentle men, gentle women. You will keep yourselves clean from the iniquities of this unbelieving generation, with all their pride and high-mindedness, and you will humble yourselves before our Heavenly Father, and plead before Him, in the name of Jesus Christ, that He will vouchsafe unto you His Spirit and reveal to you your individual missions that you may stand approved of Him both here and hereafter.

I am reminded here of a simple story that was once told in England of a righteous man who had a family very dear to him. He had trained them with a great deal of care, to try to keep them from the iniquities of the world. The time came when his son had to go to college, and they were all in grief at his going away to be associated with strangers and in the midst of evil; and as the father was grasping him by the hand in his farewell embrace, he said:

"My son, there is but one request I have to ask you, and that is, that you will come back to me with the same countenance that you depart with."

What made that countenance? Chastity, virtue, purity, a well spent life; and if he could return without being marred by the iniquities of the world, what a joy and a satisfaction it would be! The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the privilege to return to our Heavenly Father with the same countenance that we left Him. How is it going to be done? "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Men and brethren, can you accept of this proposition? What are you required to do in order that you may be cleansed from iniquity? Repent of your sins, be baptized into the Church of God, accept the healing and sanctifying influence of the precious blood of the Redeemer, receive the Holy Ghost, and live a righteous life. If you will do so you will be purified and made clean, and be enabled to