

to be enjoyed by the people of God in this day; that every man and woman in the Church of Christ can have the gifts of the Spirit of God divided to them according to their faith and as God wills.

There has been a tremendous amount of unbelief in the world. Men's hearts have been hard. It has come down by tradition from one generation to another, until it has come to our century, that these ancient gifts and blessings, which the saints were earnestly exhorted to contend for were no longer necessary and had been done away with. But unbelief has come down to us that is almost like a stone wall in front of this generation. It is almost impossible to break down that feeling or to arouse within their hearts any spirit of faith or any disposition to believe that such things are possible. Satan is busy, as he has been during this long reign of darkness, instilling doubts and fears into the hearts of men, to prevent them from seeking after God. He did not want any communication between God the Eternal Father and His children. He would cut it off if he had the power, so that it would never be restored again, and that there should from this time forward be no more communication from heaven to man. To effect this he killed the Son of God; and he killed every Apostle that Jesus chose, excepting John the Revelator, and would have killed him if he had had the power. This we know in part from this Bible, but it has come down to us in well authenticated tradition that all the Apostles, excepting John the Revelator, suffered a violent death. This is Satan's work, and he would spread his pall of darkness over the minds of the children of men and make them believe that they cannot find God, that they cannot have the gifts that God has promised, and that it is not God's will that these gifts should be bestowed and enjoyed by men at the present time. He has been very successful in this in the earth. But the time has come, the long expected time, towards which Prophets and Apostles looked, and concerning which they have uttered the most glorious predictions—the time has come when God should stretch forth His hand to perform His great and mighty work, a "marvelous work and a wonder," among the children of men, to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus, to warn the inhabitants of the earth of the destructions and calamities that are about to come upon them unless they repent.

This is the dispensation of the fullness of times, and to usher it in angels have been sent from the throne of our Almighty Father to the earth, bearing the message of glad tidings that the Gospel is restored again, that the Priesthood or the authority to administer the ordinances of the Gospel has once more been conferred upon man. Could any more glorious tidings have come from the eternal worlds than a message of this description—a message fraught with such momentous consequences to all the inhabitants of the earth? I cannot conceive of anything more glorious. No angel, since the tidings of the birth of the Savior was communicated to man, it seems to me, could bear a more glorious message than this—that the night of darkness was ended, and that communication was once more opened between God and man, between the Father and His earthly children. No

doubt the angels flew with eager haste to convey the pure Gospel to the earth; and men on the earth, if they were inspired by the feeling which they should have, would welcome the message as the most glorious and heavenly conceivable.

This has come in our day. Yet we find, even among those who have embraced the Gospel, hearts of unbelief. How many of you, my brethren and sisters, are seeking for these gifts that God has promised to bestow? How many of you, when you bow before your Heavenly Father in your family circle or in your secret places, contend for these gifts to be bestowed upon you? How many of you ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, to manifest Himself to you through these powers and these gifts? Or do you go along day by day like a door turning on its hinges, without having any feeling upon the subject, without exercising any faith whatever; content to be baptized and be members of the Church, and to rest there, thinking that your salvation is secure because you have done this? I say to you, in the name of the Lord, as one of His servants, that you have need to repent of this. You have need to repent of your hardness of heart, of your indifference, and of your carelessness. There is not that diligence, there is not that faith, there is not that seeking for the power of God that there should be among a people who have received the precious promises we have. Instead of the sick being healed, why, it is as much as you can do to get faith to believe that the administration of an Elder will be attended with effect. There is not that seeking for the gift of healing and for the gift to be healed that there ought to be among the Saints. And so with other gifts and graces that God has placed in His Church for His people. I say to you that it is our duty to avail ourselves of the privileges which God has placed within our reach. If we have done wrong, repent of our wrong, and feel after God, and not be satisfied till we have found Him, and He hears and answers us, and He speaks by His divine power in our hearts, bearing testimony to us in such a manner as cannot be doubted that He hears us, that He is near to us, and that He is watching over us and ready to bestow upon us all the blessings that are necessary for our happiness here and hereafter.

I feel to bear testimony to you, my brethren and sisters, just as these prophets have done, that God is the same today as He was yesterday; that God is willing to bestow these gifts upon His children. I know that God is willing to heal the sick, that He is willing to bestow the gift of discerning of spirits, the gift of wisdom, of knowledge and of prophecy, and other gifts that may be needed. If any of us are imperfect, it is our duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. Have I imperfections? I am full of them. What is my duty? To pray to God to give me the gifts that will correct these imperfections. If I am an angry man, it is my duty to pray for charity, which suffereth long and is kind. Am I an envious man? It is my duty to seek for charity, which envieth not. So with all the gifts of the Gospel. They are intended for this purpose. No man ought to say, "Oh, I cannot help this; it is my nature." He is not justified in it, for the reason that God

has promised to give strength to correct these things, and to give gifts that will eradicate them. If a man lack wisdom, it is his duty to ask God for wisdom. The same with everything else. That is the design of God concerning His Church. He wants His Saints to be perfected in the truth. For this purpose He gives these gifts, and bestows them upon those who seek after them, in order that they may be perfect people upon the face of the earth, notwithstanding their many weaknesses, because God has promised to give the gifts that are necessary for their perfection.

Let us seek for these gifts. Let us be exhorted this day in this Tabernacle, and bear in mind that these gifts are for us; and let us seek for them with all our might, mind and strength. I pray God that this may be the feeling in every heart. If there be those that have not obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to them I would say, go to God in secret and ask him in the name of Jesus concerning these things; and I tell you, as a servant of God, He will give you a testimony, and you will know that this is the truth. You will be ready then to obey the ordinances of life and salvation and to enter into the Church which He has established on earth. I pray God to bless us all this day and throughout our future lives, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Written for this Paper.*

#### SAN LUIS STAKE, COLORADO.

ZOPATO, near Mount Blanca, Costilla county, Colorado, Dec. 13, 1893.—After finishing my labors in the San Juan stake of Zion, I took train at Durango, La Plata county, Col., and traveled 171 miles through a mountainous country and in an easterly direction to Antonito, Conejos county, Col., where I put up for the night with one of our brethren from the Southern States. About two o'clock in the night we were awakened from our peaceful slumbers by some one calling at the top of his voice from the street: "Mr. Dempsey, the town is on fire!" Of course all hands got up, including the historian, for who could tell without further inquiry that it was not the very house in which we slept that was ablaze? Our fears in this regard, however, was soon dispelled, as it was ascertained that the fire was confined to the so-called "Elevator," in which a large quantity of oats, ready for market, was stored away. This building was about a quarter of a mile away from our lodging. When we got there the whole building, a wooden structure, was burning most beautifully, illuminating the exceeding flat country for miles around. Nor did the large crowd which had gathered around dispute in the least degree with the devouring element as to its right of way. Not a hand was lifted nor a bucket of water thrown to impede the fire in its progress; in fact, I never saw a more helpless crowd of men around a fire in all my life than the one I saw that night in Antonito. The fact was that there wasn't a drop of water in town except such as had been hauled thither in barrels from the Conejos river, several miles distant.

This country being a cold one, all water ditches which are used in the summer for irrigation purposes freeze up in the winter, and there being no