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ONE FAITH, ONE LORD, ONE BAPTISM

*Discourse Delivered at the Tabernacle,
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ELDER JOSEPH W. McMURRIN.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

My brethren and sisters, being unexpectedly called upon to stand before you this afternoon, I trust that you will assist me in this trying position by giving to me your faith and prayers, that our Father in heaven, in His mercy and goodness, may give me such words to speak as shall be for our good and benefit. I feel weak in standing up in the presence of so many men and women of experience, who have devoted their lives to the service of God, who have manifested through many long years their willingness to keep the commandments of God, and who have a far better comprehension of the principles of the Gospel than I can hope to have with my limited experience; nevertheless, I do feel exceedingly thankful to the Lord that I have this day a disposition to bear to you my testimony of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to exhort you, as well as myself, to faithfulness in keeping the commandments of God. For I do believe that the Lord in this our day has spoken from heaven, that He has revealed the authority of the Holy Priesthood, that He has commanded His saints to bear testimony of the truth of this work, and to cry aloud to the people of the earth to repent, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and the day of the coming of our Master is drawing near, when He is to be revealed in flaming fire, as the scriptures say, taking vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the Gospel of His Son. I believe that the authority to make this proclamation to the world has been given to men in these days.

It is not a new thing for men to declare that they have received authority from God. Men in all ages of the world who have ever prophesied or spoken in the name of the Lord, or who have had the right to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel, have declared that they received the authority that they exercised from our Father in heaven. It has not been customary among the preachers of righteousness to declare that they had received authority from the governments of the earth, but that they had received it from on high. The Apostles of our Master, when He tarried in the flesh, received their authority from the Son of God, who called them from the occupations in which they

were engaged and sent them forth to be ministers of salvation. He laid His hands upon them and blessed them, and ordained and set them apart to the calling whereunto He had called them, sealed the promise of the Spirit of God upon them, and commissioned them to go forth among the children of men to preach His Gospel—the Gospel that was the power of God unto salvation, that was to turn men from the error of their ways and to plant their feet in the straight and narrow path that would lead them back into the presence of God. It is that Gospel that we should be seeking after today. It was the everlasting Gospel, we are told, that they were commissioned to preach. The Apostles taught that there was but one way whereby men could enter into the kingdom of our Father, and we are told that they taught under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The Savior himself made the promise to them that He would send them the Holy Ghost, whose office and mission was to lead and guide into all truth, bring things past to their remembrance, show them the present, and reveal unto them the future. It was not to guide them into error; it was not to cause them to preach doctrine that was not essential to the salvation of mankind; but its office and mission was to reveal eternal truth. This power was given to the Apostles of our Savior in their day, and they went forth among the children of men preaching the Gospel that had been taught to them by the Savior, declaring to the people that there was but one way, but one Lord, but one faith, but one baptism, and one God and Father of all. This is the doctrine of the Testament, the doctrine that was advocated by the Apostles of old, and it is the doctrine that is good for us today. It has come from the Founder of Christianity—from the Son of the living God. It was preached by Him who spake as man never spake, and who came according to the appointment of the Father, that He might redeem the world and work out salvation for every son and daughter of Adam who would listen to His teachings and practice the same. And when He commissioned and gave authority to His Apostles and sent them out to preach the Gospel, they taught those things which they had received from the Master. They called upon the people everywhere to repent; they bore testimony that the sayings of the prophets in relation to the coming of the Messiah had been fulfilled; that He had been in their midst, had suffered, had been crucified, had risen again, and had ascended on high to His Father in heaven. Because of this testimony which they bore they were persecuted, derided, separated from the company of their

fellow men, and their names were cast out as evil. Nevertheless, they were true and faithful in bearing this testimony and in seeking to publish abroad the glad news of the Gospel.

What was the Gospel, my brethren and sisters and friends, in those times? What were the principles that were advocated by the Apostles, and that were taught by those who followed after them? We might refer to some of the principles that were advocated as being necessary to salvation in the days of our Savior. When He sent abroad the Apostles with the authority to call men to repentance He commanded them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. A very sweeping commandment! A mighty responsibility! "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." This was the promise that was made to them; those who would believe in the testimony they had to bear should be saved through yielding obedience to the doctrines they were sent to teach, while those who would not receive these doctrines should be lost. The Apostles were commanded to go forth, baptizing all nations "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Not teaching them, as many men claim, that the only thing essential to salvation is simply to confess Christ with our lips, to acknowledge that He came upon the earth, that He suffered and died for us, and that through this acknowledgment we shall inherit eternal life. But those Apostles, who ought to have known what was necessary inasmuch as they received their teaching from the lips of the great Lawgiver himself, called upon the people to observe all things whatsoever the Master had commanded them. In addition to faith, repentance and baptism, the Savior taught the necessity of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us; He taught the principle of sobriety and of honesty, and many other precious things that were calculated to make men better and to place the feet of the human family in that straight way which would lead back into the presence of God. All these things the Apostles were commanded to teach.

It is a strange thing to me that men who believe that Jesus was the Christ, that through Him and by Him alone mankind can be saved, can deny the necessity of observing the commandments that He gave. It is popular today among Christendom to declare that these things possibly were essential before our Master suffered upon Calvary's cross but that after He had bowed His head