

lieve they should make it a profession to preach the Gospel. If they should go around without purse and scrip preaching the Gospel, they would become a species of vagabonds or vagrants, or, to use a more common and disreputable name, tramps, and this is inconsistent and unworthy of men of their calling."

They pronounce therefore against this practice as disreputable and unsuited to the times. Yet Jesus, our Lord and Master, gave that as a command to His ancient disciples. We also have been commanded to do the same. We have been commanded to travel without purse and scrip, and we have done it. The Latter-day Saints who have been gathered together in these mountains have been reached by that method of preaching the Gospel. We have traveled thousands of miles—we have, it might be said, encircled the globe itself in this way. "Well, have you not starved to death; have you not been subjected to the greatest of inconveniences; have you been able to go and remain and return dependent upon that method?" The testimony of hundreds, yea thousands of Latter-day Saint Elders is to the effect that they have done this. They have traveled for years and have not been subjected to humiliation, and have not failed to accomplish that which they were sent to do. I myself have had a long experience of this character in various lands and among different peoples, and I cannot now recall an instance where I have been under the necessity of begging of them to aid me; but the Lord, in answer to prayer, opened my way, as He has done the way of the other Elders. We believe in God; we believe that He is a God that hears and answers prayers. It is this kind of training that has been of great benefit to the Latter-day Saints, because in their hours of extremity, when hungry, when destitute, when in need of money, in need of clothing, and in need of friends, they have gone to the Lord with mighty faith and prayer and have plead with Him for the help that He alone could give, and invariably they have obtained it. The results are of the grandest description. Young men have grown up here and gone on missions, and in this manner have exercised faith and proved the Lord, that He is a God that hears and answers prayer, and that He fulfils His promises to His children. It has made the Latter-day Saints capable of performing wonderful works, because of this faith that has been developed in them through the experience to which I now refer. The effect on the whole people can be seen. It is an effect that has been operating for years upon them. It was this experience that made possible the settlement of these valleys. The people who came here came with full confidence in God. Everything looked dark and unfavorable. There was nothing to encourage, nothing to inspire hope, excepting the faith they had in their bosoms that God was watching over them, and that He would hear and answer their petitions—as He had done. Their faith was not in vain. He did hear their prayers. He did look down from heaven in mercy upon them. He did bless this land. He did transform this desert into a fruitful field. He did bless the people with courage, strength, endurance, patience and fortitude to enable them to bear on under the trials that they had to contend with.

This is a new feature in the earth at the present time. Yet it is a feature that has always been exhibited when God has had a people upon the earth. The Prophets of old had that faith. Saints of God in the days of the Savior and His Apostles had that

kind of faith, and by that faith mighty works were accomplished. Paul, in the 11th chapter of his epistle to the Hebrews, gives us an account of what mighty things were done through faith. It would be good for us to read it. It stimulates our faith; it shows us that others have obtained power with God through faith, and that it is possible for man, by obeying the commandments of God, to obtain the gifts and the blessings that distinguished the servants and people of God in ancient days from all who did not believe in God.

That is one feature. We come now to others. In ancient days they believed that by being baptized by a man having authority, after having repented of their sins, they could have their sins remitted. In that day they submitted to that ordinance, and then they had hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Suppose, as many say, that the "Mormons" are in error in believing this; is it not comforting to know that we are doing the very things, believing the very principles, and submitting to the very ordinances that the ancients believed and yielded to? When we meet them on the other side, will it not be a comfort to say:

"We also were baptized; we also had hands laid upon us for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and we testified too that we received it, just as you did who lived in the first century. You believed in Apostles; so do we. You believed in the gifts and graces of the Gospel; so do we. You believed in the gift of tongues and in the gift of interpreting of tongues; we believe in those gifts. You believed in the gift of healing; so do we. You believed in the gift of discerning of spirits; so do we. You believed in the gift of wisdom; so do we. You believed in the gift of prophecy; so do we. We believe it possible in our day, because we have seen that gift poured out, as you, our brethren, did in the first century."

It is a thought that comes to me very often, what a joyful meeting it will be for us to visit with them. I expect to meet with them; I want to live so that I may live with them—live with my Savior. I expect to meet, and I expect you to meet if you are all faithful, with the Prophets and Apostles, and to sit down and compare our experiences with theirs; to relate that which we have endured, and that which we have witnessed, the deliverance that God has wrought out for us, and that which we have passed through. I say I expect that we will have that privilege, and will it not be a glorious privilege? Will it not be a heaven indeed to meet with those with whom we can commune under such circumstances, whose experience is so similar to ours in every respect? If there is a gift that they had which we have not, we are striving to obtain it. If there is a power which God bestowed upon them that has not been bestowed upon us, we are exercising faith to obtain it. We are striving to have more revelations from God, more of the gift of prophecy, more of the gift of healing, more of the gift of wisdom. We are striving for every gift that is good—and all gifts from God are good—because we want to be like our brethren and sisters who did obtain them through faith and through obedience in ancient days. They cannot relate anything of this character to us, nor we to them, without there being corresponding feelings in the breasts of both listener and hearer. And when we meet our Savior Himself—I think of it often—our martyred Prophet, our martyred Patriarch, our martyred brethren and sisters—will He not love them, will He not crown them with glory? They who have suffered as He suffered, only

in a lesser degree; they who have been hated of the world, whose names have been cast out as evil, who have been persecuted, and who have been slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus—will He not love them? Yes, He will, and He will crown them with a martyr's crown, and with glory in His presence. He will honor all who have been faithful in keeping His commandments and in doing His will.

This that the Latter-day Saints have received is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has sent it down from the heavens in our day for the express purpose of gathering out the honest in heart from great Babylon, which shall fall after a little while, and great will be the fall thereof. The Lord desires to save a remnant from all nations, and hence His servants are commanded to go forth, to every nation to preach the Gospel, and to bear testimony that these are the last days, that the end approacheth, that the coming of the Savior for the second time, in power and in great glory, is near at hand. It is a message of warning to all; and all men are told that if they will seek to God in the name of Jesus and ask Him concerning the truth of this message, they shall know for themselves, by the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon them, that the message is true, that God has sent these men to declare it, and that the facility with which they travel is an evidence of God's favor and willingness to aid them in the proclamation of His message. As another evidence that this is His wish, He pours out upon the people in all lands His Spirit, and impels them to gather together in one place. What a sight is to be seen in these mountains! People who were of almost every creed, at least in Christendom; people trained in various schools; people speaking various languages, all dwelling together in peace and in love, animated by one spirit, united by bonds that are stronger than death. What a sight! Who is there that can contemplate it without being filled with admiration and saying, truly this is a great and marvelous work! The like of it cannot be seen anywhere upon the face of the earth.

And this has been done by the preaching of men whom the world despises. They are not educated as preachers; they have not attended theological seminaries and graduated therefrom. No, no; in many instances, plain simple men, like the fishermen of Galilee. But they have gone forth filled with the power of God, empowered and authorized by Him to declare this message of salvation to the people. And everyone who has listened to it and received it has had a testimony given to him and to her of its truth.

Some talk about hierarchies. There is no hierarchy in the Church of Christ. There is no few men that have the authority to say, "We know this, and you do not; we are your superiors; we stand at your head, and you must obey us." Is there any such thing among this people? Not in the least, and there never has been. "Well, but," says one, "I thought you claimed to have Prophets and Apostles, and that whenever they spoke the people had to submit; that you Apostles and Prophets governed the people, and they do just as you tell them, or else they are considered apostates."

I know that this is a prevalent idea. It prevails everywhere where the people are not known. Yet nothing more foreign to the truth could be stated. There is no such thing in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is this: The man who holds the keys and who presides over the Church stands as the representative of the Lord Jesus, and through him the revelations of Jesus come to the