

lens, regardless of everyone else's views. If I were to go, and all the rest were to go, with this spirit, then the Spirit of God would be felt in our midst, and that which we would decide upon would be the mind and will of God, because God would reveal it to us. We would see light in the direction where we should go, and we would behold darkness in the direction we should not go.

I allude to this, brethren and sisters, because it is probably as good a time to mention this now as at any time. Sometimes it is the case that men, before they go into council, talk over matters and exchange views, and get their ideas already fixed. The result is, when they come together, they are not in a condition to receive the mind and will of God as they should be. That is the way politicians do. Politicians, before they go into convention, are apt to canvas over the men or measures they are going to sustain, and by exchanging their views get themselves so that they know they are going to stand by each other. I say to you, as Elders and Latter-day Saints, that anything of that kind in this Church is not right, is not of God. It is not right for us, before going into council, to commit ourselves to any line of action, nor to any decision. It is just such things as these that frequently lead to division and to strife in the Church of Christ—men determined beforehand that they are going to have their way, regardless of others. "I am going to have my will; I am going to carry my point; I am going to have what I think to be right, regardless of the will of others or of the will of God." Beware of such a spirit! It will lead to evil, to division, to strife, and to the withholding of the mind and will of God from us. Now, if we love this work and desire its prosperity; if we desire God to rule and to control, we should say: "Not my will, Father, but thine be done," just as our Savior did. He would not allow His will to come in contact with the will of His Father, although He was the Son of God and one of the Godhead. He taught submission on this point. That should never be forgotten by any of us. You read His life and His expressions—how full He was of reverence for His Father, our Great Creator. He had no will that was not entirely subject to the will of His Heavenly Father. If this were the case with our Redeemer, with the Creator of the world, how much more should it be the case with us who are so much inferior, and who know so little in comparison with Him.

Now, brethren and sisters, in the family this same thing applies. There are many things arise in families. The father and the mother get together. They want to come to some conclusion respecting some enterprise, perhaps; it may be respecting a son or a daughter—the course to take in relation to that son, the best advice to give to that daughter. How should they come together? Should it be with their minds fixed; the mother determined that she is going to have her way; the father determined that he is

going to have his way, he being the head? No; the father and the mother should come together, and every member of the household, with a spirit to wait upon the Lord, to wait for the manifestation of His mind and will; not with any pre-conceived ideas and a pre-determined plan; for when that is the case, then the manifestation of the mind of the Lord is withheld so that we cannot, under such circumstances, receive the light of the Spirit.

This can be carried into all the details of life; for it is the privilege of the Latter-day Saints to have revelation; it is the privilege of fathers, of mothers, of children, of every member of this Church, young or old, to receive revelation, under proper circumstances, and when needed. And this is the way to receive it. This is the way that the Church of Christ is guided. Many suppose that the Lord, when He wants a thing done, sends His angels to tell us what to do. He may do under certain circumstances. But the guide that God has given unto the Presidency of this Church, and unto the Apostles, and unto all who stand in responsible stations, is the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost. It is by its guidance and by the light which it gives that this Church is led. And it is obtained by waiting patiently for the Lord to make known His will and preparing ourselves for it, asking him to give it. It comes then in power. It comes with the clearness of the light of the sun. It comes overpoweringly, so that there can be no doubt left in the mind as to the correctness of the course. In this way this Church has been led from the beginning. It is being led in that manner now, and it will be led in that manner until Jesus himself shall come. If the Church is led in this manner, then, of course, you can see that every department of the Church ought to be led in like manner and by the same influence. When the Holy Ghost is with you, then God is with you, and the power of God is with you; for the Holy Ghost is one of the Godhead. This is the precious privilege that God has given unto those who have entered into covenant with him. It may not come with any outward demonstration. You remember about the Prophet Elijah. He stood upon the mount before the Lord. "And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." It was in the "still small voice" that God manifested himself. So it is with us. When that still small voice is heard in our hearts, and we listen to it, it will guide us in the way of truth and reveal unto us everything necessary for our salvation and exaltation. If we follow it carefully, we will walk in the path that will lead us to the presence of God. Then when we dwell in His presence we

shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known. But now we have to walk by faith, and not by sight, and the Holy Ghost is given to guide us in the path that God has marked out.

The preaching of the Gospel has produced most wonderful results in this respect. We have been told that all the nations of the earth will have to be warned. This Gospel will be preached as a witness, Jesus said, unto all nations; then the end shall come. I have felt that some of our folks sometimes have been considerably exercised at the thought that every creature would have to hear the sound of the Gospel. But God has ways of warning the inhabitants of the earth as well as by the voice of His servants. The nations of the earth have received very great and powerful testimonies, that will leave them without excuse, although they may never have had an Elder visit them. It has been thought that a great many thousands of people that ought to hear the Gospel were left in ignorance, and that we have not done our full duty in warning the rich and the learned, and those who were outside of the circle which our Elders generally reach. Now the facts are these, when we look at it properly: It seems to me that the inhabitants of the earth are left without excuse, because of the knowledge of this work that has gone forth among this nation and among all the nations of the earth. It is true, there have been a great many falsehoods told about us, and a great many honest people have been deceived by these falsehoods. But, nevertheless, the sound of this Gospel has gone to the remotest ends of the earth, and the character of this work is such that the inhabitants of the earth are left without an excuse—at least, in many of the nations. They are held without excuse, if not for rejecting us, at least for not investigating the principles of the Gospel.

It is now about fifty years since the Saints began to gather from Europe to Zion. During this time numerous ships have crossed the ocean, bearing Latter-day Saints to the place which God has designated as a place of gathering. This has not been done in a corner. It has been done in the sight of all the civilized nations of the earth. They have seen and heard of the Latter-day Saints going up to Zion, in fulfillment of the predictions of Isaiah and Micah concerning the gathering of the Saints in the last days. Isaiah says:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

For fifty years this has been going on. I remember myself, on one occasion, chartering a ship in Liverpool that carried some nine hundred Latter-day Saints, and in that ship's company there was no less than eleven nationalities represented. But if you had asked those