

God, adultery, dishonesty, and vice of every kind, and endeavoring, as the agents of Satan, to bring the rest of the family of God into the same dreadful condition which they now occupy. Some of these spirits, it seems, took possession of this man. Therefore, if it be argued that it is impossible for a spirit to occupy so small a space as an infant tabernacle, we have here an illustration of the power of spiritual element to compress itself or to be compressed, in a wonderful degree.

We did exist before we came here. Probably there is scarcely a man or a woman that has not had sometimes revived in their memory a dim recollection of something that has taken place before they came here, as though it had happened like a dream, in some other place or some other world. I have heard many men and women, after they heard the Gospel, say, "why, it seems to me as though I had always known that. These principles were perfectly familiar to me, like something I had heard and been familiar with long before, but I had forgotten them."

There is no doubt in my mind that we were familiar with the principles of the Gospel; and though they had faded from our memories, yet when we heard them again the recollection was revived. I believe that when we see our Father in heaven we shall know Him; and the recollection that we were once with Him, and that He was our father, will come back to us, and we will fall upon His neck, and He will fall upon us, and we will kiss each other. We will know our Mother, also. We will know those who have begotten us in the spirit world just as much as we will know each other after we pass from this state of existence into another sphere. President Woodruff said yesterday that we would know our infants; that our dead would be in the form in which they were laid down. Yes, we shall know each other. The husband who has parted with his wife or wives will know them again. And so with the wives who have buried their husbands. The parents who have buried children will know them. The children who have buried parents will recognize them. They will be in the old form. They will see them purified, cleansed, immortalized and exalted, it is true; but the recognition will be perfect.

I was a boy when my people gathered with the Saints of God. I was very curious to know the Prophet Joseph, having heard a great deal about him. I happened to be in a large crowd of people where the Prophet was, and I selected him out of that large body of people. There were no means of recognition that I knew of which would suggest him to me as the Prophet; but I recognized him as though I had always known him. I

am satisfied that I had known him and been familiar with him. There are instances which all of us doubtless have known, which have proved to us that there has been a spiritual acquaintance existing between us. We frequently say, "How familiar that person's face is to me." In this way kindred spirits are brought together. We are drawn together by this knowledge and this acquaintanceship, which, I have no doubt, was formed anterior to our birth in this state of existence.

So, I believe, it will be hereafter. Memory will be quickened to a wonderful extent. Every deed that we have done will be brought to our recollection. Every acquaintance made will be remembered. There will be no scenes or incidents in our lives that will be forgotten by us in the world to come. You have heard of men who have been drowning or have fallen from a great height, describe, that in about a second or two every event of their lives passed before them like a panorama, with the rapidity of lightning. This shows what power there is latent in the human mind, which, when quickened by the power of God, will make men and women recall not only that which pertains to this life, but our memories will stretch back to the life we had before we came here, with the associations we had with our Father and God and with those bright spirits that stand around His throne, and with the righteous and holy ones.

It has been often said that we were ordained before we came here. There is not a doubt of this in my mind. Abraham described this in a most beautiful manner, how he saw certain ones, and the Lord told him who these were; that he (Abraham), was one of them; that he had been chosen to perform a great and mighty work. So it is with all who have been chosen.

But let me refer here to one doctrine that I have found somewhat prevalent even among Elders. I shall not dwell upon it here; it would take more time than I have to spare for me to enlarge upon it. What I allude to is the idea that there is such a thing as predestination—that is, in the bad sense of that word, that some are predestined to be damned, and others to be saved; that some will be damned, no matter what they do. I wish to remove, if I can, by what I may say, this fallacy from the minds of my brethren and sisters. People confound foreknowledge with foreordination. Because God foreknows a thing, it does not follow that He has foreordained it. He foreknew that Pharaoh would fight Israel and would reject the testimonies which Moses and Aaron bore to him. But Pharaoh had the full use of his agency. It was in his power to have accepted the message which Moses delivered; it was in his power also to reject that message. He chose to reject it; and God magni-

fied His name in the earth by showing His wonderful works among the Egyptians. But He did not foreordain Pharaoh to be damned. His foreknowledge extends to the uttermost end of life. He knows all about us. Jesus knew that one of His Apostles would be a devil. But it was not foreordained that Judas should be a devil. He chose that part himself, in the exercise of his agency. He betrayed the Son of God and brought upon himself the dreadful fate which befel him. So with Esau. He had equal opportunities with Jacob. Cain had equal opportunities with Abel. God told him that his offering would be accepted if he would do right. God plead with him; his father, no doubt, also plead with him to forsake sin and unrighteousness. But he took the other course.

Do not be deceived, brethren and sisters, and allow any such thought to enter into your hearts, that you are fated to be damned, that you are fated to commit sin, that you are fated to be surrounded by inextricable circumstances which break you down. There is no such doctrine in the Gospel of the Son of God. We have our free and unfettered agency, as we were told so plainly yesterday.

We have the agency to do that which is right; the agency also to do that which is wrong. But it is for us to do that which is right. It is for us to keep the commandments of God and to serve Him with all our hearts; and if we will do this God will bring us off triumphant. We shall triumph over every obstacle, and this Kingdom of our God will spread and increase in power; it will overcome all the difficulties with which it has to contend, until every word spoken concerning it will be fulfilled. It will fill the whole earth; it will rule and bear dominion, and Jesus will come to reign on the earth for a thousand years. If we are faithful we shall reign with Him; those who go to sleep will be resurrected and will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, as well as those who are alive, as the Apostle Paul says: That day is near at hand. Be encouraged; do not be discouraged and fearful in your hearts, for God is watching over this work and over you. There is not a hair of your heads but what is numbered. Not a sparrow—a bird that is so common among us here now—can fall to the ground without His notice, and you are of more value than many sparrows. God watches over you; His care is for you; His angels are around about you.

Remember what He said on one occasion: "Be careful that you do not offend the least of these My little ones; for I say unto you that their angels are before the face of my Father continually." Offend not then the elect of God. Be careful about trespassing upon your brethren and sisters. Their angels