

## BE TRUE TO THYSELF.

Be true to thyself, in the right never failer,  
Though others prove false as a mirage in  
air.

Never swerve from the good, and time  
never can alter  
Thy peace by its sorrows,—thy love by its  
care.

Be true to thyself, cherish every affection  
That's gentle, and noble, and truthful and  
pure,  
And the strength of the Highest shall be  
thy protection,  
So long as thy love for thy God shall en-  
dure.

Be true to thyself, though the past, with its  
sorrow,  
And all its lost hopes, are remembered by  
thee;  
Though the present be lonely, a brighter  
to-morrow  
May herald a future from sorrow set free.

Be true to thyself, and thy heart will for-  
ever

Be true to all others; all truth is sublime.  
Be true to thy God, and his goodness shall  
never  
Desert thee, through all the mutations of  
time.

J. H. WARD.

Salt Lake City, May 12th, 1878.

## DISCOURSE

BY

PREST. JOHN TAYLOR

Delivered at the Conference, Salt  
Lake City, Sunday after-  
noon, April 8th, 1878.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I shall feel very much obliged,  
while I attempt to address you, if  
you will keep as quiet as possible;  
because it is quite a labor to speak  
to so large a congregation, and un-  
less quiet and order is preserved, it  
is impossible for all the people to  
hear.

I have been very much interested  
and edified in listening to the re-  
marks made by the brethren since  
we have assembled together in this  
conference. And I have been very  
much pleased in witnessing the  
union and general feeling of interest  
manifested among the people to at-  
tend these meetings. It is evidence  
to me that the people feel interested  
in these great and eternal principles  
developed through our holy religion,  
and that they have a desire to yield  
obedience to the law of God and to  
keep his commandments. And in  
that alone is our safety, our happi-  
ness, our prosperity and our exalta-  
tion, as a people; for we derive every  
benefit we enjoy, whether of a tempo-  
ral or of a spiritual nature  
from our Heavenly Father; and  
without him we can do or perform  
no good work, for in him "we live  
and move and have our being,"  
and from him, and through him  
we receive all blessings pertaining  
to this life, and we shall hereafter,  
if we possess eternal lives, inherit  
them and obtain them through the  
goodness, mercy and long-suffering  
of God our Eternal Father, through  
the merits and redemption of Jesus  
Christ our Savior.

It is not in man to direct, to man-  
age and control affairs of the King-  
dom of God. No man ever did  
possess that power, nor will he, un-  
aided by the power of the Almighty.  
All nations, and all peoples are more  
or less under his direction and con-  
trol, although many of them do not  
know it. He raises up one nation,  
and puts down another, he debases  
the proud, and exalts the humble  
at his pleasure, and he pursues that  
course among all the peoples and  
nations of the earth, as seemeth  
best unto him; and all nations and  
all peoples are his offspring, and he  
is the God and Father of the spirits  
of all flesh, and feels an interest in  
the welfare of all the human fami-  
ly. He has been in the ages that  
are past, and he is in the present  
age doing all that he can to promote  
the happiness and well-being of the  
human family. This does not al-  
ways appear to men of superficial  
minds, the dealings of God with  
man are not always comprehended.  
But he nevertheless does control  
the destinies of all peoples; and if  
in many instances it does not seem  
for their present benefit, yet as  
mankind are eternal beings, having  
to do with eternity as well as time,  
when the secrets of all hearts shall  
be developed and the actions of  
gods shall be made known and  
fully comprehended in the future  
destinies of the races of men, it  
will be found that the Judge of all  
the earth has done right.

The Lord has in these last days, for

his own special purpose, and also in  
the interest of humanity, revealed  
himself from the heavens, made  
manifest his will to man, sent his  
holy angels to communicate and  
reveal unto us his children certain  
principles as they exist in the bosom  
of God, and he has pointed out the  
way whereby we may secure our  
happiness and an eternal exaltation  
in the celestial kingdom of God.  
He has been pleased to restore  
again the everlasting Gospel in all  
its fulness, with all its riches and  
blessings and power and glory. He  
has organized his church and king-  
dom upon the earth; he has chosen  
men as he did in former times to  
be the bearers of his message of life  
and salvation to the nations of the  
earth. He has, through these in-  
struments, instructed us, and gath-  
ered us together, as we are found  
here to-day, from the different na-  
tions where the gospel reached us.  
He has brought us here according  
to certain eternal principles which  
he had in his mind before the world  
was and according to certain coun-  
cils that existed in the heavens  
among the Gods, who have been  
operating upon and with the hu-  
man family from the commence-  
ment to the present, and will until  
the winding up scene.

The work that we are engaged in  
is not the work of man, it did not  
originate with man, it was not  
found out by him. It is the work  
that has been prophesied of by all  
the holy prophets that have lived  
on this continent, on the continent  
of Asia, and in the various portions  
of the earth. As the Apostle Paul  
describes it, it is "the dispensation  
of the fulness of times spoken of by  
all the holy prophets since the  
world was." And anything that  
we may have received—any light,  
any intelligence, any knowledge of  
the things of God, have eman-  
ated and proceeded from him. He  
saw and comprehended the fitting  
time for this work to commence;  
he prepared the way by once more  
opening the heavens, by revealing  
himself and his Son Jesus, and by  
afterwards sending holy angels to  
communicate his will and his pur-  
poses and designs to the human  
family. It therefore did not origi-  
nate with us, nor with any sect or  
party or people, for nobody, not even  
Joseph Smith, or Brigham Young,  
or any of the Twelve Apostles  
knew anything about the great  
principles that were stored up in  
the mind of God. It was the mind  
and will and revelations of God,  
made known to the human family,  
in the first place to Joseph Smith,  
and through him to others. And  
when the elders of this Church  
went forth to the nations of the  
earth, as bearers of the gospel mes-  
sage, if they had gone upon their  
own responsibility they could have  
accomplished nothing. But hav-  
ing been chosen and set apart of the  
Lord, they went forth as his mes-  
sengers, without purse or scrip,  
trusting in Him. And he opened  
up their way and prepared their  
path, as he said beforehand that he  
would. "Behold," said he, "I send  
you forth to the nations of the  
earth, and my Spirit shall go with  
you, and my angels shall prepare  
the way for you." I send you forth  
not to be taught, but to teach, not  
to be instructed by the world of  
mankind or the intelligence of the  
world, but by the wisdom and in-  
telligence and power and spirit  
which I shall give you, and it is  
through and by this influence that  
we have been gathered together.  
And why are we gathered? These  
elders could not have gathered you  
unless God had been with them;  
they could not have influenced  
you to come here unless  
the Spirit and power of their  
mission had been with them. But  
the Lord said in former years  
through his prophets, "I will take  
you one of a city, and two of a  
family, and I will bring you to Zion.  
And I will give you pastors accord-  
ing to mine heart, which shall feed  
you with knowledge and under-  
standing." And through the oper-  
ation and influence of the Spirit of  
the living God, manifested through  
the priesthood, God's ministers on  
the earth, you have been brought  
together as you are to-day. But  
why should we be thus gathered  
together? That there may be a  
body of people found to whom God  
can communicate his will, that there  
might be a people who should be  
prepared to listen to the word and  
will and voice of God: that there  
might be a people gathered together  
from the different nations who, un-  
der the influence of that spirit  
should become saviors upon Mount  
Zion; that they might, under the  
inspiration of the Almighty, and

through the power of the Holy  
Priesthood which they should  
receive, go forth to those nations  
and proclaim to the people the prin-  
ciples of life, that they might in-  
deed become the saviors of men.  
And if we could fully comprehend  
our position, we should see things  
very differently from what we now  
do. If we could comprehend our  
relationship to God, to each other,  
to his church upon the earth, and  
also the greatness and magnitude  
of the work in which we are engag-  
ed, and the responsibilities that de-  
volve upon us, as elders in Israel,  
as saints of the Most High God, we  
should see things in a very different  
light from what we now do. We  
are not here, as they say in the  
Church of England, to "follow the  
devices and desires of our own  
hearts;" we are not here to pursue  
our own individual interests and  
emoluments, we are not here mere-  
ly to attend to our own secular af-  
fairs, but to learn the laws of life,  
and then teach the people the way  
of salvation. There was an old  
saying among ancient Israel: "Hear,  
O Israel, the Lord our God is one  
Lord, and thou shalt worship the  
Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
with all thy mind, with all thy  
soul, and with all thy strength, and  
him only shalt thou worship." And  
Jesus, in after time, added a little  
more to this: "Thou shalt love thy  
neighbor as thyself." God is one,  
and they who dwell with him are  
one. Those who will inherit the  
celestial kingdom will be one when  
they get there; and we, as a people,  
ought to be one—one in faith, one  
in principle, one in practice, one in  
our interests, one in our associations  
with each other and in our families,  
one with God, one with the holy  
angels, one in time, and one in  
eternity.

To bring about a union of this  
kind, the principle of baptism has  
been introduced that we all might  
be baptized into one baptism, by  
the laying on of hands, and through  
the various orders of his priesthood,  
we all partake of the same spirit;  
and being brought into union and  
communion with God, that we all  
might feel after God, that the  
tens of thousands, and hundreds of  
thousands might be brought into  
connection with the Almighty,  
whose prayers could ascend into the  
ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. And  
for the accomplishment of this  
purpose, he selected Joseph Smith  
to be the first apostle in his church;  
he was called "not by the will of  
man," nor by the power of man,  
nor by the intelligence of man, but  
by God who revealed himself unto  
this young man, as also the savior,  
committing unto him a mission to  
perform to the inhabitants of this  
earth. He was endowed with pow-  
er and authority which was given  
him for that purpose, that he might  
be the legitimate representative of  
God upon the earth. He also taught  
him how to organize his church,  
and put him in communication  
with many of the ancient prophets  
who have long since passed away,  
who also communicated with him,  
and revealed unto him further the  
plan and design of the Almighty  
in relation to this earth, and the sal-  
vation of all who would listen  
to the principles of truth.

The nations of the earth have  
their representatives, their minist-  
ers, their plenipotentiaries, empow-  
ered and sent forth by the recogniz-  
ed authority of the several nations.  
He was the representative of God,  
his credentials came from God, and  
his mission extended not to one na-  
tion only, but to all nations; and he  
was authorized to establish and or-  
ganize what was termed the Church  
and Kingdom of God upon the  
earth. And every step that he  
took, every principle that he incul-  
cated, and every doctrine that he  
taught, came from God by the re-  
velations of God to him, and through  
him to the people. He selected  
others by revelation—apostles, high  
priests, seventies, bishops, elders,  
priests, teachers and deacons, also  
high councils, and bishop's coun-  
cils, and patriarchs, and all the vari-  
ous authorities and organizations of  
this church. Joseph Smith neither  
knew how to select men, whom to  
select, nor what their offices should  
be until it was communicated by  
the Lord. And yet we find that  
these principles revealed to him,  
agree with those that existed in  
former ages whenever God had a  
church or people on the earth.  
And hence the ushering in of the  
Gospel simply means the revelation  
of the will of God to man; it simply  
means the placing of mankind in  
communication with the Lord that  
he may not be governed by his own  
follies or notions or theories, but by

the will and word of God. And the  
examples that you heard referred  
to here, of our stakes, with their  
pre-edicencies, together with the  
bishops and their council, etc., is a  
part of the system of heaven, as it  
exists in the eternal worlds; and  
the priesthood that we hold is the  
everlasting priesthood, and it ad-  
ministers in time, and it will  
administer in eternity; and a  
knowledge of the works that  
we are now engaged in, in  
regard to the building of temples  
and administering therein, all came  
from God, and are a part of the eter-  
nal system. Who knew about them  
until God revealed it? Nobody.  
Who knows how to administer ac-  
ceptably in these temples without  
revelation? Nobody but those to  
whom it has been communicated,  
it came from God. And our preach-  
ing to the living, and our adminis-  
tering for the dead are all of them  
parts and parcels of the same con-  
cern. The fact is, we are in a state  
of probation; we have enlisted  
under the banner of the Almighty;  
we have dedicated ourselves to him  
for time and for eternity, and he ex-  
pects it at our hands that we be  
true to the trust conferred upon us,  
that we be faithful to our obligations  
and fulfill them, that we honor our  
God, that we magnify our callings  
and priesthood, and that we stand  
forth among the people and before  
the nations, as the representatives  
of God upon the earth. We have a  
similar view to that of the Apostle  
Paul, who said when addressing  
himself to the Corinthians: "Ye  
are not your own, for ye are bought  
with a price; therefore glorify God  
in your body, and in your spirit,  
which are God's." We have en-  
listed in a work, have engaged in a  
warefare that will last while time  
shall be, and if we live our religion  
and keep his commandments, the  
principles that we are in possession  
of will bear us off triumphant over  
death, hell and the grave, and land  
us among the just, among the cele-  
stial host that dwell with our  
Father in heaven. We really have  
no time to attend to those trivial  
affairs, that some people seem to  
think ought to occupy so much of  
our time. I wish now, while we are  
together to talk upon some general  
principles associated with the  
priesthood which has been con-  
ferred upon us.

It was said of ancient Israel, if  
they had kept the commandments,  
that he would have made out of  
them a kingdom of priests. We  
are literally a kingdom of priests  
to-day. Our business is not to fol-  
low our own will, our own desires  
and plans, but to seek to know and  
to do the will of God, to carry out  
these principles which he has re-  
vealed, and in this is our happiness  
and exaltation in time, and will be  
throughout the eternities that are  
to come.

We ought to be operating with  
God, and with the holy angels; we  
ought to be feeling after them, we  
ought to be operating with the  
ancient priesthood that have lived  
before—the patriarchs, the prophets,  
the apostles, and all those men of  
God who have lived and died in the  
faith who act with God our Heav-  
enly Father, and with Jesus the Me-  
diator of the new covenant. We  
ought to be operating with them  
in establishing righteousness  
throughout the earth, not nomally,  
but really; we ought to be laboring  
in conjunction with them in sav-  
ing the living, not to make it a  
hardship and a trouble and a toil;  
something that we can hardly en-  
dure to go through; but on the con-  
trary, feeling it an honor to be as-  
sociated with the interests of God  
and bearers of the message of life  
and salvation, and also seeking for  
wisdom, and intelligence, and  
power and revelation from God to  
carry out his will and designs, and  
to accomplish his purposes upon the  
earth.

Will his purposes be accomplish-  
ed? They will. Will the Gospel  
grow, spread and increase? I tell you,  
in the name of Israel's God, it will.  
Will the time come when every  
fictitious thing will be removed,  
when light and truth shall prevail,  
and when the kingdoms of this  
world will become the kingdoms of  
our God and his Christ? I tell you  
it will, and God will hasten it in  
his time. And this priesthood and  
this people are to be the instru-  
ments, in the hands of God, in con-  
nection with the priesthood who  
have gone before, who are now op-  
erating in their sphere, as we are  
in ours. The Lord hath so ordain-  
ed, says the apostle, "that they,  
(referring to the dead) without us  
should not be made perfect;" neither  
can we without them be made per-

fect. There needs to be a welding  
and uniting together, that in all of  
our doings as God's servants and  
representatives, we may be influ-  
enced and directed from above,  
being united with the Gods in  
heaven we may become one in all  
things upon the earth, and after-  
wards one in the heavens. And  
says the Lord, "If ye are not one,  
ye are not mine." Every-  
thing that tends to divide the peo-  
ple, as you heard this morning;  
proceeds from beneath, and those  
that are engaged in it are the em-  
issaries of the devil; for as he is the  
father of lies, so he is also the  
father of division, strife and discord.  
But union, peace, love, harmony,  
fellowship, brotherhood and every-  
thing honorable, noble and exalting,  
proceeds from God; these are the  
principles that we ought to seek  
after and to disseminate as far as  
we can everywhere and among all  
peoples. And then when we have  
done that work, turn our attention  
to the building of temples and  
minister in them for the dead, that  
we may operate with the fathers  
in the interest of their posterity,  
helping them to perform that for  
their posterity which they were not  
able to do.

And in regard to the world, what  
ought our feelings to be towards  
them? A feeling of generosity, a  
feeling of kindness, a feeling of  
sympathy, with our hearts full of  
charity, long-suffering and benevo-  
lence, as God our Father has, for  
he makes his sun to rise on the evil  
as well as the good; he sends his  
rain on the unjust as well as the  
just. And while we abjure the  
evils, the corruptions, the fraud  
and iniquity, the lasciviousness and  
the lyings and abominations that  
exist in the world, whenever we  
see an honorable principle, a desire  
to do right, whenever we see an  
opening to promote the happiness  
of any of these people, or to reclaim  
the wanderer, it is our duty to do it,  
as saviors on Mount Zion.

Will they have trouble? Yes.  
Will there be tribulation? Yes.  
Will nation be arrayed against na-  
tion? Yes. Will thrones be cast  
down and empires destroyed? Yes.  
Will there be war, and carnage and  
bloodshed? Yes. But these things  
are with the people and with God.  
It is not for us; we have a mission  
to perform, and that is to preach  
the gospel and introduce correct  
principles, to unfold the laws of  
God as men are prepared to receive  
them, to build up his Zion upon  
the earth, and to prepare a people  
for the time when the bursting  
heavens will reveal the Son of God,  
"and when every creature on the  
earth and under the earth will be  
heard to say, blessing and glory,  
and honor, and power, and might,  
and majesty and dominion be  
ascribed to him that sits upon the  
throne, and unto the Lamb for  
ever."

Will this people grow and increase?  
Yes. And the time will come—it is  
not now, we are not prepared for it—when  
calamity and trouble and bloodshed, confu-  
sion and strife will spread among all the  
nations of the earth. The time will come,  
and is not far distant, when those who  
will not take up the sword to fight against their  
neighbors, will have to flee to Zion for  
safety. That was true some time ago, and  
it is nearer its fulfillment by a great many  
years than at the time it was first uttered.

What are we here for? To build up or  
aggrandize ourselves? No, but to build  
up the church and kingdom of God upon  
the earth, and to spread the light of truth  
among the nations. That is our duty,  
and also to pray for the revelations of God,  
that the spirit and power of God may rest  
upon us, that we may comprehend correct  
principles and understand the laws of life,  
to guide and guard and protect the ship  
Zion from among the rocks and shoals  
and troubles that will sooner or later over-  
come this nation, and other nations, and  
prepare ourselves for the events that are  
to come. We ought to be men of honor,  
of honesty, of integrity; having our eyes  
single to the glory of God. That is the  
duty of these apostles, and not to act with a  
view for their own aggrandizement and  
for the obtaining of filthy lucre or any-  
thing else pertaining to this world! We  
brought nothing into this world, we can  
take nothing out. It is for us to operate  
for God, and in the interests of his church  
and kingdom.

And what of these other brethren? The  
high priests, they have a mission to per-  
form, and that is to make themselves ac-  
quainted with the laws, doctrines, ordi-  
nances and government of the church of  
God upon the earth; that they may be  
prepared, when called upon, to fulfill the  
duties and responsibilities devolving upon  
them. I will here read part of a revelation  
which indicates the nature of these duties.  
"And again I give unto you, Don C. Smith,  
to be a president over a quorum of high  
priests, which ordinance is instituted for  
the purpose of qualifying those who shall  
be appointed standing presidents over the  
different stakes scattered abroad. Hear it,  
O ye high priests! This is the prominent  
duty devolving upon you. The position  
you occupy is a sort of a normal school,  
you please, to prepare those who are in