

# NO SACRIFICE TO BE A LATTER-DAY SAINT

Discourse Delivered

BY ELDER DAVID MCKENZIE,

In the Salt Lake Tabernacle, on the Occasion of the Pioneer Stake Conference, Sunday, October 26, 1907.

Reported by F. W. Utterstrom.

My beloved brethren and sisters and friends: In being called upon to occupy a portion of the time this afternoon, I was reminded of a little incident that occurred a short time ago. We were in a meeting capacity of the high council of the Pioneer Stake of Zion, and it may not be unwise to allude to that, inasmuch as this is a conference of the Pioneer stake. President McLachlan was evidently deeply interested in the welfare of the stakes. We had been discussing how to best promote and advance the interests of the people there, and more directly in the organization, protection and assistance for the young. The president asked a question something like this: "I would like to ask you, my brethren, what would be best for the welfare of the people of the Pioneer stake." It came to me like an inspiration to say, "Communion with God." The following morning, in our office, Elder Cannon remarked, "You made me think of the coming of President McLeskey," I wanted to say, "The Spirit of God." Thus both of us met the question of the president in a proper way, I think so yet, and although that was alluding to the Pioneer stake of Zion, yet it will apply, beyond peradventure, to the members of the various stakes of Zion as well, and to all who are interested in the welfare of the children of men, in this dispensation of the fulness of time.

SCIENCE CONFIRMS REVELATION.

I desire to speak briefly of one matter upon which I have been led to reflect. I cannot help but notice that invention has made very great progress, and science in the abstract has not been behind the times. In the various fields of science, discoveries, coverages and conclusions reached—so far as science can reach them—of many principles that have been advanced by the Prophet Joseph Smith in this dispensation, among them: the eternity of matter, the eternity of life, the endless duration thereof, and many other truths, but time will not allow me to dwell upon them. In this connection, that connection, however, I am reminded of the Prophet Joseph. The Lord revealed to him that "all things are governed and controlled by law"—not that law is the governor and controller in the sense of being the creator, but law is the method by which the Creator works. Herbert Spencer, however, in the way who has little faith if any in revealed religion, has given a definition of eternal life, and when we read the writings of such a man, in which he lays it down in so plain a way that it is impossible to gainsay his arguments; and when we hear other scientists point out that there is only one system of code or law in the reception of the spiritual life of man—that there are no distinct sets of laws, but that they are governed by the same law—namely, "Life can only come from antecedent life," how forcefully it brings to mind the necessity of that great principle of our holy religion—the gift of the Holy Ghost.

After faith and repentance—then baptism by water. For what purpose? For the remission of sins, that the candidate may stand before our Father in Heaven free from sin, for only in that condition can he receive spiritual life. I say it is with pleasure that I read that scientists conclude that there is but one way to communicate life, both the natural and the spiritual.

SIMILARITY OF THE SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL.

I have before me a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, in the year 1838, entitled, "The Book of Mormon." I will read a very short paragraph:

"And the Lord spake unto Adam saying: Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin even so when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter that they may know to prize the good and it is given unto them to know good from evil. And when the agents unto themselves; and I have given you another law and commandment to teach these things freely unto your children saying: that by transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death, and inasmuch as ye were born into this world by water and blood and the spirit which I have made, and so by water and blood shall ye be born again; even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven by water and of the spirit and be cleansed by blood." The same elements in which are comprehended the natural birth, the physical birth of the body, "and be clothed by blood, even the blood of my Only Begotten that ye might be sanctified from all sin." These words of eternal life in this world and eternal life in the world to come even immortal glory. For by the water ye keep the commandment, by the spirit ye are justified; and by the blood ye are sanctified; therefore it is given to you to keep to the record of heaven, the Comforter of the peaceable things of immortal glory.

LIFE SHAPED BY ENVIRONMENT.

Here we see the same elements pertaining to the birth of the spiritual life that there are to the birth of the

**HE VISITED SOME PATIENTS**

(Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily News.)

A representative of the News has just returned from a very successful visit to California.

Concerning the reports that the long sought cure for Bright's Disease has been discovered, he took special pains to find out the truth of the matter, and came back fully convinced.

One lady, the wife of a San Francisco editor, not only told of her husband's remarkable recovery after physicians had given him up, but she related off as of a fact that she had never heard of them nor of it who had recovered. One case was particularly interesting. It was a case of Bright's Disease in which the young man was so impressed that nothing could be done that he had to be tricked into taking the new specifics. Each time a dose was administered a tablespoonful of his old medicine was secretly disposed of, thus allaying suspicion. But when the disease of the young man recovered, the physician became elated, thinking he had discovered a cure for Bright's Disease. It was not until the patient was so well along toward recovery that there was no uncertainty about it that the whole plot was disclosed. One of San Francisco's principal druggists had confided his own recent recovery to the astonished statement that he had to give it to between 40 and 50 and only knew of a few failures.—Chattanooga Daily News.

We sent for this treatment for patients here and will give full information.—F. J. Hill Drug Co., Salt Lake City.

In the holiday season replete with good things to eat, fine pastries are important, the lightest and best are made from

## HUSLER'S FLOUR.

Both 'phones 128.

spiritual development, Jesus Himself said: "I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." Those people, to whom He spoke were naturally living according to their ways, but that was not the kind of life He meant. He meant the spiritual life and might have said, "I am come that ye might have spiritual life; and that ye might have it more abundantly." "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Surely they might live as human beings, but they had not the spiritual life that Christ was speaking about. Then we read in Second Nephi that "to be carnal-minded is to be but to be spiritual-minded is to be like unto God." There is the difference, then, between natural life and spiritual life, and the trend of mankind is to follow the natural carver; hence the Apostle Paul says: "The natural man receiveth not the things of God, the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned." That is the difference between the Latter-day Saints and the people of the world.

My brethren and sisters, my time is up. Let us as Latter-day Saints remember that we must not be carried away by the things of the world, because we are in peace in Zion, and there is little to harass or trouble our minds, but there is enough when we have to overcome this carnal nature that is within us, and when we know that we are but a step from the world, life, then we have to be nourished, cherished and disciplined and that is done by another priesthood outside of ourselves. The scientists call it "environment." That is a very expressive word, and we may as well use it as any other; it simply means all sorts of ourselves, outside of our individuality. For example, we cannot continue to live unless we eat. If we fail to comply with that requirement of the body, death must follow. We could not continue to live (I am, of course, speaking of life pertaining to the human organism) unless we could breathe, and unless we had air to breathe, unless we had the water to drink, etc. These are environment, and they not only sustain us in life, but develop our organism. We have been developed now from a physical standpoint. We live and move and have our being in our surroundings, but from a moral standpoint these have also a great deal to do with us. The associates we keep company with, the schools we attend, the books we read—all these tend to make the human being what he is. We are influenced by those things to such a degree that the environment has almost everything to do with who we are, after we are born. It is very so with the spiritual life; in order that we attain to that development for which we were created, even to become as God our Father is, by a continued course of observing the commandments and laws that are instituted for that purpose. It is requisite first that we should be born the second time, to be free from the effects of the fall, for there is a "natural" principle within man continually operating upon him, making him do what he likes to do, the mere animal, pleasure-seeking, conscience, blinding reason, and carrying the will." This is the principle that we receive from our first parents, but there is another principle, ordained of God, and that is the principle of salvation, which provides that by the exercise of our free agency, our willingness to comply with the terms thereof, we may overcome that principle of sin in our natures and become as God intended we should be; and that principle the spiritual life that we receive from the second birth.

But inasmuch as we are free agents, we have the conscious power of choice as to whom we shall serve. In the case of the air we breathe and the sun that warms us, we receive these almost automatically, but in the case of the spiritual growth and development, we have to deliberate which we shall serve—whether we will listen to the voice of that natural principle that is within us, which leads us to sin, or whether we will listen to that spirit which we received when we are pure by obeying the commandments of God, by faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.

From this point of view we cannot fail to see now immediately the importance that the Latter-day Saints teach to all mankind, and are willing to testify for themselves that they know by obedience thereto that they have received, through the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Ghost, even the power of God, the gift of spiritual life, the gift of salvation, the gift of immortality, the gift of exaltation, the gift of God, and that is the principle of salvation, which provides that by the exercise of our free agency, our willingness to comply with the terms thereof, we may overcome that principle of sin in our natures and become as God our Father is, by a continued course of observing the commandments and laws that are instituted for that purpose. 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