

dowed, for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Each and all should set an example worthy the emulation of the younger members of the Church, an example whose influence shall be felt for good in whatever sphere he might be laboring in.

All men are entitled to a testimony of the divinity of this work; and it is the exception to find a man connected with it who does not possess that testimony. It is because of this testimony that exists in the hearts of the members of this Church, that the Elder, in his weakness, is enabled to go forth to the unbelieving world as a preacher of the Gospel; it is the consciousness of this testimony burning in his heart, and of his duty to his fellow man, which sustains him in responding to the call that is made upon him. And although weak in and of himself he feels strong in the Lord, and promises in confidence and great assurance to all who believe in him as a messenger of salvation, the witness of the Holy Spirit which should reveal to them the mind and will of God and place them in possession of the same testimony which he himself possesses. After manifesting to each other and to the world our faith in God, in thus leaving all that was near and dear and facing a cold and unbelieving world, and after witnessing so remarkably the convincing power of God poured out upon those who believed, our testimony, do we, on returning to the common duties of life at home, show by our example that we are consistent with our missionary life, and that our conduct and the spirit that pervades us are in keeping with the light and knowledge we possess?

I believe that no individual should pin his faith to any man, but that each and every member of the Church should possess the light of heaven for himself, and live in such a way that no one can honestly find fault with him. Can we hope that our little ones will grow up to believe in the principles of the Gospel unless we teach them by example? I do not think we can, by a simple profession of faith, convince our children of the truth of the Gospel; our lives must be in keeping with our professions. I realize that none of us is perfect, that we are weak and liable to err; but I do believe that we can become more united and that we should labor more diligently for the advancement of the Kingdom of God than we are doing at the present time.

There is a disposition growing among the Latter-day Saints to do as we please, asking no questions of any one. Go where you will and this spirit is discernible; and correspondingly a lack of energy and desire to labor for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God is noticeable. When an individual has received the light of heaven, and has had the plan of salvation made plain to him by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and neglect to carry out to the utmost of his ability the counsels of the Almighty, the lot of that man is far worse than that of him who never received the light and

who never heard the Gospel. If you and I gain information in any given direction and we make no use of it, such information can be of no benefit to us. The sooner we as Latter-day Saints awaken to the full realization of the fact that it is by our own individual effort that we will gain the blessings of God; that there is no living being except ourselves who can aid us in gaining exaltation; the sooner we become sensible to the fact that every labor we perform will be credited to us, and that every time we fail to perform our duties devolving upon us, we possessing the ability to do them, it will be recorded against us—the sooner we realize this the quicker we will awaken to renewed diligence in keeping the commandments of God. We are told that if we do not improve upon the talents we are in possession of, they will be taken from us and given to him that hath more and improves upon them. If we possess knowledge to do good and we put forth no effort in that direction, we will be under condemnation in the sight of God, because He will hold us responsible if we do not improve the talents with which He has endowed us.

I have just had the privilege, in connection with one of the brethren, of visiting the Bannock Stake, in Idaho. I was very much interested, indeed, in conversing with the brethren of that region, and to learn from them their political status. I remember in my boyhood listening to the servants of God preach that the day would come when the liberties of the Latter-day Saints would be taken from them; and I remember reading some of the sayings of the Prophet Joseph Smith to the effect, that one by one the safeguards of civil and religious liberty would be taken away and trampled under foot. I thought this very strange, especially at that time when I had commenced to read the Constitution of the United States, and to appreciate the enthusiasm that such reading inspires one with. I could not then conceive it possible that the American nation could be guilty of taking away from its citizens rights which the revolutionary fathers sacrificed their all to establish on this land. But when I was in Idaho I found there was absolutely no liberties guaranteed to the people called "Mormons," except it be the liberty of paying taxes—and the liberty of dying, I believe. "No Mormons need apply," is the latest edict by the school commissioners. You will meet people up there who settled in Bingham County when it was generally understood the climate of that place was too cold to mature grain; and within the past four or five years some four or five thousand of our people have gone there and subdued the soil and made it habitable and productive; and those people are permitted to pay taxes; they are also allowed to educate their children, but are denied any voice in the selection of the school teacher; in fact, no man can have a teacher's certificate unless he satisfies the commissioners that he is not a "Mormon." They

have so construed the law in Idaho, infamous as it is in every respect, that a man cannot withdraw from the "Mormon" Church. Although the law containing the test oath, which was passed specially against the "Mormon" people, is clearly unconstitutional, the people are unable to help themselves. It is another case of the man in the stocks, with which story you are all familiar. When I left Idaho I was fully satisfied that as far as that place was concerned the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith had met with literal fulfillment. I wonder if the framers of that law can believe there is any hand-dealing of God connected with it? Would it convince any man living that Joseph Smith was a true prophet? None will believe it except the Latter-day Saints. This people have looked forward for such things, and they have lived to see them come about. It is strictly provided that no *ex post facto* law shall be passed. But this has been done; and it requires no very great foresight on the part of the Latter-day Saints to be convinced that the prophecies are being, and are about to be fulfilled. It has been advocated that the "Mormons" be not allowed to enter public lands. While we have expected and looked for measures to be adopted curtailing and even depriving the Saints of their liberties, at the same time the thought of such a state of things is not calculated to fill us with delight, much less to actually be obliged to endure such things. It is not a pleasant thing, to say the least, for people to go into a new country and subdue it, and have their liberties and rights thus taken away. It is not a pleasant thing to have one's avowed enemies teach one's children, and plant in their hearts the seed of infidelity and unbelief. One of this class of teachers remarked, on the opening day of the school: "We will not have prayer offered in our school; if we knew how to pray and to whom to pray, we might, but as we don't, we won't."

I had great pleasure in the dedicatory services of the Eighteenth Ward schoolhouse; and I earnestly pray that the example set by that ward in this respect will be imitated by other wards, and that before many years such schools will be common in all the Stakes of Zion. It is a duty we owe our children to see that they get an education; but the education of the heart—education in the Gospel, a testimony of the plan of salvation—is the foundation that we should lay in the breast of every child. Statistics show that in the New England States, where they pride themselves on the high standard of education they have reached, and justly too, the percentage of illiteracy is lower inside the prison walls than outside. And why is this so? Because they educate the brain at the expense of the heart, and leave God out of the question; the eternal part of man is neglected. Notwithstanding the growth of education in the United States has been remarkable and phenomenal, yet there has