

name He will bless them. An Elder who is called to speak should be humble that he may bear the Spirit of God, and be able to give instruction from the source of all light and wisdom. The Saints should also have that Spirit, that they might recognize whether a speaker is expressing his own ideas or is following the dictates of the Holy Spirit. The sheep know the voice of their shepherd, and the Latter-day Saints should always be able to distinguish between those who speak by the power of God and those who speak by common wisdom. Those who talk to us under the inspiration of the Spirit are not those who always speak according to the human rules of eloquence, but they have that eloquence which goes to the heart of those who are honest. It was that Spirit that enabled Peter to speak so that every nation heard him in their own tongue. Those who were ready to receive the truth knew the meaning of the words of the Apostles, and inquired what they should do to be saved. There were others, who listened to the same words, yet who accused the Apostles of having been drunk. They were informed to the contrary; still many of them did not receive the testimony, which became to them a condemnation, because they rejected it. When an Elder of Israel speaks by the Spirit, there is a relationship between him and those who listen to his words.

We are surrounded, in our daily lives, with evil, which seems to be mingled with good in all conditions of this life; virtue and vice appear to go hand in hand, for the great day of separation has not been ushered in. In the parable, the Lord said the tares and the wheat must grow together, but in the day of harvest they should be separated and the tares will be burned. Today, the honest man lives next door to the knave; the unselfish man by the unselfish one.

The Lord has said that it is difficult to find a man without sin; and though man is surrounded by conditions that tend to lead him astray, the Lord has provided a way for the remission of the sins of those who sincerely receive the law upon which that action is based. It is to our interest to inquire under what conditions we can receive a forgiveness of sins; and we should seek to know the Lord that we may receive the benefit of those conditions. To do this a man must confess his sins before the Lord in all humility. In accordance with the great law of justice, those who desire forgiveness must forgive those who trespass against them. The prayer of the Lord was, "Father, forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Those who seek this boon must also keep in mind the great atonement, and must ask for what they desire in the name of Jesus. There are none of us who do not need forgiveness. Let us forgive those who have trespassed against us; and coming before the Lord in humility, in Jesus' name, we will not be cast aside.

If a man will not forgive his

neighbor, in that man lies the greater sin. If one desires to make amends and receive forgiveness for his wrongs, that man who will not grant such a request is in condemnation. None can climb in any other way than by complying with these principles. Forgiveness cannot be purchased by money; salvation cannot be secured with gold. But the rich and the poor alike can receive, by conforming to the law of God. Repentance is a gift from the Almighty. We should supplicate for this gift, for the man who can repent earnestly and sincerely is on the way to receive a remission of his sins.

In the days of Elisha, a little Israelitish maiden, who had been carried captive by Naaman, who was afflicted and had not been able to be cured, told of the Prophet who rebuked disease. Naaman availed himself of this information, and came to Elisha, expecting the latter to receive him as became a man in his exalted earthly position. But Elisha sent his servant to tell Naaman to go and wash seven times in Jordan. Naaman was insulted, and thought the rivers of his own land were good enough. Finally he was prevailed upon to do as he was ordered, and when he had washed himself the seventh time he was made whole. I sometimes think there are some of us who are in the same condition of heart as was Naaman when he was angry at the Prophet. The powers that were exercised anciently are with the Elders today, but they can only be used by obedience to the principles of righteousness. Only those who repent can receive forgiveness.

A profane writer, Dante, describes what he says were the spirits in prison, who had rejected the law of repentance. Under this condition they were tormented; and their great punishment was that they could see what they might have gained, and thus suffered the anguish of remorse. Dante further described another class, who had repented, but who were being punished for what they had done; this class received their punishment joyfully, knowing that their debts were being paid, and that they would ultimately be liberated. Still another class he speaks of—those who stood clean and redeemed, who had atoned for their sins. There may be among us those who, by sinning, do not recognize sin—whose sensitiveness is destroyed by wrong-doing, and who are going toward the condition of deepest condemnation. Through being accustomed to sin, they do not look upon it with aversion. We should recognize this principle that practice makes perfection, and if we continue in wrong our sensibilities become blunted.

The warfare between right and wrong never waged more fiercely than it does today. The conflict was never hotter than in this age. As Saints we have been gathered here that we may obey the Lord with less restraint than if we were scattered in the world. But temptations are in our midst. We are of

ourselves weak, and as one of the Apostles said last Sabbath, from a human standpoint there is no hope for us; but he also testified that the righteous would be made triumphant by the power of the great Jehovah. That testimony makes its influence felt in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints. It is nothing new to see the Saints of God beset by enemies. We gathered here to serve our Father. That is no secret; our enemies know that is our profession. When I see the clouds of the coming storm, the Red Sea of trouble before and the hosts of Pharaoh behind; when I see these, I ask, cannot the Lord as well raise up a Moses now as He did then? His arm is as powerful now as it was when Israel was in the deserts of Arabia.

The Lord does not operate by great armies. When Gideon went out Jehovah would not let him take a great force against the Midianites. This was that His power might be made manifest. Was the victory less complete than if there had been a greater number? Verily, no. The Midianites fled because they knew the injustice of their cause. The Saints today know that their cause is just, that they are following the great Jehovah, who has declared that this work shall not be overthrown. The Lord has powers that we know not of. Man uses the powers of electricity, for instance, but he knows not what it is. Shall man in his ignorance say that God has not still other powers? Nay, for He can make the thunderbolt serve Him, and even man in his wrath to praise Him. Did not the flower of this nation's army come here to destroy the Saints thirty years ago? And did they not, instead, prove a blessing to God's people? We are not bigoted when we say that though the whole world fight against us, He will turn their wrath to His praise. The hosts of heaven are with those who serve God.

When the Syrian hosts surrounded the little town where Elisha was, and they came to take him, taunting him, the Prophet of God called fire from heaven to destroy the captain and fifty who were sent to take him; a second time a captain and fifty came and they were destroyed in like manner; the third captain entreated the Prophet to come down and he did so. Elisha's servant was shown how it was done; his eyes were opened, and he saw the hills covered with the hosts of heaven. The Syrian hosts were stricken blind, and the Prophet led his people into Samaria, and from there they were delivered by Divine assistance. I do not think there is any cause for us to despair today. Has the Lord lost His strength? No; it is those who do not trust in Him who have lost their faith.

Let us seek to do the will of God, that we may have confidence in Him. Let us be pure and our enemies cannot overcome us, for Jehovah has so declared. Let us exercise charity toward our enemies, and remember that vengeance is the Lord's. Let us so live that when we are spoken evil of it will be falsely, and that men, seeing our good