

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 15.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 29, 1894.

Vol. XLIX.

## DISCOURSE

*Delivered at Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, Sunday Afternoon, August 26, 1894, by*

**PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I will read a portion of two revelations:

And they who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ, must inherit another kingdom, even that of a terrestrial kingdom, or that of a testial kingdom.

For he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom, cannot abide a celestial glory;

And he who cannot abide the law of a terrestrial kingdom, cannot abide a terrestrial glory;

He who cannot abide the law of a testial kingdom, cannot abide a testial glory; therefore he is not meet for a kingdom of glory. Therefore he must abide a kingdom which is not a kingdom of glory.

And again, verily I say unto you, the earth abideth the law of a celestial kingdom, for it filleth the measure of its creation, and transgresseth not the law.

Wherefore it shall be sanctified; yea, notwithstanding it shall die, it shall be quickened again, and shall abide the power by which it is quickened, and the righteous shall inherit it.

For notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again a spiritual body:

They who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body which was a natural body; even ye shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened.

Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory shall then receive of the same, even a fullness;

And they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness:

And also they who are quickened by a portion of the testial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness;

And they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received.

For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receiveth not the gift? Behold he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.—Doc. and Cov., sec. 88, pars. 21—33.

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;

And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit;

And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father;

And the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes,

and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world;

And the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin;

And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me,

For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin;

And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me;

And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now.—Doc. and Cov., sec. 84, pars. 45—53.

From these revelations it is plain that the Lord bestows His Spirit very liberally upon the children of men—much more liberally than they themselves are probably conscious of—and it bears witness to them concerning the truth. But the difficulty with mankind is that they are not apparently conscious of the different influences that prevail in the world, which are invisible to their mortal eyes, but which can make themselves felt in their operations upon those who entertain them. President Woodruff, in his remarks this morning, alluded to the number of evil spirits that there are who are invisible to us, but who bring their influence to bear upon us. One of the causes of our being in this state of probation and trial is that we may, through the power and blessing of God, be able to pass through this world and to overcome these adverse influences that are seeking to lead us astray and to destroy us. In the plan of salvation which our Father has devised, and which contemplates our exaltation in the eternal worlds, it is essential that we should be exposed to various temptations and trials, that through the experience we thereby gain we may be able to overcome. God our Eternal Father intends to endow those of His children who are faithful to Him in their second estate with indescribable glory. Even if the human mind could conceive, the human tongue could not describe that glory. We cannot, though our minds be fully illumined by the Spirit of God, conceive in our mortal estate the greatness of the glory that God has in store for His faithful ones. When we even approach the understanding of it, it must be by vision. Yet to those who are true to Him in the midst of the numerous temptations that abound in the world that glory will be given. Every properly constituted person can feel the influence of the various spirits that are in the world, and that seek to bring us in subjection to them. To some it is given to see these influences; but all can feel them. Whence is it that anger comes? You will see a man all at once seized with a spirit of anger; another time you will see a person

seized with a spirit of jealousy, or some other evil influence, infuriated sometimes, so much so that he or she is transformed. You have seen people's faces completely changed by the spirit that takes possession of them. They cannot see that power; but it is undoubtedly a spiritual entity. We may not be conscious of it, but it takes possession of us if we yield to it. The Lord our God has sent us here to get experience in these things, so that we may know the good from the evil, and be able to close our hearts against the evil. "But," says one, "I have not power to do that. It takes possession of me and I have not power to resist it." Another says, "I am assailed by doubts and by unbelief, and I cannot help it." Now, this is not so. It is true that some have greater power of resistance than others, but everyone has the power to close his heart against doubt, against darkness, against unbelief, against depression, against anger, against hatred, against jealousy, against malice, against envy. God has given this power unto all of us, and we can gain still greater power by calling upon Him for that which we lack. If it were not so, how could we be condemned for giving way to wrong influences? There could be no condemnation for our doing what we could not help; but we can help doing these things. We can help yielding to wrong influences, and being quarrelsome and selfish. We can help giving way to the spirit of theft, and we can resist the spirit of lust. God has given us power to resist these things, that our hearts may be kept free from them, and also from doubt; and when Satan comes and assails us, it is our privilege to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan, for I have no lot nor portion in you, and you have no part in me. I am in the service of God, and I am going to serve Him, and you can do what you please. It is no use you presenting yourself with your blandishments to me. You come and try to insinuate into my heart evil thoughts about the servants of God or about the work of God, and I will not listen to you; I will close my heart against you."

Do we not have this power? Certainly we have. In the same way every human being outside of this Church has the power to receive the spirit of light; for the Spirit of God is a spirit of light and it does not bring darkness. Whenever darkness fills our minds, we may know that we are not possessed of the Spirit of God, and we must get rid of it. When we are filled with the Spirit of God we are filled with joy, with peace, and with happiness, no matter what our circumstances may be; for it is a spirit of cheerfulness and of happiness. The Lord has given unto us the gift of