

power and to have his gift taken from him, because he would commit sin by taking any credit to himself, instead of giving it to the Lord. The people feel this way. While they are grateful to their brethren for that which is done, they praise the Lord for having restored these gifts to the earth again and for giving man the authority to exercise this power in the name of Jesus Christ.

In this way the Church of Christ is being built up on the earth as it was in ancient days, and God is receiving the glory for that which is being done. Man is not praised for the great works that are done under His direction and by His help and inspiration. And so faith is being increased in the earth, and the Lord is having a people prepared for His coming who are endeavoring to the extent of their ability to carry out His laws, to obey His commandments, and to do the things that He requires at their hands.

Brethren and sisters, we who are here today and who belong to this Church ought to be the most grateful of all people for that which the Lord has done for us. Men call us fanatics. Our zeal and our devotion to the principles we believe in are frequently referred to as fanaticism. Yet we who have received the truth rejoice in this "fanaticism." We rejoice that the Lord has given unto us faith to do the very things that He requires at our hands.

There is this that is a great consolation to the Latter-day Saints—at least, I have found it to be so in my association with them—that when we read of the experiences of the Savior and His Apostles, and of the Saints who obeyed the Gospel which they taught, we find that they correspond exactly with our experiences. There is a complete similarity between the experience of our Lord and Savior Jesus and the Apostles and Saints in that day and our experience. The teachings of Jesus and His Apostles are the teachings we receive. The doctrines they advanced are the doctrines we have espoused. The results of their obedience were the same as they have been in our case. The very same consequences which followed obedience to the teachings of Jesus and His Apostles have followed our obedience to those teachings. This I take to be a great consolation to the Latter-day Saints. I have found it to be so individually, and also with the people. When we have suffered persecution it has been a consolation to know that our brethren who preceded us, and our Lord and Savior who died for us, passed through the same ordeals. In ancient days the Holy Ghost was poured out upon those who were obedient to the Gospel; the Holy Ghost has been poured out upon us, as we can testify. The gifts which followed the believers then, according to the promise of Jesus, follow us. The union and the love that the Savior prayed might be given unto His disciples, that the world might know that He had been sent of the Father, that same union and love have been given unto the Latter-day Saints. Their hearts have been gladdened beyond expression by that spirit of love that God has poured out upon them through their obedience to the Gospel of His Son. In fact, I cannot think of any feature of the Gospel or any experience of the Saints in former days that is not duplicated among us. They received no blessings that we have not received.

No promise was given to them that has not been given to us. We have suffered as they suffered. Our names have been cast out as evil as theirs were. Latter-day Saints have laid down their lives for the truth as former-day Saints did. Prophets and apostles have been martyred in our day for the truth just as prophets and apostles in former days suffered and died. So that when we meet together, as undoubtedly we shall, in that glorious rest which God has prepared for the just, the apostles of the latter-day dispensation can sit down with the prophets and apostles of former day dispensations, and converse together as men who have passed through precisely the same trials and afflictions; who have gone out to an ungodly world preaching the word of God and meeting the same fate, enjoying the same gifts and powers. Imagine the joy of these men when they meet together in that blest abode! Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith and numbers of others whose blood has been shed, can sit down alongside Peter and James, and the other apostles, and alongside Isaiah and Jeremiah and other prophets whose blood has been shed, and compare their experience one with the other, and there will be no dissimilarity. Subjects that will produce similar feelings can be dwelt upon by each and all of them. Then the Savior himself, our great Redeemer, who died on the cross after a life such as He led, can sympathize with these prophets and apostles, because His experience in mortal life was like theirs. Can we not imagine such a scene and such a mingling of noble men whom God ordained and sent forth to do His will in the midst of the people? And then a host of Elders who have gone whose experience has been precisely similar to the experience of the Elders in the ancient church,—can those of former days relate anything concerning their lives that their brethren of the latter days cannot understand? Can they describe any persecution, any joy, any happiness, any gifts, any powers that they had on earth, that their brethren of the latter days cannot understand and appreciate and corroborate and parallel in relating their own experiences? They believed the same doctrines, they taught the same principles, they administered the same ordinances, they exercised the same authority, and they suffered the same consequences. And then the Latter-day Saints, humble and perhaps obscure in some instances, who have had a varied experience through long years in the Church, will meet thousands, and I hope millions, who have had a similar experience in that blessed land to which we are all hastening. How delightful it will be to talk to the Saints of former days—to compare experiences, to relate incidents! Why it will add to the bliss of heaven. Jesus, our great Redeemer, standing at the head and surrounded by cohorts of holy beings who have had the same experience that He had, from the prophets and apostles down to the humblest member who embraced the Gospel on earth—it will be heaven to meet such personages as these and to rejoice with them.

In this respect, as I have said, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differs from every other church on the earth. We have not lived in the lap of luxury. Our ministers have not been paid, and have not depended upon

their learning for teaching the Gospel. They have gone out as the ancients did, without purse and scrip. It is a delightful thing—I enjoy it exceedingly when we have any leisure to sit down and talk with my fellow servants about their experiences in preaching the Gospel. I have traveled thousands of miles, and for long periods, without purse and scrip. They have done the same. We can compare each other's experiences, and our hearts are knit together because of these common experiences that we have had. Is it not the same with you Elders? Certainly it is. Occasionally we have reunions of the Elders of a mission, and what is the chief cause of their rejoicing? Why, they have had a common experience; they understand each other, and it adds to the delight of these occasions. Will not this be the case in heaven? Undoubtedly it will.

I would like to know, without speaking with the least disrespect of any other denomination, how a modern minister, trained as these ministers are, would feel in the company of the old prophets and apostles and saints of God? Would they not be completely out of their element? There would be nothing in common between them. How could they understand what Jesus passed through? Have they ever had such experience? How could they understand the sufferings of the prophets and apostles and the old saints of God? There is no common ground upon which they could stand. Take a congregation of so called Christians and put them in the midst of the old saints who went through the fiery persecutions of those days, and what would there be that they could converse about? Everything would be dissimilar. If asked: "Have you ever had the gift of the Holy Ghost?"

"No," they would say, "we supposed the gift of the Holy Ghost had been withdrawn from men."

"Did you have revelation, and visions, and the power of God when you were on the earth?"

"No, we did not believe in that. Our minister never preached by the power of the Holy Ghost; we judged him by his education. He went to a theological school and was prepared, and if we liked his preaching we accepted him as our pastor."

Then the old saints would be apt to remark, "What a strange experience you had. That is not the case with us. We had the Holy Ghost; we had the gifts; we had the power of God; we had the revelations of Jesus Christ; our church was led by revelation; we had prophets and apostles; our elders went out and preached the Gospel without purse and scrip, testing the world, and exhibiting their own faith."

A congregation of one of the denominations now extant would be completely amazed under such circumstances. What similarity would there be between them? True, they believe in Jesus, but they do not believe in His power. "The devils believe, and tremble." A man may believe a great many things, but if he is not a doer of the word, according to that which I have read to you this afternoon his house is built upon the sand, and when the rain falls and the wind blows it will not stand. There is only one way that man can be saved—that is, in the highest exaltation. The Latter-day Saints believe that a large number of the children