

beauty of this work: when a man embraces it, he finds that he is built upon the rock and cannot be shaken if he is faithful. The reason that there are those among us who are shaken from time to time, when troubles come upon us, is because men are faulty. There are reasons in the heart of every man who is shaken and disturbed. As was intimated this morning by President Cannon, when there is put forth a Church order or rule, it is announced when God would have it announced; it is published and given to the people at the proper time, just when it should be. The Lord is the judge. We would not do unless He directed us; we would not speak and give counsel unless the Lord directed. And when He speaks through His servants, all who are in harmony and have the proper spirit, having done the mind and will of God, know the voice of the true Shepherd. If any of you have mistaken the voice of the true Shepherd, you want to repent. Let all Israel know that if they have not understood the voice of the true Shepherd when it has been uttered, they have occasion for repentance, and they ought to repent. It is necessary that we should live as close and as careful to the line as possible, and to exert every power within us for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord. There is a reaction setting in in Israel to-day, as there is throughout the world in regard to this important work. We are now finding, and we will more abundantly in the future, that our kindred are enquiring after us. They want to know something about this work; they are enquiring after the Gospel; for they begin to feel that there is a religious body in the earth that has some light that is superior to the light which they possess. The world wants something that they can rely upon, that will satisfy their souls, and this is not to be found outside of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is God's work, and He has found a few honest in heart, who have gathered together, and He would have found more if they had not been blinded by the deceptions of men. You know how easily men are deceived in this world. They are cheated in regard to religion as well as in regard to other matters, and I have thought they were more easily gulled in regard to religion than anything else. It is quite a difficult matter for people to be Saints of God. It is not something that is offered to you as easy to accomplish; but it is a difficult, trying matter for human nature. It requires the very first and the whole attention of every human being. Has not Jesus said: "If any man come to me, and forsake not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple?" I believe this is true doctrine. This being the work of God, it is worth everything.

If a man would have all things else, he must first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. This work is more valuable and precious to us than all other things; for it embraces life eternal, happiness here and hereafter; it embraces the riches of this world, and everything that we can desire that is proper. We must prize the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, above all things else. A man must not so love his father, or his mother, his wife, his children, his brothers, his sisters, or his own life—he must not love these so well that he would forsake

God for them. But if we love God and keep His commandments, our fathers, our mothers, our brothers and sisters, and our own lives, shall then be made secure to us. This is the philosophy of it. We are engaged in this labor, and it will be profitable to us to give it our first attention. At the same time it is not necessary that we should neglect everything else; but the very first attention should be given to God and to His cause. We may engage in all other righteous things, and bring to pass what the Lord designs for us to do in the earth.

In the order of the Priesthood, the filling of vacancies, and the keeping of our quorums completely organized, how perfect is the design of the Lord. You cannot find an imperfection in the design of our Heavenly Father and the work that He has established among us. He has provided for every emergency. If every individual would only perform his duty faithfully, as all ought to do, what a blessed condition we would be in! I thought this morning, when the field abroad was spoken of, what an immense field there is here at home! All our own children, all our neighbor's children, and all the strangers that are within our gates (for we are quite mixed now)—what a field of labor there is for every man who bears the Priesthood. Do you not feel that the Lord has bestowed this Priesthood upon the male members of the Church in order that every one should be a teacher, a laborer, a faithful advocate of the doctrines of the Gospel, a defender of the faith? I believe that was the design. I believe the Lord understood thoroughly that it would be necessary for every man among us to bear the Priesthood and to be a laborer; not waiting to be called abroad, but having experience right here at home in the preaching of the Gospel; for it is a reproach to us to have people around us so plentifully and they not being taught the Gospel. I hold that within the radius of our movements every family should be advised in regard to the doctrines of the Gospel. If they will not come to meetings, they ought to be taught in private, and thoroughly warned at home, as the people are being warned in the world. The Elders are going out without purse and scrip. They did that in the days of the Savior; they did it in the days of the Prophet Joseph, of the Prophet Brigham, and the early days. In that way mankind are proven and tried. It is laid down as a rule that those who feed and clothe you, and furnish you lodgings and places in which to preach the Gospel, are the disciples of Christ and are of Israel. The labors of the Elders abroad are very successful. Go into the families of the people who have representatives in the field, and they receive remarkable letters concerning the labors of these Elders—how they are being received and made welcome, and how they cannot accomplish all that is required of them in the preaching of the Gospel, the calls are so numerous. These words are coming from abroad all the time; and yet a great many of the 1300 Elders are men who no doubt had very little experience at home, who had not been schooled very thoroughly in the doctrines of the Gospel, and had not understood the operations of the Spirit of the Lord upon them, nor had they learned the efficacy of prayer. Why is it that our prayers are not more fully and perfectly answered

than they are? This is a subject that has been brought to my mind latterly in a remarkable degree. Because we have not prayed properly. We have not been in the proper spirit for praying. We have not been in the proper condition to obtain answers from the Lord, because we have not done our duty. God has announced that every one is endowed with power to accomplish great good and to bring to pass much righteousness, and that men ought to be anxiously engaged in a good cause. We ought to be anxiously engaged in this good cause in which we have enlisted. And when we have worked up to the point of all that we can possibly do, God always comes to the rescue and helps us out. The reason our young Elders' prayers are heard in the field is because they are working for and waiting upon the Lord, and laboring faithfully every moment of their lives, and the Lord knows it. They scarcely ask for anything but it is granted them. Now, if we would be just as faithful and devoted at home in the performance of our duties as we are when we go abroad, the Lord would be at our service in a moment, for He is bound, when we do our duty, to come to our assistance. When the Presidency of this Church have need of counsel from the Lord, He is always ready to give them His word; for they are attending upon His labor and the responsibilities that He has placed upon them. So with the Twelve. Hence their prayers are answered upon their heads and they receive the necessary counsel. The Presidents of Stakes, the High Councilors, the Bishops and their Counselors, the presidents of quorums, and all those who preside over the various associations of the Latter-day Saints, are entitled to the mind and will of God. So that every department is well provided for, and thus the work is to be perpetuated from this time henceforth. The remarks of President Smith upon the First Presidency, the Twelve Apostles, and the Seventies, beautifully illustrated the harmony which exists with these three quorums, though apparently equal. He explained that in the absence of the Presidency the Twelve presided over the Church. That is made a part of their mission and responsibility by the Father. But they are not the Presidency of the Church; for is it not definitely laid down in that same revelation from which Brother Smith quoted, that the Twelve labor always under the direction of the Presidency? We are directed and counseled by them; we do not direct the Presidency. The Seventy do not direct the Twelve; the Twelve direct the Seventy. Yet it is declared that they are quorums of like authority one with the other. When the emergency arises, they are equal, and have the power and authority to meet the emergency; but that power is in abeyance and is not exercised while the Presidency endure. The Twelve are not to rise up against the Presidency. There are twelve against three; but the three are authorized to preside over the twelve, as well as over the rest of the Church, and to direct the twelve and the whole church. We cannot reject the Presidency. The Twelve cannot do it; for God would reject them. He controls the Presidency; He chooses them; He determines who they shall be, and the time of their office, in life or in death, and He maintains them. He also determines the position of every Apostle. There never has been an Apostle in this Church that