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true that he had a knowledge of a great

DISCOURSE By Elder WILFORD WOODBUER delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Dec. 12th, 1869.

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REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

he was true, faithful and valiant in the The few of us who met here this forences had the privilege of listening to a very testimony of Jesus to the day of his death. interesting discourse from Bro. Penrose, from that day until the present have been on the first principles of the gospel. I say by faith, and we, as Latter-day Saints, the "few" who were here, for there were few, and there are every Sabhath in the fore should seek to cherish and grow in this part of the day. I think if the Latter-day principle, that we may have faith in every Saints prized their privileges as they ought | revelation and promise and in every word to do, there would be more attend meeting of the Lord, that has been given in the on a Sunday morning, there would be more Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and of us faithful to the Lord our God and to Covenants, for they will surely come to the covenants we have made if we did but pass as the Lord God lives, for the unbelief realize the rewards that, in the future, will of this generation will not make the truths | turn out for the best, and it has proved so. be awarded for the deeds done here in the of God without effect, flesh

When the members of Zion's Camp were There was one principle referred to by called many of us had never beheld each Bro. Penrose this morning, upon which I others' faces; we were straugers to each and it proved salvation to Zion. wish to make a few remarks, for the benefit other and many had never seen the of the elders of Israel. It is a very common prophet. We had been scattered abroad, saying with us, as elders, in our remarks like corn sifted in a seive, throughout the concerning the gifts of the gospel to speak of nation. We were young men, and were confirming the gifts of the Holy Ghost by called upon in that early day to go up and the laying on of hands. There is no differ- redeem Zion, and what we had to do we had to do by faith. We assembled together ence with regard to our faith, opinions or views, as a church, pertaining to this from the various States at Kirtland and went up to redeem Zion, in fulfilment principle; it is only in the manner in which we use our language. There is a difference of the commandment of God unto us. between the gifts of the Holy Ghost and God accepted our works as He did the Holy Ghustitself. As Brother Penrose the works of Abraham. We accomplished said this morning, we repent of our sins are a great deal, though apostates and unbebaptized for the remission of them and we lievers many times saked the question receive the laying on of hands for the "what have you done?" We gained an exreception of the Holy Ghoat; but the elders, perience that we never could have gained on any other way. We had the privilege when speaking on this principle, instead of saying so, not unfrequently say "for the of beholding the face of the prophet, and reception of the gifts of the Holy Ghost." we had the privilege of traveling a thousand Now we have no right, power nor authority miles with him, and seeing the workings to seal the gifts of the Holy Ghost upon of the spirit of God with him, and the revelations of Jesus Christ unto him and anybody, they are the property of the Holy Ghost itself. To explain this I will say, for the fulfilment of those revelations. And instance, Prest. Young may go and preach he gathered some two hundred elders from in every ward in this city; yet it is President throughout the nation in that early day and in a great measure, by most of them the gospel of Jesus Christ. Had I not gone 13th Ward he may give a man an apple; in the 13th Ward he may give a mother person a loaf of bread; in the 10th Ward he may give a man a horse and carriage. Now they are all different gifts, but he is pel, and the Lord accepted our labors. And in all our labors and persecutions, with our lives often at stake, we have had to work and live by faith. The Twelve Apostles were called by revelation to go to Far West, Caldwell County, to lay the foundation of the corner stone of the Temple. When that revelation was given this Church was in peace in Missouri. It is the only revelation that has ever been given since the organization of the Church, that I know anything about, that had day and date given with it. The Lord called the Twelve Apostles, while in this state of prosperity, on the 26th day of April, 1838 to go to Far West to lay the corner stone of the Temple; and from there to take their departure to England to preach the gospel. Previous to the arrival of that period the whole Church was driven out of the State of Missouri, and it was as much as a man's life was worth to be found in the State If it was known that he was a Latterday Saint; and especially was this the case with the Twelve. When the time came for the Corner stone of the Temple to be laid, The Holy Ghost, as was justly presented. as directed in the revelation, the Church was in Illinois, having been expelled from Missouri by an edict from the Governor. Joseph and Hyrum Smith and Parley P. Prat: were in chains in Missouri for the testimony of Jesus. As the timedrew nigh for the accomplishment of this work, the their obedience to the gospel of Christ; and every man who receives that spirit has a comforter within,—a leader and guide to be in Far West on the 26th day of April, to lay the Corner stone of the Temple there; it had to be fulfilled. The Missourians had swarn by all the Gods of eternity that if every other revelation given through Jo-seph Smith were fulfilled, that should not be, for the day and date being given they declared that it should fail. The general feeling in the Church, so far as I know was that, under the circumstances it was impossible to accomplish the work; and the Lord would accept the will for the deed. This was the feeling of Father Smith, the father of the Prophet. Joseph was not with us, he was in chains in Missouri, for his religion. When President Young asked the question of the Twelve, "Brethren, what "The Lord has spoken and it is for us to ober." We felt that the hord God had given on the commandment and we had faith to go forward and accomplish it, feeling that building committee, had the other. We reached Far West and laid the Corner stone according to the revelation that had been iven to us. We cut off apostates and those who had sworn away the lives of the brethren. We ordained Darwin Chase nd Norman Shearer into the Seventies. Scother George A. Smith and myself were

that He has been in all the labors of this many things, as the Saints in former days Church and Kingdom.

had, but in many things he had to exer-tise faith. He believed He was fulfilling about this country, but we intended in any ag the prophecies of the ancient prophets. He to come to the mountains. Joseph had organized a company to come here, before his death. He had these things before him, knew that God had called him, but in the establishment af His kingdom He had to work continually by faith. The church was organized on the 6th of April, 1830, with six members, but Joseph had faith ing the foundation would become an ever-lasting kingdom-would remain forever. that the kingdon thus commenced, like a grain of mustard seed, would become a President Young led the pioneers to this great church and kingdon upon the earth; and from that day until the day on which hither at that time had this faith. The he scaled his testimony with his blood, his spirit of God was with us, the Holy Ghost whole life was as if wading through the was with us; and the Angels of the Lord received from the hands of his fellowmen. He had all this to endure through faith, and here, has been realized, he far as time would be was true.

All the labors that we have performed our country and graves of our fathers, from lands we had bought of the United States Government, for our religion, into the wilderness. The Government made a demand upon us for five hundred men to go to the Mexican war. I do not suppose that they dren of men willing to take hold and manexpected we would furnish them, but we lifest those principles in their lives so that did, and we did it by faith. Five hundred that they could remain on the earth. men, the strength of Israel, were sent to But in the latter days He will do so. He fight the battles of their country, leaving their wives, children and teams on the prairie. They had to exercise faith, and so had we who remained, believing it would has ever lived on the earth, whose writings Every member of that Battalion who has remained faithful has always rejoiced, from that day to this, that he was a member nants given through the mouth of Joseph thereof. It has proved a blessing to him,

Church and Kingdom of God upon the powers of wicked men and devils to conearth, we have had to labor by faita. It is tend with. We may say that the devil is still requisite. God has called upon us to warn this generation. He has set His hand knows that his reign will last but a little to establish Zion-the great Zion of Godabout which the prophets have said so much. No prophet has spoken more pointedly on this subject than Isaiah. Our dwells here on the earth, is a personage drivings from Missouri, our persecutions, our travels along the Platte River, the manner of our coming to the mountains of Israel, our return again to the land of Zion and the building of the temple in Jackson County have all been spoken of by Isaiah as well as by all the prophets who have spoken concerning the Zion of the latter

We have exercised faith in the carrying out of these promises and in the fulfilling of these revelations of God unto us. We have walked and lived by faith, precisely feature with regard to the work of God, and that is, it has always been unpopular in every age and generation. The Lord has neversenta message to the inhabitants of the earth but what it has been despised.

God to man, raugh with such interest as the dispense ion in which we live; there never has been. No prophets, no apostles or inspired men in any age of the world ever had the priv-ilege of laying the foundation of the Zion of God to remain on the earth to be thrown down no more for ever. In every other disand put to death every man who has borne the kingdom of God, and the kingdom has been taken from the earth. This is true of tions of the earth awoke and found thatZion had fied! The Lord took it to Himself; took When the Mormon Battalion was called for by the United States, we were in our exile, having been driven from our homor the earth; there was not power sufficient to withstand the assaults of the wicked; or if there was, the time had not come when the Lord would make use of the children of

has sworn it by Himself, because there is none greater to swear by. He has declared it turough the mouth of every prophet that we possess, both in the Bible and Book of Mormon, as well as in those glorious revelations in the Book of Doctrine and Cove-Smith the prophet. These sayings are true. and it proved salvation to Zion. I have referred to these things to show that hitherto, in our labors to build up the Church and King to him, build up the in the outside world. We have had the

> season longer. This arch enemy of God and man, called the devil, the "Son of the Morning," who of great power; he has great influence and knowledge. He understands that if this kingdom, which He rebelled against in Heaven, prevails on the earth, there will be no dominion here for him. He has great influence over the children of men; he labors continually to destroy them. He labors continually to destroy them. He la-bored to destroy the works of God in Heaven, and he had to be cast out. He is here, mighty among the children of men. There is a vast number of fallen spirits, cast out with him, here on the earth. They do not die and disappear; they have not bodies only as they enter the tabernacles of men. They have not organized bodies, and are not to be seen with the sight of the eye. But there are many evil spirits amongst us, and they labor to overthrow the church and Kingdom of God. There never was a prophet in any age of the world but what the devia was continually at his

son for men to teach that the kingdom Dan- more consequence to me and to this people iel saw is going to be set up, and bear rule and to all the inhabitants of the earth, than over the whole earth. Is it treason for God anything else. What is the world with its Almighty to govern the earth? Who made honors, gold, silver, thrones, principalities and powers compared with salvation? They God, if you have any eternal Father. Well all end at death, they are of no force after, whose right is it torule and reign over you and are of no moment when compared and the earth? It does not belong to the with eternal salvation. Oh, what glorious devil, nor to men. It has never been given principles have been revealed to the Latter to men yet; it has never been given to the nations. It belongs solely to God and He of Logon States? Through the voice will that be? It may not be perfected until Christ comes in the clouds of heaven obtained them. The principles of the gospel with power and great glory to reward every of Jesus Christ have power and efficacy country. He had faith to believe that the Lord would sustain us. All who travelled hither at that time had this faith. The spirit of God was with us, the Holy Ghost was with us; and the Angels of the Lord were with us and we were blessed. All, and more than we anticipated in a state of God. But behold and lo, the nano matter what takes place outside of this Territory—we as Latter-day Saints should exercise faith in God, for just as sure as God was true to Daniel, Moses, Noah, Enoch and to the prophets and apostles, so will He be true to us; so will He be true to or any other sovereign, will not have any His word in these latter days and will fal- additional power in the world to come fill all He has said.

This is the work we have to perform. is a good work, a great work, a glorious doms of men, they are not ordained of God. work, and one in which the Latter-day True, they will be held accountable for the Saints should rejoice, for it confers upon exercise of their power here; God will hold them the privilege of being inscruments in the hands of God of helping to build up His kingdom on the earth. This should give us jey, and the promises made to us in connection with this work ought to sustain us has lived since the Church went into the and give us hope, joy, and consolation.

I have been happy since I formed the acquaintance of the gospel of Jesus Christ: I was never satisfied until I found the Latpeople who had power with God, who had wife in the resurrection. Not one of them the gifts and graces, who could command has been married for eternity, but onithe elements and they obeyed them; who until death. But unto the Latter.d. had power to heal the sick, and had the Saints the scaling ordinances have beer gifts of the Holy Ghost imparted unto revealed, and they will have effect after them by God himself. That was the kind death, and, as I have said, will re-notof religion I always desired to live to see. men and women eternally in the family I desired to live to see a prophet and an organization. Herein is why these princi God who could teach me the way to be saved. I have lived to see that day.

I know this work is true. I know it is We could not obtain a fallness of celestial the kingdom of God, as you do, and as glory without this sealing ordinance or the all men do who have received the testimony of the Holy spirit and have been faithful marriage, which is one of the most glorious for themselves.

As to President Young his labors have been with us. It has been remarked some- pass a law against my being baptized for the times, by certain individuals, that President Young has said in public that he was not a prophet nor the son of a prophet. I have traveled with him since 1833 or the spring of 1834; I have traveled a good many thousand miles with him and have heard this. The opinion of men generally, in him preach a great many thousand sermons; but I have never heard him day Saints practice it for the gratification of make that remark in my tife. He is their carnal desires; but such ideas are a prophet, I am a prophet, you are, and wholly untrue. The world seek after this: anybody is a prophet who has the testi-mony of Jesus Christ, for that is the spirit that they may partake of eternal lives, that of prophecy. The elders of Israel are pro- they may have wives and posterity in the phets. A prophet is not so great as an world to come and throughout the endless apostle. Christ has set in His Church, first, apostles; they hold the keys of the Kingdom of God. Any man who has traveled with should be as numerous as the stars in the

world to come because they have occupied thrones in this. The Czar of Russia, the Emperer of France, the Queen of England because of their present glory. It will all It end with their death. These are the king. them anything. There is not a man who wilderness and the Kingdom of God was taken from the earth, until Moroni rent the vail and gave to Joseph Smith the records I was never satisfied until I found the Lat-ter-day Saints. In my boyhood 1 could James and John sealed upon him the keys read in the Bible and New Testament of a of the Holy Priestbood, who can claim a

apostle, or some man who was inspired of ples are a part of our religion, and by them husbands and wives, parents and children will be re-united until the links in the I rejoice in it for I know it is true. chain are re-united back to Father Adam. institution called the partriarchat order of principles of our religion. I would just as lief the United States Government would remission of my sins or against my receiving the Holy Ghost as against inv practicing the patriarchal order of marriage. I would just as lief they would take away any other principle of the gaspel as relation to this subject, is that the Latter-

ages of eternity. God promised to Abraham that his seed concerning Sodom and Gomorrah came to pass-fire and brimstone were sent down from heaven upon them and they were will be no end to the increase of Abraham. it will continue through all eternity. These are some of the principles of the gospel God has revealed to us. Are they not worth fiving for and having faith in? They are. Then do not fear because of the wicked. We have everything to encourage us. The Latterday Saints should be faithful. We should live our religion and be true and faithful to our covenants. We tainly it was not polygamy then. No, it should magnify our callings as apostles, was prophets, it was revelation, it was the elders and Saints, before God angels and men. We have but little time to work, and we should work while it is called to-day; by and by night comes when no man can work. When the vision of my mind is opened and I gaze abroad upon this generation, I many times feel to mourn in my spirit to see the darkness and unbelief and the carelessness of man with regard to his with revelation and the gifts and graces of | future and eternal state. Instead of seeking with all their powers to secure to themselves eternal life they seem to be doing their utmost to turn the last key to seal their condemnation and to make themselves the sons of perdition. They will labor to shed innocent blood and to destroy the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth. This is one of the promptings. of the evil one. There are two things which have always followed apostates in every age of the world, and especially in our day. In the early days of the Church, in Kirtland, as soon as men apostatized from the Church and Kingdom of God, they immediately began to fear their fellow men, and to fancy their lives were in danger. Another peculiarity common to apostates was that they desired to kill those who had been their benefactors. This was the case with the Higbees, Laws and others with regard to they sought to take his, and they eventually succeeded, and woe is their doom. What and try to overthrow the very work they have been trying to build up. This spirit has always been with the enemies of rightousness. The devil seeks to overthrow the kingdom of God and the Saints and he atways will do it as long as he has any power on the earth; therefore we should be united. We should be faith . ful and labor hard to do what we have to do and not put off anything for the build ing up of the kingdom of God. We should obey all the ordinances we can for our

one and the same man who bestows them. I merely bring up this figure by way of illustration.

We lay hands upon the heads of those who embrace the gospel and we say unto them, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ receive ye the Holy Ghost." We seal this blessing upon the heads of the children of men, just as Jesus and His Apostles and the servants of God have done in overy age when preaching the gospel of Christ. But the gifts of the Holy Ghost are His property to bestow as he sees fit. To one is given the spirit of prophecy, to another a tongue, to another the interpretation of tongues and to another the gift of healing. All these gifts are by the same spirit, but all are the gifts of the Holy. Ghost, to bestow as He spes fit, as the messenger of the Father and the Son to the children of men.

this morning, is different from the common spirit of God, which we are told lighteth every man that cometh into the world. The Holy Ghost is only given to men through said, "there is a spirit in man and the instanding." It is this inspiration of God to mandments and revelations which God

the promises God had made unto him.

Mount Zion and against the children of Zion. Every weapon will be broken, every intion that will not serve Zion shall be utterly wasted away saith the Lord; for the Lord will fight in defence of the land of Zion. He will establish the kingdom that Daniel saw, in met that kingdom has been un the Church of Jeaus Christ of Let with the said to us and the said to us and the share before the world; they are before the hea-up the Church of Jeaus Christ of Let. The foundation that was immersed in the Jordan by John, who held the Aaronic priesthood and the keys of baptism for the remission of sins. Bap-tiam was a righteous law; in fact it was the law of God to save the children of men, and Jesus was the door, and He, sithough free from sin and gulls, complied with it as free from sin and gulls, complied with it as of haption for the remained of max in the control of the principle of faith. Joseph Smith had to work upon, -namely the principle of faith. Joseph Smith had to work by faith. It is

of salt; and what the angels had told Lot destroyed.

The work of God and the gospel of Christ have always been unpopular. Take the life Satan.' of the Savior himself. There is a fair ex- This ample. Trace Him from the day he was born until His death, and who were His friends. A few illiterate fishermen. Jesus Christ came to the house of Judah and they rejected him; and Jerusalem, Judea, and the inhabitants of all the region round about rose up against Him with the exception of a few poor men and women. Still He was the Savior of the world, the great Shiloh of See the abominations with which the earth Israel, the great King of the Jews. That is a fair ensample of the way in which the work of God has been received in every age and dispensation. All that Jesus said concerning the Jews has come to pass to the concerning the Jews has come to pass to the very letter; not one jot or tittle has fallen unfulfilled. Their history for the last eigh-teen hundred years, until the present day, has been a remarkable ensign to the nations of the earth of the truth of the Bible and of the truth of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of Him being the Savior of the world. All that He said concerning them and all that Moses predicted concerning their dispersion and about their being driven, us corn is sifted through a seive, among the nations; about the manner in which their women did evil to the children of their own bosoms when Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman army, when it was taken and over two millions of its inhabitants were destroyed by sword. vior was sentenced to death, they cried let His blood be upon us and upon our children;"and they have been trampled. underfoot by the whole Gentile world for the last eighteen hundred years. In their affliction and persecutions they have had to States. All that has been spoken concerning them has had its fuitillment as fast as time would admit.

not say the same of his household? They said that He cast out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils, they said He was world

he had done this, they remained with him; and had he been taken away they would have had to be restored by messengers out of heaven. But he lived until every key, power and principle of the boly priesthood was sealed on the Twelve and on President knapsack and went forth to travel and preach without purse or sorip, thousands of miles through the United States. This principle of inspiration has sustained the elders of Israel in every age of the world. It is that which sustained Joseph Smith in every age; it exists to-day. The elders of Israel have had to contend with this power of darkness, with persecution, op-This gift and principle of faith is necessary for the Saints in every age of the world pression, ridicule and opposition from those The server and perform the work required at the ancients did was by the ordinances work required at the correction of the provise and this aposites of the server at the correction of the provise and the aposites of the server at the correction of the provise and the aposite of the server at the correction of the provise and the aposite of the server at the correction of the provise and the aposite of the server at the correction of the provise and the aposite of the server at the correction of the server at the to enable them to build up the kingdom of who should have received their messa

fered that to Jesus which was not his own. Jesus said unto Him, "Get thee behind me

This same character was with the disciles as well as with their master. He is with the Latter-day Saints; and he or his. emissaries are with all men trying to lead them astray. He rules in the hearts of the inhabitants of the earth. They are gov-erned and guided by him far more than by the power of God. This is strange, still it is true. See the wickedness in the world, is deluged, causing it to groan under the read that one of a family and two of a city will be gathered to Zion in the last days. Out of twelve hundred millions, that dwell on the face of the earth, we, after forty years' labor, have succeeded in gathering a few thousands together to the valleys of the mountains. The numbers are very few; hut this few should be faithful.

Last Sabbath, those who were here, listened to a discourse from Bro. Geo. Q. Cannon, in which he delivered his testi-

nours ministering to them the ordinances

worship him. The poor devil did not own a is the influence of President Young that Christian world imagine, the marriage rewar against; let them say what they may, these things are what they are at enmity with. Their present objection to the Latter-

day Saints, they say, is plurality of wives. It is this principle they are trying to raise a persecution against now. But how was it in Missouri, Kirtland, Jackson County, Far West, Caldwell County, in all our drivings and afflictions, before this principle was revealed to the Church? Cerorganization of an institution founded by revelation from God. They did not believe in that, and that was the objection in those days. If we were to do away with polygamy, it would only be one feather in the bird, one ordinance in the Church and Kingdom. Do away with that, then we must do away with prophets and apostles, the gospel, and finally give up our religion altogether and turn sectarians and do as the world does, then all would be right. We just can't do that, for God has commanded us to build up His Kingdom and to bear our testimony to the nations of the earth. and we are going to do it,come life or come death. He has told us to do thus, and we shall obey Him in days to come as we have in days past.

Brethren and sisters let us exercise faith; the ancient prophets lived by Taith; it is as necessary for us as for them. I believe dictate him. This spirit reveals, day by habitants were destroyed by sword, pestilence and famine, has been fulfilled. All these things have been in strict fulfillment of the sayings of Moses and Jesus concerning them. When the Sawhat God has said will be fulfilled. I believe the Book of Mormon and the Book day, to every man who has faith, those of Doctrine and Covenants will be fulfilled, things which are for his benefit. As Job and all the promises and prophecies made by the faithful servants of God. When any man speaks as he is moved upon by the characters of these men as prophets and apostles. Yet so it was, and these things spiration of the Aimighty giveth it underthe Holy Ghost, that is the word of Gor' to the people; and though the heavens and Joseph Smith was what he professed to be, a prophet of God, a seer and revelator. He laid the foundation of this church and His children in every age of the world that the earth pass away, not one jot or tittle of the Prophet Joseph, when they turned the word of God will fall unfulfilled. I against him, they sought with all their is one of the necessary gifts to sustain man care not whether it be by His own voice powers to take away his life. Not only out of the heavens; by the ministration of were they alraid of their own lives, but and enable him to walk by faith, and to go suffer almost beyond the endurance of kingdom, and lived long enough to deliver man, and until the last few years, have the keys of the kingdom to the elders of forth and abey all the distations and comangels; by the voice of a prophet, or by scarcely had the right of citizenship in any Israel, unto the Twelve Apostles. He spent nation under heaven-except in the United the last winter of his life, some three or four the inspiration of the Holy Ghost through His servants, it is the word of God to the would they not give in exchange for their people; it is truth and it will have its effect souls? But no matter, they cannot redean gives to His children to guide and direct months, with the quoram of the Twelve teaching them. It was not merely a few them in life. We have a long list given to us in the and fulfillment. Everything that has been communicated to us by revelation I believe to be true; many of them I know. I have faith and knowledge, both in a degree. I faith and knowledge, both in a degree. I of the gospel; but he spent day after day, week after week and month after month, It is so with regard to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the latter days. If they called the master of the house Beelzebub, will they New Testament criptures of those, who, in ancient days, lived, labored and performed teaching them and a few others the things of the kingdom of God. Said he, during that period, "I now rejoice. I have lived until I have seen this burden, which has rested on my shoulders, rolled on to the shoulders of other men; now the keys of the kingdom are planted on the carth to be want more; I wish for more, and all I ask and by they will unite with the wicked their duties by faith. Among them was it was His business whether we lived or died Noah, who, being warned of God, went forth and prepared an ark for the salvation of and took Brother Pratt and President is that the Lord will enable me to be faithful. I wish eternal life. I want salvation. This is the object of my life; for this I em-braced "Mormonism." This is the principestilent fellow and a stirrer up of sedition and strife, still He was the Savior of the himself and family. Abraham, also, offered Young in mine; Brother Cutler, one of the ple that has sustained me from the time I entered this church and kingdom. This hope sustained me when I shouldered my up his son Isaac by faith, because he was called and commanded of God, believing in taken away no more for ever." But until This principle of unbelief has existed