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## DISCOURSE

Delivered at the Conference of the Utah Stake of Zion, Sunday, April 17, 1898, by

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON.

I will read a portion of the 12th chapter of the Book of Ether:

"And Ether was a prophet of the Lord; wherefore Ether came forth in the days of Coriantumr, and began to prophesy unto the people, for he could not be restrained because of the Spirit of the Lord which was in him;

"For he did cry from the morning, even until the going down of the sun, exhorting the people to believe in God unto repentance, lest they should be destroyed, saying unto them, that by faith all things are fulfilled;

"Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glory God.

"And it came to pass that Ether did prophesy great and marvellous things unto the people, which they did not believe, because they saw them not.

"And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would shew unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith;

"For it was by faith that Christ shewed himself unto our fathers, after He had risen from the dead; and He shewed not Himself unto them, until after they had faith in Him; wherefore it must needs be that some hath faith in Him, for He shewed Himself not unto the world.

"But because of the faith of men, He has shewn Himself unto the world and glorified the name of the Father, and prepared a way that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift, that they might hope for those things which they have not seen;

"Wherefore ye may also have hope, and be partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith.

"Behold it was by faith that they of old were called after the holy order of God;

"Wherefore, by faith, was the law of Moses given. But in the gift of His Son, hath God prepared a more excellent way; and it is by faith that it hath been fulfilled;

"For if there be no faith among the children of men, God can do no miracle among them; wherefore He shewed not Himself until after their faith.

"Behold, it was the faith of Alma and Amulek that caused the prison to tumble to the earth.

"Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi, that wrought the change upon the Lamanites, that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

"Behold, it was the faith of Ammon

and his brethren, which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites; "Yea, and even all they who wrought miracles; wrought them by faith, even those who were before Christ, and also them who were after.

"And it was by faith that the three disciples obtained a promise that they should not taste of death; and they obtained not the promise until after their faith.

"And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the Son of God.

"And there were many whose faith was so exceeding strong even before Christ came who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad.

"And behold, we have seen in this record, that one of these was the brother of Jared; for so great was his faith in God, that when God put forth His finger, He could not hide it from the sight of the brother of Jared, because of His word which He had spoken unto him, which word he had obtained by faith.

"And after the brother of Jared had beheld the finger of the Lord, because of the promise which the brother of Jared had obtained by faith, the Lord could not withhold anything from his sight; wherefore he shewed him all things, for he could no longer be kept without the veil.

"And it is by faith that my fathers have obtained the promise that these things should come unto their brethren through the Gentiles; therefore the Lord hath commanded me, yea, even Jesus Christ."

There is much of similar import to this in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, written by Paul, in which he sets forth very clearly the power of God that was manifested from time to time among the children of men through the power of faith.

It is a good thing to have our minds refreshed by reading the Word of God upon this principle, because if there is any people upon the face of the earth that have need of faith, or any people that have seen the fruits of faith, we are that people; for God has shown His power to us through the exercise of our faith in Him.

We have met together this afternoon, and I have no doubt that in the hearts of all present there is a desire that that which shall be said shall be of profit to them. People do not gather together as you have, some coming from afar, without a purpose and without a desire to be instructed. I trust, therefore, that in all our hearts there will be an exercise of faith in the Lord to this end, that we may be instructed and benefited.

Like my brethren, I have been greatly gratified at this Conference. I have felt that this ought to be the dawning of a new era in this Stake of Zion. I believe that the union of the people has

been greatly promoted by their efforts to complete this Tabernacle. I feel that the faith which has been manifested by the people in contributing of their substance and of their labor to the accomplishment of this great work will have a widespread and beneficial effect upon the people. It has been my experience and observation that whenever the Latter-day Saints are called upon to perform a work, and they go to with their energy, their might, and with the spirit of union to accomplish that work, the effects upon their character are always of a beneficial nature. It results in great good to the individual, and to the people. In thinking about this, my mind has been led to contemplate the effect that it will have, and also the principle of faith which has been exemplified by the Saints in this great work—for I suppose it has been a very great work to you in this Stake. It is by faith that you have done this. And what you have done illustrates to a very great extent the principle of faith.

Our people have been urged from the beginning to have faith in God and in His power. And, as I have said, the lessons that we have been taught have been of a character to leave an undying impress upon us, that should not be obliterated by anything that may occur. If I had power, I would like to make a still deeper impression upon our minds concerning this principle, and to show to the Latter-day Saints that God intends that we shall be a people of great faith—a people of such faith that we shall carry to a successful termination any labor or duty that He may require at our hands. I would like, if I can, to draw the attention of this congregation to that which has been accomplished by this people through the exercise of faith. I need not bring this down to individual cases, because everyone here, who has had any experience in this Church, has seen the effects of faith in his or her own life. I think there are very few in this whole audience who could not, if called upon, bear a testimony to illustrate the principle upon which I am speaking.

This Church has been built up by faith. Through this principle we have performed most extraordinary works. The history of the people from the beginning furnishes a continued exemplification of what men and women can do when they have faith in God and in His power. Jesus said, "All things are possible to him that believeth." We were told yesterday by Brother Grant concerning Nephi going to Jerusalem, at the command of the Lord through his father, to obtain possession of the brass plates. Nephi's brothers manifested a want of faith in the mission their father had assigned to them, and Nephi uttered this remarkable expression: "The Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save He shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which He commandeth them." That illustrates most beautifully the principle of faith. It seemed an impossible