

duties that God requires of us as we might have been. For if the Latter-day Saints had been as industrious and devoted as they could have been, not one that has had twenty years of experience, or even ten, could be led astray today. They would be schooled by the inspiration of the Almighty that they could not be deceived by the voice of a stranger, for they would know the voice of the true Shepherd. And this is very desirable; for in this is our safety, and without it there is no safety. The fact of our having repented of our sins, and having been baptized, and having received the Holy Ghost, and having received a testimony that the Gospel was true, and having gathered together and received our blessings in the Temple of the Lord, is not sufficient. To be absolutely safe it takes a constant labor, faithfully exercising all our powers and privileges in the Gospel. Position, priesthood and authority are not enough to secure the salvation of a man. It is just as necessary that the man who is President of a Stake, or of a mission, or who bears the Apostleship, should be diligent, humble, faithful, meet often with the Saints to partake of the Sacrament, and attend to his prayers faithfully, as it is that the Deacon or the member should do these things. A man's position, responsibility and ordination will not excuse him from any little duty. But I say that the man who has received the greatest responsibility and authority in the Church of Christ ought to be the most humble, the most meek, the most willing and the most obedient, and to bow the lowest if necessary. In him should be seen the effects of the Gospel of Christ more plainly than in other men. The greater responsibility there is placed upon a man's shoulder, I say the greater obligation for him to do the will of God. Just as our Father who is in heaven stands at the head and is greater than all. His example is perfect, and we can not go beyond it; and we are admonished by the Savior of the world that we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. And I repeat that the more authority and more responsibility that are placed upon a man's shoulders the greater should be his humility, the more perfect should be his conduct towards his brother, the more gentle, kind, long-suffering and patient should he be, that he may win and save the people. And as the men who stand at the head of the Church and bear the greatest responsibility ought to be the most careful in regard to these things, and set good examples before the people, that the Saints shall not be offended, so I reason that the Saints should set such examples in the earth that the world shall not be offended at them. The sobriety of the Latter-day Saints ought to teach a lesson to the world. Their temperance, their humility, their prayerfulness, the carefulness with which they observe the Sabbath day and their obligations to the Lord should be an example to the world. And example is stronger than any doctrine that can be published or preached to the world.

What wonders it would tell if we were Latter-day Saints indeed—that is, if we did the will of the Lord as we have covenanted to do, and were not in any degree covenant-breakers!

What a sermon it would preach! It would be a standing sermon to the world. If we were Latter-day Saints as we ought to be—keeping the commandments of God, not a man doing wrong, not a man breaking the Sabbath day, not a team hitched up or anything done on the Sabbath day not absolutely necessary to be done, the houses of God all crowded, and every Latter-day Saint partaking of the sacrament—what a testimony this would be to the world! It would be more than all the Elders are preaching today in the world, and we have hundreds of them in different parts of the earth. I say if Zion could be seen in that condition it would speak louder than though we were all to go into the world to bear testimony to the truth. Let the fruit be seen; for we judge, and must always be judged, by the fruit we produce and by the works we accomplish. Let the restraining influence of the Spirit and power of God that we have received be shown in every man's life. Let it be shown in every household, in every place of worship, in every place of business, or wherever an Elder of Israel is; and I say it will bear such a testimony to the world that they will stand aghast before it.

But we are like the world, and we are contaminated with them more or less. We indulge in their frivolities, in their nonsense, and in their ways. As they neglect prayers, so do we. As they neglect the house of worship on the Sabbath day and the sacrament of the Lord's supper, so do we. As they neglect to repent of their sin and make restitution, so do we; and as they take pleasure and enjoy themselves, and are thoughtless in regard to the Lord and His ways, so are we, in a measure. We are too careless. Too few of the Latter-day Saints come together on the Sabbath day to worship the Lord, and they allow too small excuses to keep them at home. In this regard there ought to be something of a reformation; so that wherever a Latter-day Saint is found the world would feel the very spirit of justice, of morality, of temperance and of righteousness in him as he moved in their midst; that it should have its influence over them, and that when such a man speaks the Spirit of the Lord would commend what he says as honest and true. The record and the credit of the Latter-day Saints ought to be above question, above suspicion. It ought to be understood that what the Latter-day Saints profess they live up to; that in their families, in their business circles, and wherever they are, they honor the professions that they make.

Therefore, whatever reformation we need to make, let us make it. If we would only do this, my brethren and sisters, we would find that happiness, peace and fellowship would reign more abundantly among us than it does, and we would live in each other's hearts and confidence; we would love one another, we would bless one another, we would pray for one another, and we would not allow any difference of sentiment in regard to matters of business or politics, or anything of that kind, to ever divide us from the love of our brethren and from the love of God; we would rise above all these things entirely, and would exercise a charity for one another—that charity that doth not find fault with a neighbor. It is not profitable

for us to find fault with a neighbor. It is profitable for us to find a little fault with ourselves, and correct ourselves; but not to complain of our neighbor, nor try and injure him in any manner, nor to magnify his faults before others. We want to be generous and kind in regard to these things. If a man has a fault, let me sorrow for him, and not take joy in the fact that he is a sinner, and magnify and parade his falling before the world; for if a man has fallen he has still some virtues. I say that Latter-day Saints, as a rule, have more virtues than they have faults or vices. Take the worst of them, and they have more virtues than they have faults. Latter-day Saints have a great many virtues, and by the side of one of their faults you may count ten of their virtues, if you choose to look for them. And it is a nice thing to parade each other's virtues. We need not take any particular pains to parade our own; but parade the virtues of your neighbors, of your friends, of your kindred. Speak of their virtues. If a man has fallen into transgression, it is a relief to remember that he did a good thing, and to speak of the virtues that he has manifested in the past. Possibly these virtues may in the future assert themselves over his faults. Have hope for such people as long as there is life, and have forgiveness for them. Let our hearts be large enough and warm enough to forgive those who have been transgressors, and bring them to repentance and reformation, if possible. Seek that gift of God, faith, and that gift of God, repentance, may come to those who have transgressed, that they may return again, so far as they have wandered from the straight and narrow path, to walking in it and honoring the Lord. What a joy it is to have neighbors and friends who are always treading the straight and narrow path, that seem as though they were guides, and as though we could walk safely by them, because we have done so and have found them always sure and steadfast, and where we find them standing we know there is safe ground.

Now, brethren and sisters, maybe we can make some reformation, and I presume that every Latter-day Saint wants to make the necessary reformation. I want to be prepared for every change, every advance step, and every vicissitude that comes to us, whether it be a rough or a smooth one. I want to stand securely upon both feet, that I may not be easily upset; because I have understood for a long time that everything that can be shaken will be shaken. That means you, and it means me. If we can be shaken, we will be shaken—there is no question about that. We will be tried; and if it is not the apostacy of somebody that tries us, and if it is not the manifesto, if it is not politics, and if it is not riches, if it is not poverty, it will be something that will come to try every soul in the Church. Every soul will be shaken that can be shaken, and only those will remain that God sustains, and that are wise enough to walk the straight and narrow path.

That is my testimony to you, my brethren and sisters. And every time that we stand firm and are not moved in one trial, that sets and fixes us for another. Yet we may stand many trials before we come to the one that will upset us. Let us, then, be very