

know Joseph Smith was inspired of God; that God visited him; that angels came to him; that the Apostles came to him and ordained him to the Apostleship. I know that this work, nicknamed Mormonism by the world, is the very truth of God sent down from heaven that all mankind may receive it. I know that the angel spoke of by John has come; that the Gospel he brought is here, and it will stay here; and the power and authority of the Apostleship that God has sent here will abide here, no matter what men may do. They may thrust us into prison; they may put us to death; but the truth will live and go on; and the authority and power that we bear will be given to others. The work of God will prevail, and come off more than conqueror. This Gospel shall go to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people; and the honest and the true of all nations and climes will gladly receive it. Why not? Is it not a glorious thing to think of, that the silence of ages has been broken, that God has spoken again from the heavens, that angels have come again from the courts of glory, that the communication so long cut off has been opened up again, and now we can commune with the heavens, and they are dropping down blessings upon the heads of all who are ready to receive them. God is nigh at hand, and not afar off, and He will bless every honest soul who will obey His Gospel.

And this is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: Repent, ye repent of your sins and your iniquities, and your false faiths, and your false forms of worship; ye repent and come unto me, saith the Lord, and I will draw near unto you. Turn away from your transgressions; be baptized by one having authority, for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, which reveals the precious things of the Father and the Son. You shall know that God lives; that Jesus of Nazareth was His Christ; that He died for the salvation of men, and that the truth of heaven has been restored to the earth in the latter days. You shall understand the purposes of God in regard to the generation in which you live. And when you pass away from this mortal state, you will mingle with the spirits of the just in the paradise of God, and in the glorious resurrection morning come up to inherit glory, immortality and eternal life, and to receive a fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of peace.

I bear you this testimony before God, and the angels, and the heavens, and pray God the Eternal Father to bless it to your souls, and that you may be led by this simple testimony and these few remarks that I have made, to search into these things and obtain the blessings that are in store for you, and finally secure a full and complete salvation in the presence of our Father in heaven, for Christ's sake. Amen.

#### PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

We have heard from Elder Penrose some of the principles that the Latter-day Saints believe in, and what he has said is worthy the attention of the whole world, because, if his statements and testimony be true, they should appeal to every human being that lives. If they be not true, everyone should take steps to prove their falsity. I take it that all who are here tonight who are not of our Church have a natural curiosity—to call it by no stronger name—

to know the nature of the doctrines that are believed in by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have become so famous, or notorious, as you may please, that every enquiring mind wants to know, if possible, what the secret of the strength, cohesion and union of the Mormon people is. Brother Penrose has set before us tonight, very briefly, the foundation of our faith. I have heard a great many people who have listened to the teachings in this Tabernacle say, "Why, we do not discover any difference between your doctrines and teachings and the doctrines and teachings of the orthodox Christians. What is it that constitutes the difference and that makes you such a peculiar people?" Elder Penrose has set forth some of these reasons. I may say that we believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and in the Holy Ghost, as being one God, worshipped by us. We believe in Jesus as the Redeemer of the world; that He died for us; that without His death and atonement we could not be saved. We believe in repentance of sin. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. We believe in eternal judgment. In these beliefs we do not differ, speaking generally, from the orthodox Christian world. What is it then that constitutes the difference?

We believe it is man's privilege today to have the same gifts, the same powers and the same blessings from God as the ancients possessed. In other words, if we will serve God and keep His commandments, and have the ordinances of the Gospel administered to us by one having authority, we believe that precisely the same blessings and gifts will follow the believer as followed the disciples of Christ in His day. We therefore contend for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints—the faith by which the prophets spoke and by which the apostles performed the mighty works they accomplished. We believe that we have found this faith and this authority. Our position is that the reason these gifts and graces have disappeared from the Christian world is because the authority that God bestowed in ancient times was withdrawn.

When this authority was on the earth a warfare was instituted against every man who held it and who was recognized as an authorized servant of God. This warfare was waged until they were all slain who held the Priesthood of God, and none were left among men who could say to the people, "Thus saith the Lord." Apostles were slain, prophets were slain, righteous men were slain, and a pall of darkness spread over the whole of what may be termed Christendom, and not a voice was heard to break the silence that persecution had brought about. Our testimony is that in these last days, in order to prepare the way for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ—for we believe that He will come, as has been predicted—the Lord restored that authority from heaven.

It is a startling thought, perhaps; many think it almost blasphemous to express it; nevertheless we declare it in all solemnity, that God has restored the principles of the everlasting Gospel and the authority to administer its ordinances, and that the fruits which have always attended the preaching of the Gospel, are now brought forth by those who obey it.

Time will not admit of very lengthy

remarks, but let me point out a few reasons and evidences and a few of the fruits that have attended the preaching of the Gospel as it has been restored in these last days.

One of the fruits is this: There is a union among those who have obeyed this Gospel that is unexampled in the earth. Wherever you go among men you will find more or less division and contention; but wherever this Gospel has been preached by the Elders, who have gone out without purse and scrip, and people have received their testimony, and been baptized, and had hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost, a spirit of union and of love has come upon them—the same spirit that was bestowed in ancient days upon the people of God. The Latter-day Saints who reside in these mountains, and who have been gathered from every land in Christendom, have come with this spirit in their hearts, and they live together in union and in peace. There was a time in this country when not a liquor saloon was found from one end of our Territory to the other. A lawsuit was most unusual. If the people had difficulties, they settled them like brethren, according to the rules of the Gospel. There was no strife. The people dwelt together in peace and union. Yet the great bulk of them were brought up and trained in the different churches of the world, believing in different creeds, many of them speaking different languages; but when they obeyed this Gospel they came here and are dwelling together in peace and in love.

This is one of the fruits of the Gospel. Jesus in His last prayer prayed that His disciples might be one, even as He and the Father were one; and this spirit of oneness has rested down upon this people called Mormons.

Another manifestation which accompanies the Gospel is persecution. Paul says: "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Persecution such as no other denomination has suffered has been the lot of the Latter-day Saints. Time and again they have been driven from their homes. Time and again they have had the choice offered to them of abandoning their religion or being driven forth by mobs. They have chosen rather to suffer the spoliation of their goods, and even death itself, than to forsake their religion, because they know it is the truth of heaven. This was the ruling spirit that prompted the settlement of these valleys. It was religion that brought the Mormons to the Rocky Mountains. It was that they might live in a place where they could worship God without fear and molestation. In coming here they came with that desire and determination, willing that everybody else should have equal rights with themselves and have the privilege of worshipping God without hindrance. As a proof of this we can point to the practice of opening our places of worship to strangers who came into our midst. The gold emigration of 1849-50 and succeeding years, brought with it numbers of prominent ministers, and whenever one was known to be in town he was invariably invited to speak to our people. And this was before there were any churches erected here by other denominations, and when the entire population was Mormon. The people would turn out in large numbers to hear bishops of the Methodist church, ministers of the Episcopal church and of