

thing to Laman and Lemuel, because they knew the character of Laban—that he was utterly unscrupulous and would not hesitate to do anything; and therefore they had no faith that they could accomplish what their father desired. On the contrary, Nephi believed that whatever God required at the hands of men He would prepare the way, if they but had faith and exerted themselves, for it to be accomplished. The history of that mission is full of encouragement, and conveys a lesson of great importance to all who will read it and enter into the spirit of that which was done. Nephi was determined to accomplish that which his father and the Lord had required at his hands. Though the first attempt was to a certain extent a failure, that did not discourage him; he did not say, "It is impossible; we cannot accomplish it." He did not yield to that feeling; but he continued his effort until he accomplished the business that was entrusted to him.

The history of the Latter-day Saints contains numerous illustrations of this principle in the great works that have been accomplished by the servants of God. The Prophet Joseph Smith's whole life is full of these. He was full of faith. He believed that whatever the Lord required at his hands, he could do; and he never hesitated. It was so with many others in the Church. It has been so with the entire people. I need only refer you to the coming of the people to this land. A great many said it was impossible; that the people would perish in the wilderness; that they must have many things they did not have, in order to accomplish that work. But there were those who did not have that fear. They did not stop to ask themselves whether they had the means with which to make the journey; but they started out, believing that God would help them and would open the way before them. And in every instance where they had this faith they accomplished that which they were aiming for.

How often has it been in the history of the people that those who had faith, after receiving the Gospel in their native land, and who believed that God would open their way, and were willing to trust Him to the very uttermost, were able in this manner to emigrate to the land which God had designated as a place of gathering for His people? Many of this congregation, no doubt, if they were called upon, could relate how wonderfully God had opened their way in this respect.

The Elders who are sent out as missionaries also have the opportunity of proving the correctness of this principle, and they can testify to the power of God manifested in their behalf, because of their determination to do that which God called them to do. I could relate instance after instance from my own experience, where I have been told that it was no use for me to attempt to do a certain thing, because it could not be done, and yet by being determined and having unyielding faith in God I have been able to accomplish it. I suppose the lives of all of us who have had experience in this Church, especially in missionary work, abound with illustrations of this kind. One little incident occurs to my mind. I had translated the Book of Mormon into the Hawaiian language. We had purchased a press, type and paper to be sent to the Sandwich Islands, and they arrived there after I had returned home. Brother Parley P. Pratt, who was laboring in San Francisco, had these sent up to San Francisco, with the expectation of publishing a paper there. He requested the First Presidency that I might return and aid in the publication of this paper, and also

to publish the translation which I had made of the Book of Mormon. I was called and sent. After my arrival in San Francisco, I found that Brother Pratt had started home. I followed him. He had made his arrangements, however, to go, and he told me that I must take hold of the work, and he set me apart to preside in California. Well, I was but young, and I looked younger than I really was; and the Saints in San Francisco said, "It is no use." One of the leading men said to me, "If you have got a thousand dollars, you can open an office here." They said everything almost to discourage me. I said, "The Lord has sent me here; I am going to publish a paper here; I am going to publish the Book of Mormon here." I need not rehearse to you the particulars of how the Lord opened the way. For many weeks we lived on bread and water. Shortly afterward, I having opened an office and commenced the publication of the book, the officers of the branch and conference asked me if I would not attend a meeting that they were going to hold. I supposed that they, seeing how destitute we were (myself and the two Elders who were with me, and my wife), were going to do something to assist us; but instead of that, they notified me that they would not be responsible for any debt of my contracting. They saw I was going ahead, but they did not want me to deceive myself with the idea that I could fall back on them and expect them to pay any debts that I might contract. You can imagine what effect that would have on any of you. It stirred me up a good deal, and I prophesied to them—for I had the spirit of prophecy—and told them to get out of my way and not impede my work. They told me to shut up the office. I said to them, "I am sent here to do a work, and with God's help I will do it; and if you do not want to help in this, the Lord will raise up others that will." And He did. In a very short time I was able to send to President Young nearly two thousand dollars in cash tithing. Money was offered me by the thousands to assist me in my work. I did not avail myself of the offer, because I knew if I did I would not be able to return it for a while. But I published the Book of Mormon, and sent 2,500 copies to the Sandwich Islands; and I published a paper, and did so till the Buchanan war broke us up.

No doubt, many of the Elders have experienced similar instances to this, where, when they made up their minds that it was the will of God that certain things should be done, and they went to with their might to do it, the Lord has opened the way before them and given them success.

This principle, as I have said, is illustrated in the completion of this Utah Stake Tabernacle. There is a determination adopted by the presidency of this Stake that they are going to finish this tabernacle, and the determination and faith which they manifest cause the results that we witness today. So it is in everything connected with the Church. Men pay their tithing, and when they do it in faith, God blesses that tithing; when they contribute to the work of God, He blesses their contributions, and He brings means to them in ways that are imperceptible to them; but they see the results.

God wants us to be a people that will have faith in Him, and not be governed by the feelings that actuated our fathers, who judged by the sight of the eye and did not think anything could be accomplished except in a natural way such as they had been accustomed to. The Lord intends to emancipate this people from those ideas, if they will listen to Him and be-

lieve in His promises. He has all power in heaven and on earth; and, as Nephi once said, "If he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, it should be earth." There is nothing impossible with God. If we will rise to the comprehension of this principle, He will open our way before us continually; He will make things plain before us, and give unto us means with which we can accomplish everything that He commands, no matter how impossible it may seem to us naturally. I would like you to see and understand this principle that the Lord endeavors to teach us in all His word. Moroni says: "Faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not." It requires faith to do things which are not seen. Our fathers did not have this faith, because it was not in the earth in their days. Our fathers judged by the sight of the eye. But God is teaching us a new lesson. He is teaching us to hope for things we see not, but which we know, by the principle of faith, exist and are possible. Moroni also says: "And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me." This is a glorious promise, made unto all those who will have faith; and we as a people should rise to a comprehension of this. Moroni says in another place: "And after that he came, men also were saved by faith in His name; and by faith, they become the sons of God. And as sure as Christ liveth, He spake these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you."

It is by this principle that mighty works are performed. It is by this principle that this land has been settled, and the difficulties that environed the people of God have been overcome. The men that led the people had faith. President Brigham Young had unbounded faith when he led he people here; for God had given him knowledge concerning these things. He asked the people to do things that appeared to be impossible; but he knew that if they had faith they could do them.

But I must say that at times it seems there are some who do not have the faith they had formerly. They are not so willing to listen to the servants of God and to believe in them and their words as they were formerly. I have been impressed in this way at times. Still, speaking generally, the people have grown in faith and in knowledge. There are instances, however, when there is a reluctance to believe that the things not seen by the natural eye are possible. Many look about for natural agencies, for natural power, for natural aids. If they cannot see them they do not seem to have faith that these things can be accomplished. They must see—the very thing that we are told faith does not do. Faith is a principle that can be used to the accomplishment of ends that are not seen by the natural eye, and very frequently appear as impossible.

Brethren and sisters, it is time, with the experience we have had now as a Church, that we should be a people of unbounded faith, willing to believe that all things are possible with God, and that when He commands us to do anything, we should go to with our might and with unyielding determination to accomplish that end according to the mind and will of God. This is the kind of people God expects us to be. If we are going to build up Zion in power and in great glory upon the earth, it will be by this principle of faith, by putting our trust in God, listening to His word, receiving it in the proper manner from that authority which He