

thing to talk about a thing and another to do it? Can you feel that you are willing to do your duties, magnify your callings, submit to whatever the Lord places upon your shoulders, and say it is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good? If we who profess to be Latter Day Saints, we who have taken upon us the name of Christ, we who have been baptized in his name for the remission of sins, and had the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, who have received our washings and anointings and teachings from the mouth of Jehovah; who have lived under the sunshine of the light and intelligence that flowed from the mouth of God—if we, who have partaken of so great and precious privileges and blessings, cannot do these things, how long will it be before every creature in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth will be heard to say, 'blessings,' etc? It is necessary for us to reflect upon these duties and responsibilities, and try, each one of us, so to live, act, move and obey, and so to fulfill the laws, commandments and ordinances of God, that in every position we occupy we shall move along like a well organized piece of machinery, or like a tree whereon every branch, stem, leaf, twig and blossom will be found to flourish, that we may all magnify our God and flourish before him.

Do you not think the Lord will take care of his own tree or people?—and do you not think he will do just what is right? Some of us would have liked to have killed a lot of those soldiers. I would if the Lord had said so, and if he did not want it I did not. It is rather a dirty business anyhow; and if he has a mind to use some other means, and let them wiggle themselves out their own way, I have no objections to it. I would rather go out in the canyon and live on bread and beef than go to work at killing men; if the Lord can make use of us in that way, it is all right.

I do not remember having read in any history or had related to me any circumstance where an army has been subjugated so easily and their power wasted away so effectually without bloodshed as this in our borders. If this is not the manifestation of the power of God to us, I do not know what is. Has any man's life been lost in it? No; not one. It is true our brethren have been fired upon, but their balls failed of doing the injury that was expected. Our brethren were told not to retaliate, and they did not do it. Where is there such a manifestation of the power of God?

Suppose you or I had had the dictation of this matter, we should have been firing clear away on the Sweetwater, and killed a lot of them before they got here. It was not us, then, that directed this matter. No; who was it? Why, it was those who are placed over us, and those very things that seemed hard for us to do at that time have really accomplished one of the greatest things that history has yet developed. The power of God never was made more manifest.

Where did it take place and how? Out of the fountain head; it flowed through the stem of the tree; it came from City Creek canyon, to go to one of our former figures, and through the proper channels. My judgment would have said go and kill them off, long ago. I should have said, 'hallo, here, 150 men drive those teams in here, that are on Ham's Fork, before the soldiers arrive, and then we will kill off the scoundrels by piecemeal,' and that would have been the judgment of most men; it would have been according to natural reasoning, but God does not see as men, he reasons not as man. Although we may partially comprehend our individual duties, we do not understand how to regulate the church of God. It needs the regular organization, and the Spirit to direct through the proper channels, and hence the result of these events that are manifest now before our eyes.

Would you like the soldiers away? I do not know that I would; I do not care anything about it. Perhaps the Lord may have hung them up there like the mother hangs up the rod and points to it. Does the mother want to hurt the child? No; neither does she want to be continually scolding. The Lord may not be angry at us, but he does not want us to be continually disobeying his authority and going contrary to his law.

Suppose Uncle Sam should rise up in his red hot wrath, and send fifty thousand men here—[President Brigham Young says his own fire would burn him up]—who of us can tell the result? I speak of these things that we may reflect. Who can tell what will come next? Who knows about the future? You see the position we are placed in, that we are dependent on the Lord and on his counsel, and all that we can do or say will be according to that from this time henceforth and for ever. Zion begins to rise, her light being come. The glory of the Lord is rising upon us.

Will the law of God go from Zion and his word from Jerusalem? Will he rebuke strong nations afar off and manifest his power through his priesthood? How, when, and in what manner will these things be brought about? Who can say? Do you not see that we are just as ignorant today in regard to many of the events that pertain to the kingdom of God as we were on the day we were baptized?—at the same time, we were then ignorant in relation to many principles that are now plain and familiar to us. And so it will be from this time forward. It needs a guiding hand, a man filled with the Spirit of God, and not only that but the Lord to communicate with, that he may comprehend the designs of God and lead forth Israel in the paths they should go.

What shall we do then? Shall we begin to fret and whine, and grout and groan about this and that, and because we think things are in a very bad fix? We ought to feel that we are in the church and kingdom of God, and that God is at the helm, and that all is right, and will continue to be. I feel as easy as a old shoe.

What if we should be driven to the mountains, let us be driven. What if we have to burn our houses, why, set fire to them with a good grace

and dance a jig around them while they are burning. What do I care about these things? We are in the hands of God and all is right. Br. Brigham says we are used to it and we shall not feel it hard.

Brethren, we are eternal beings and are associated with eternal principles; we are in the church and kingdom of God upon the earth, and that kingdom is an eternal kingdom, and we are bound by and associated with eternal principles, we are beginning to live for ever and are acting not only for time but for eternity. And as our minds expand and the things of God unfold themselves unto us from time to time we shall see the fitness of things, and the wisdom, guidance and protection of Jehovah, just as much as it has been manifest unto us in the events that have lately transpired. And if we go to sleep or die it is only the starting point to live for ever.

We have got within us the principles of eternal life. If our bodies shall crumble into the dust we shall move in another sphere and associate with other intelligences that are connected with the same kingdom and government, and continue to live and roll forth the purposes of God. And if we should have a war and a few things like this, never mind; who cares? Just grin and bear it; do right and cleave to God and all will go off well.

These ideas lead us to reflection, and to consider the designs of God, and if we are faithful, they will tend to purify us. No trouble for the present is joyous but grievous, yet it yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness to those who are exercised therewith, while we look not at the things that are seen but things that are not seen, for the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

How many evil propensities yet remain in our bosoms! How prone are we to depart from the right path! How liable are our spirits to rebel against the order and government of God! How many feelings that are in us that do not accord with those principles that dwell in the bosom of Jehovah, and cannot associate with those intelligences that are associated with him in the eternal world!

How necessary it is that we should have faith, teaching, instruction, and a whole train of events to keep our minds awake to the subject of our existence as eternal beings, that we may honor our calling on the earth, honor our God, fulfil our destiny, to prepare us for a celestial exaltation in the eternal world! Do you not see the necessity of these trials and afflictions and scenes we have to pass through?

It is the Lord who puts us in positions that are the most calculated to promote the best interest of his people. My opinion is that, far from these things that now surround us being an injury to us and the kingdom of God, they will give it one of the greatest boosts that it has ever had yet, and all is right and all will be right if we keep the commandments of God. What is the position, then, that we ought to occupy—every man, woman and child? Do our duty before God, honor him, and all is right. And concerning events yet to transpire, we must trust them in the hands of God and feel that whatever is, is right, and that God will control all things for our best good and the interest of his church and kingdom on the earth.

If we live here and prosper, all right, if we leave here, all right, and if we have to pass through affliction, all right. By and bye, when we come to gaze on the fitness of things that are now obscure to us, we shall find that God, although he has moved in a mysterious way to accomplish his purposes on the earth and his purposes relative to us as individuals and as families, all things are governed by that wisdom which flows from God and all things are right and calculated to promote every person's eternal welfare before God. May God bless you and guide you in the way of truth continually. Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Wilford Woodruff, Tabernacle, Dec. 6, 1857.

[REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.]

I esteem it a privilege at all times to join with my brethren in bearing testimony of the work of God. I am satisfied that we as a people have great reason to rejoice for the privileges and blessings granted unto us in these valleys of the mountains by our Father in heaven. We are in a great school, and it is a profitable one, in which we are receiving very important lessons from day to day. We are taught to cultivate our minds, to control our thoughts, to thoroughly bring our whole being into subjection to the Spirit and law of God, that we may learn to be one and act as the heart of one man, that we may carry out the purposes of God upon the earth. Yes, we are taught many principles which tend to our exaltation and glory which could not be made manifest unto us only as they are revealed unto us by the inspiration of the Almighty through the mouth of His servants the Prophets.

The principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ are made plain to us by the figures and illustrations which have been made to-day and which are made from time to time, so plain, that a child could not misunderstand; also to impress upon our minds our duties. These principles are not surrounded with that mystery that shrouds the doctrines taught by the sectarian world.

We as a people have long been praying for the kingdom of God to come and His will to be done on the earth as it is done in heaven. We have been taught this prayer from childhood, but neither we nor our parents understood what we were praying for, only we made a practice of uttering those words from tradition, and never understood the meaning; until we were made acquainted with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since we have become acquainted

with br. Joseph and the gospel we have looked forward with much interest to the day when the kingdom of God should be established upon the earth in the same light, power and glory in which the Apostles and Prophets saw it by vision and revelation, and that all which God has promised concerning it should have its fulfillment.

During the last twenty or twenty-five years many things have been prophesied; and the Lord through his servants has made many promises which have been revealed unto us concerning the blessings that are in store for us if we faithfully did our duty. I can say with my brethren that I rejoice that I am in these valleys of the mountains associated with the people of God a thousand miles from christianity, civilization and the fruits thereof, at least such as is now manifest throughout the christian world, and I feel to prize this blessing and to acknowledge the hand of God in leading us here, for the hand of God has been plainly visible in delivering us from the hands of our persecutors and planting us in a land of health, peace and safety; and the more my mind is enlightened by the Holy Spirit the more precious and glorious do these principles appear unto me.

I am satisfied that all is right in Zion. All is right with those who lead us. All is right as far as we do right. We have enjoyed many blessings during the past year. The Lord has in his mercy poured out his Holy Spirit upon us as a people, and there is a great change with the inhabitants of Zion during the past year. We were in a great measure asleep, and the Lord knowing the things which lay before us poured out His Spirit abundantly upon our leaders who called upon us to wake up, and the Spirit of God was poured out upon the people and they have, in a great measure, endeavored to repent, forsake their sins and unite themselves together to carry out the counsels of his servants. I have never seen the hearts of this people so united as during the past year. No person who has listened to the words of the Presidency of this church during a few months past and has seen the fulfillment of their sayings, but can clearly see the hand of God with them, and His Spirit guiding them continually.

The day that many of us have anticipated since we have been made acquainted with Joseph Smith and the gospel, has begun to dawn upon us. The revelations Jesus Christ are fast fulfilling before our eyes. We see the kingdom set up; and the time has come when the nation that has given many of us birth has entered the field as our open enemies and persecutors and commenced an unhallowed persecution against us, with a determination to destroy us from off the earth, the same as cities, towns, counties and states have done before them; they have united together to crush and destroy this people and remove them, if possible, from the earth.

Ever since I have been made acquainted with the gospel and the progress of this people, I have always believed that the United States would take this course and in a national capacity and under the form of law, seek to destroy the church and kingdom of God from off the earth. For the light has come unto them and the gospel of salvation offered unto them and they have rejected it, and killed the prophets; hence the light and Spirit of God is taken from them, sin abounds, and they are filled with anger against all that is good. Their course is unconstitutional and contrary to every principle of law, righteousness, justice, judgment and truth. In all our persecutions our persecutors have had no just cause for pursuing the course against us they have, only, they were stirred up by the devil. Darkness, wickedness and abominations of every kind are increasing in the minds of the wicked nations of the earth because the Spirit of God is withdrawing from them. They have had the fullness of the everlasting gospel offered unto them but they have rejected it.

There has never been a set of men since the Lord made the world who have labored more diligently than the Twelve Apostles and Elders of this church in preaching the gospel to the world. They have rejected the message sent to them revealed by an angel from God, which leaves them now under condemnation.—Br. Joseph would have embraced the whole circle of the human family in the principles of salvation if he had possessed the power. He had that greatness of soul never seen in the human breast unless it was inspired by the power of God. That same spirit has rested upon the present Presidency of this church, they have labored incessantly for years to save the children of men. And what have we received in return from the hands of the christian world? They have driven us from our homes and fire sides and smitten and robbed us of the rights that are dear and most sacred to man, until we have at last been driven from the borders of civilization, so called, unto the wilderness by the nation that has given us birth, whose boasted freedom exists only in name. Here they expected we would perish, but we still live, grow and flourish in these mountains, through the mercy and goodness of God, without the aid or assistance of our persecutors.

Our nation was under no condemnation in this respect until the light came and they heard the gospel, rejected it, and cast out the Saints from their midst, slaying their leaders and depriving thousands of the Latter Day Saints who were American citizens of every blessing, right and privilege guaranteed unto them by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Many of our nation have been guilty of crimes in their persecutions against us that would cost the lives of presidents, governors, senators, legislators, and many thousands of men if law and justice were executed in righteousness

against them. I do not know what more they can do to fill up the cup of their condemnation than to carry out the course they have begun. There is more crime, wickedness and abominations committed now throughout the United States, according to the population, in twenty-four hours, a thousand times, than there was thirty years ago. I do not suppose there has been a generation more wicked and corrupt than the present christian world.

We have been told to-day that we are under great obligation to God and that we ought to acknowledge his hand in all things. That is true. We had no knowledge of the plan of salvation until God revealed it unto us. We are dependent upon God and his servants for light, and truth, and blessings that are in store for us.

We are told that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ. Daniel of old says this, and pointed out the establishment of that kingdom in the last days which should stand forever and not be thrown down. He also pointed out the effects which would follow. The Lord has already revealed great and glorious truths and principles concerning the government of the children of men in the establishment of his church and kingdom upon the earth. Does it not require as much wisdom and revelation from God to govern the nations of the earth in a way to bring men into subjection to righteous laws, light, privileges and blessings which they are now deprived of in the organization of temporal governments of the world, as is required in the spiritual government of the church of Christ upon the earth. Where is that knowledge to flow from? The spirit to do men good and relieve the sufferings of mankind does not dwell in the breasts of monarchs, kings, presidents and rulers among the nations of the earth at the present day; but sorrow, crime, poverty, tyranny, oppression and starvation prevail throughout the world.

The rulers of mankind have not sought for the Spirit of God and the light of eternity to show them the responsibility they are under to Him who has raised them to power and authority, and given them dominion over their fellow beings; they have not exercised their power and authority to honor God and redress the wrongs of the poor and oppressed over whom they preside.

The misery and evils which now exist throughout the world have got to be corrected in a great measure through the power of God, before the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of God and his Christ. It is a great and mighty work to establish the kingdom of God on the earth, that the law may go forth from Zion to rule the kingdoms of the world. The light, knowledge, truth and wisdom to do this has got to come through the Holy Priesthood, which is the government of God upon the earth.

Our temporal and eternal salvation is all connected and linked together as we have been told to-day. The Lord has raised up unto us fathers, leaders, and counselors after his own heart; they possess his will and they are leading the people to exaltation and glory. If we take their counsel we shall receive all the salvation men can desire in time and in eternity. I thank God that I have lived to see the dawn of this glorious day.

With regard to the dealings of the Lord with us this present season. President Young has been as calm and serene as a summer's morning, and so have his counselors, and that spirit in a great measure has been diffused among the people. When there was every appearance outwardly of our enemies coming upon us, the spirit with them has been all the time, "We do not believe we shall have to go to battle or shed the blood of our enemies this season." This has been the feeling when to all human appearance it would seem that we would have to shed the blood of our enemies or they ours. There is not such an example on history as the way in which our enemies have been staid from fulfilling their hellish designs. It is the first time the American army has been staid in their course. They got as far as Ham's Fork and there they stuck. We have heard read their gracious proclamation. Many of the brethren wonder that they have not wisdom enough to make out a decent document, but I do not wonder at it, for this whole people have prayed that their natural wisdom might be taken from them. I should wonder if they had wisdom to make out a sensible document or one that would pass an examination.

The Lord so far has fought our battles, and has proved his people. When men have been called upon to go out and lie in the path of the enemy, I have not known one instance of a man refusing to go. All have been willing to go and do as they were told. The Lord has proved you in this and has accepted your offering. The prayers of the Saints of God have been heard, and they will never fail of being heard and answered if we do our duty, for we have a ruler who can do something for us when our cause is just. I feel as br. Taylor said to-day. It matters not to me what the Lord designs of us, we should be passive in his hands.

When different opinions were expressed as to the course to be pursued this fall with our enemies, the Spirit has said to me at the time, be still and passive, and pray that wisdom may be given to President Young to dictate, and lead just right. There is where our prayers should center, we should continually call upon the Lord to inspire him with wisdom sufficient to lead forth the church and kingdom of God unto exaltation, glory, and victory.

It is different with us than with the world, we have a main channel thro' which to receive our light, knowledge and blessings, as was beautifully illustrated by the President in the figure of the