

Discourse delivered at the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Overflow Meeting in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, October 7, 1900, by

The Latter-Day Saints a Free People—A Word to the Missionaries—Danger of Becoming "Rusty" in the Service of the Lord—An Age of Opportunities for the Young—How to Sustain Authority.

I am pleased, my brethren and sisters, to be with you on this occasion, and to have the opportunity of lifting up the voice of the Gospel of the Lord in testimony of the Gospel of the Lord to you, as it has been revealed to me in this age of the world. I sincerely trust that I occupy this position in the inspiration of His Lord and standing upon me; for without that Spirit I know that my words that are as a sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal in the ears of the people. But on the other hand I also know that when men speak by the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord, the words are of great worth to the children of men, not only to the hearers, who may hear them, but to those who speak, who in the congregation are to the person that does the speaking. For all men are instructed by the Spirit of the Lord, and feel that the people who have attended the Conference and who have listened to the testimonies and the instructions that have been imparted by the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, know in their hearts that the brethren have been inspired and that they have no been cunningly taught anything that they have been delivered, but that they have been delivered by the word of the Lord, and the power of God has been made manifest in the utterances of His servants. There should be with all persons a desire to receive the counsel and advice that may be imparted, and an anxiety that we may be in harmony with the servants of the Lord who have been chosen to direct the affairs of His Church in these times. It is our desire to be in accord in our hearts with the Lord and to feel, inasmuch as we have put our hands to the plow and have entered into covenant with the Lord to serve Him and to keep His commandments, is the greatest desire that we have, and that we have no other God before the Lord, our God; that we have not set ourselves up as a nation, but that we are one with the Lord in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord and a determination to sustain and uphold His Priesthood. I take it that this is a very great responsibility, and that we are men who have entered into covenant with the Lord should examine themselves and seek to put themselves in such a condition that they would have the Spirit of the Lord, that when we hear the voice of the Lord we would be able to understand it, and have a disposition to be in line with the authority that God has upon the earth.

The rights, independence and liberty of no man can be interfered with by the Lord, and His commandments of God. We hear when we are away from home as missionaries among the nations many things concerning the bondage of the people, that we are priest-ridden, that we are tyrants, and that we do things that we desire to do; but we know by our own experiences that this is not the case. I know as an individual, having been born and reared in the midst of this people, that no man, no nation, no people, no nation, no president has ever attempted in the slightest degree to interfere with the liberty that God has given me. I have had as great a liberty in the land of the Lord as the Saints in any man could possibly enjoy upon the face of the earth. When I bear this testimony I realize and understand that in this great congregation of people every man and every woman who has been baptized in the Gospel and who is acquainted with the spirit and doings of the wonderful work in which we are engaged know that that I say is true. You all know it, because you have all had the same experience. I am a member of the Church, and I know that we are a free people.

I have thought in listening to the remarks that have been made by some of the brethren, that there might be something that we missionaries, a good many things have been said regarding the teaching of the Gospel, and the teaching of men about to lift up their testimony to the Lord occasionally, in fact quite often to the company among the people and to the missionaries and to the people who are called to preach the Gospel and whose authority to preach the Gospel is by the special calling it is to administer words of salvation to the nations. They are directed by the testimonies of returned missionaries. I have met a number during the Conference, and their faces have been as white with joy and happiness and with

testimony concerning the work of the Lord, and they feel that they have spent a good and a profitable time while they have been away from home acting as ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. And they have been filled with the power of God, and have been instruments in the hands of the Lord of accomplishing a great deal of good. They have removed prejudice from the minds of the people, and have been converted to the truth, and have been made to know, by the Spirit of God, that messengers of salvation, holding divine authority, have ministered to the multitudes, and they have filled a mission. It is a good thing to have it to our credit that we have gone abroad in the world and that we have returned in honor without bringing disgrace upon our name, upon the name of our Father, and upon the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

But the performance of a mission to the nations is a small thing in the winning of the race upon which we are now set out for our Father's glory. I desire to perform a mission who has valiantly maintained his position, who has stood up in the presence of opposing multitudes and with the power of God resting upon him has borne testimony to the truth, and that words have pierced the hearts and intellects of the people, and they have been made to feel that they were listening to the truth. Many a man has filled a mission of this character, and he has returned home with a desire to plead with them in the name of the Lord, as I feel it to be my duty to do, and that it pertains to the responsibilities that rest upon me to lift up my voice and cry aloud to the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that they shall not seek for rest, that they shall not feel that they have accomplished their salvation, or that they are secure, merely because they have filled a mission, and that they shall not feel, I feel when I greet a young Elder returning from abroad that the gravest period of his life stands before him when he returns, when there is fear that he may become a little careless, and that he may have become a little after the rest that many have sought after, and in seeking after that rest they have found not only rest but rust. They are becoming rusty in the service of the Lord, and they do not want to fill a mission, as they did abroad. What a glorious feeling we have had, when we have gone away from our homes, impelled by the spirit of truth, to preach the Gospel among the children of men. I suppose that an appointment goes away from his family and friends with a determination in his heart that he will do honor to his calling. Many meet hundreds of missionaries in the field, and the young men and boys who have been indifferent to the responsibilities of the Priesthood at home; but I do not now recall having ever met one in all the hundreds with whom I have been conversing who reached the missionary field with a feeling of indifference, with a disposition to oppose authority, with a feeling in his heart that he would question the counsels of the men who presided over them, and that they would not know that you go into the world with these thoughts uppermost from the very moment that you respond, that you will be obedient, that you will hearken to counsel, that you will be zealous in carrying out counsel, that you will keep yourself clean and pure, and sweet before the world. What is the result? Men return who have never had experience before, and they are ready to do the will of the Father, and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and it is this testimony and this vigor, and this life that I feel anxious that the brethren should preserve within them after having returned home. It can be preserved, and it can be maintained through their entire lives, if they will only return with a determination to hearken to counsel and be obedient to those who preside in the Church and be obedient to the charge of the men that rest upon them, who are traveling and visiting among the people, when talking to the Bishops about returned missionaries with whom I have been acquainted, asking how they were doing and how they were getting on, and they have often been given, "they are not do-

"nothing." Brother So and So will not act as a Teacher. He will not act in the Sunday school, he will not act in the Improvement associations. He returned and bore us a good testimony, but we have seen but little of him since that time."

I plead, in the name of the Lord, with you, my Brethren, that glorious opportunities are before them. This is an age of opportunities for young men. The Priesthood, the Apostles, the Presidency of the Church, are conferring honors upon the young men of Israel, and the Lord is calling upon them, in which we can labor, opportunities are being made everywhere wherein we can work for the advancement of the work of the Lord and for the salvation of the souls of men and women here at home and abroad. We sometimes travel ten miles to attend a meeting, and would a hundred miles, if need be, that we may meet with some one that would be willing to listen to the testimony we have concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We explain the principles of the Gospel, and our hearts are aglow, and we are filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost when men listen, when we see that they are convinced of the truth. What a dreadful thing it would be, being abroad and being filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost, that we should return home to smouldering hearts, and become indifferent and cold to the duties that rest upon us! I plead with Bishops, and I plead with the presidents of quorums and with the presidents of branches, that they should arms around returning missionaries, young men; to point out the troubles that are in their paths, the temptations that will beset them, the fearfulness of turning away from the path of duty and of doing wrong, careless and neglectful of the things of the Lord. We ought not to return and feel that we have given to the Lord two years or more of our time, and that now we will be justified in seeking to do other things of the world, pertaining to the exclusion of the things pertaining to our duties. But we should not be more anxious, if anything, when we return to set a goodly example be-

fore the people, that when the young men and young women who have known us when we have not been so careful and so diligent, look upon us in a year after our return—in ten years after our return—they will say, "Surely the power of God came to that man. The testimony of the Lord was in his heart, and when he returned and bore record that he knew this work to be true, it was a solemn truth, and God had given him that assurance, for his whole life and his conduct before us, he had been testifying of the truth, all the time that he had a knowledge of the truth of the Gospel." And we should not have to bear the responsibility of testifying to the truth before the people and then turning away from the man who said,

God bless the missionaries at home and abroad wherever they may be; bless those who have returned and who are returning, that they may be filled with the missionary spirit at home, for there is no other way of saving the world. In all the wards and stakes of Zion. There is need at home for men who are devoted to the work of the Lord, and who feel that it is of the utmost importance at this time. It is a glorious thought that we have the authority of the Lord, that we are given to the accomplishment of His work, and that we have the courage and determination to hearken to the counsel of the Lord, and honor the Lord by the observance of His laws and His commandments, sustaining the authority of His holy Priesthood, and cannot sustain the Priesthood by the mere lifting of our hands. The man who sustains the Priesthood is the man who responds to the appointments that are made by the Lord, and we are to the Bishop, and to the president of the Stake, the man who responds in his quorum. The man who is always working willingly and dutifully, is the man who sustains the authority of God. There is no other way to sustain that authority.

May the Lord help us to seek after His spirit and to be filled with His power, that we may magnify our callings and accomplish through Jesus Christ, Amen.

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Courage Inspired by Patriotism and Love of Truth—Self-respect and Respect for the Priesthood Command the Respect of Others.

My brethren and sisters: One thing I specially like about our conference is the plain talk that I have given to you. The Latter-day Saints have said that some of you have fairly crawled in your seats for fear the brethren would say something. It is a spirit that is creeping into the hearts of our people. My brother stood in preaching and prophesied that "good would come of this," but they were in the streets of New York and after the spirit subsided a little, he turned to President Young and said, "Well, President Young, I have done it now, President Young said, 'Nearer my mind, Brother Smith, I believe you.' He didn't believe it either. But it came to pass. I want to ask you Latter-day Saints if, when men are inspired of God and you exercise faith for them, as you have done in this conference, they are not inspired of God? I believe they are, they say under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is bad enough to be held personally responsible when a man is not under the influence of the Spirit. I have been fearful that some of us here would come out and say, 'I am not advocating the principles of the doctrines of Christ. I remember in laboring among the Elders in the Southern States, the question came up, shall we go when they tell us to go? Well, I said, 'I will go, I will go, I will go.' But I never ought to go when they feel impressed by the Spirit to go, and when you are not you are to hold the fort and let God take care of you. That is the kind of doctrine I believe in; I don't believe in a home, a wife, or a roof. I have a little boy at home. I didn't know how to train children, and when he was a little fellow we made him give up to every little child that came in to visit us. I today take his own part, and we have him come home crying because somebody has whipped him. And now I have to go to work and train that boy to fight, if he ever gets on in this world. I have a little girl at home, and I don't want to tell you I don't bother myself about these things. I believe in being loyal and true to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I believe in doing right. And I believe in men being under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and I believe in the Kingdom of God, I tell you how I feel during this conference, any better than to tell you how I felt when I was down to the Cheamanga Park, when they were mobilizing soldiers for the war. They mobilized soldiers for the soldiers in the place, and one day I saw there nine thousand soldiers under dress parade, and I heard the martial music, and

bought I would run), and he roared like a lion: "Keep your hands off from the State, and you see that the authorities do the same." I said look here and I wasn't very cool either—I don't think I had an overload of the sense myself. I said, look here, my friends, I was not born here like I was, in these mountains, I grew up in the mountains, I don't know anything else but liberty, like the birds that fly in the air, and I love this country because my fathers and my no-country men are buried over here on the hill, over sixty years ago. I love this country because I have been with my father as a child when he walked around the site of this great tabernacle before it was built. My father's oxen and his oxen and his wagons hauled rock for that building, I love this country. My father and my mother, whom I loved and venerated, came to this country as pioneers. I can't tell you about our temples, about our worship, about our messages, about the Holy Ghost, about the things that I honor, you no man can tell you, unless you have the Spirit of God; but I want to tell you now, I shall not be cowardly and stop my tongue, but you must keep the principles of the Church, and you must respect the things that I honor, or you and I will no longer be friends. A man is a cowardly craven that will sit by for fear of trouble and allow men to be little and abuse him and call the children of the Church everything but angels. I shall not leave it to you to believe in loving the souls of the children of men. But I tell you when you respect the authorities yourself, other people will respect the authorities and the world will respect the authorities. The people of this city and State would have respected the authorities more than they do had our own people set the example. That is what I want to tell you, and I have told you, and I am not going to take any more time. I am not going to make any apologies, because I have made a statement. It is true, just as true as the Lord lives. If you honor your wife and speak well of her, other people will do so. If you do not honor your children and you have a hired girl in the house and you don't treat them kindly, the girl herself will treat your own children unkindly.

Now I feel that we ought to honor God. We ought to be loyal to our country, and I believe that honest men should rule this nation, that honest and good men should rule this country. It is a mighty poor time for us to sit down and feel bad about it, if any mistakes are made. I want to tell you

A dramatic black and white illustration. In the foreground, a large, swirling vortex of smoke or mist dominates the scene. A human skeleton is depicted emerging from the top of this vortex, its head tilted back and mouth open in a scream or shout. Below the skeleton, a horse-drawn carriage is visible, with two figures seated inside. In the background, a multi-story building with a balcony is partially obscured by the swirling smoke. The overall style is reminiscent of 19th-century pulp magazine illustrations, with bold lines and a sense of intense action or horror.

that dreadful fiend that threatens the life of rich and poor, can attack and kill only those whose bowels are not kept thoroughly cleaned out, purified and disinfected the year round. One whose liver is dead, whose bowels and stomach are full of half decayed food, whose whole body is unclean inside, is a quick and ready victim of appendicitis.

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changes that took place in the crater during the eruption, and he even measured the amount of ash which was strained from the great masses of igneous matter after the mountain had vomited them forth.

The largest of these masses ascended to a height of 537 metres, and when it fell it occupied a space of twelve cubic metres. It was so hot that it strained 30,000 kilograms of air, travelled through the air at the rate of eight metres a second, and it is estimated that a force equivalent to 600,000 horse power must have been required to send it on its skyward career.

The enormous mass fell dangerously near the professor. However, this was not the only occasion on which he almost lost his life, and his friends are still wondering how he managed to escape the constant shower of fiery rocks that threatened him during the entire eruption.


At one time it was rumored that he had been killed, but happily this proved to be false, and now many are congratulating him, not only on his good fortune in passing through so many perils unscathed but also on the skill and foresight which have enabled him to ascertain the time when the next eruption may be expected. If his prediction in this instance should prove to be true scientists claim that there will be no reason why all future eruptions, not only of Vesuvius but also of all other volcanoes, may not be predicted in a similar manner.

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All who see Mr. C. F. Couller, of Cherokee, Iowa, as he is now, cheerful, erect, vigorous, without an ache, could hardly believe he is the same man, who, a short time ago, had to sit in a chair, propped up by cushions, suffering intensely from an aching back, in agony if he tried to stoop—all caused by chronic kidney trouble, that he medicinally relieved by the use of Electric Bitters and was wholly cured by three bottles. Positively cures Backache, Nervousness, Loss of Appetite, all Kidney troubles. Only 50c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

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This particular gear, after carrying these 16 boilers over 6 miles of a rough mountain road, does not show any damage, injury or strain, no defects have developed; and the Superintendent writes me that the only reason the teamsters did not put any heavier load than 16,000 lbs. on this wagon was because it was impossible to keep any more pieces on the vehicle.

This statement shows the load which the 3% Bain carries in each of the 16 trips, when considering the weight of the oak rack you put on it—have been in excess of 16,500 lbs. for each load. This is certainly a compliment to yourselves as agents for the "OLD-RELIABLE BAIN," as well as the manufacturers in Kenosha, whom it is shown study carefully the interests of their patrons by using only the best material.

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"LOOK OUT FOR VESUVIUS."

Professor R. V. Matteucci, the distinguished Italian scientist, and careful student of Vesuvius' vagaries, predicts that a new eruption will take place in a short time, and from various indications he feels satisfied it will be no slight one, says the New York Herald. He has considered it well to utter a timely warning, as experience has shown that Vesuvius when it vents its wrath unexpectedly, does a great deal of damage to persons and property in the vicinity.

but bases his prediction on the fact, which he has noticed, that various new fissures are now being formed near the summit of the mountain, and in his opinion, the consequent outpouring of masses of lava and other matter will soon be again belched forth. His close study of the volcano during the recent eruption confirms him in this opinion.

Day after day he continued his investigations, often at the peril of his life, and as a result the account of his work, which he has just forwarded to the French Academy of Sciences, contains predictions "everywhere" of a new eruption.