

Those men who struggled so nobly for the right will receive the great reward their fidelity to truth has entitled them to.

To us who have beheld this glorious day the blessings and knowledge of the Gospel are given. We are chosen to be saviors to our ancestors—saviors of the world—because of the grace of God to us. What a people we should be, and how our hearts should swell in gratitude to God. Men have died for these principles we have received. They were hunted and slain because of their fidelity to the truth. How is it with us? Contrast our circumstances with those of the men to whom I refer. We have everything necessary for our comfort; elegant houses; abundant food and clothing; no hardships such as the ancient Apostles suffered. For us there has been persecution comparatively light or there has been no sawing asunder, no beheading, no having to run to caves, and dwell there with our wives and children; but we are enjoying all the blessings which God in His wonderful kindness has bestowed upon us, and He asks us to give unto Him our hearts. He asks us not to worship earthly things, but says to us, "Choose first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and I will add unto you all these other blessings. I want your hearts; I want your affections; I want your devotion; I want you to obey me." These are the requests which God, our great Creator, our beneficent Father, wishes of us. Will we give to our Father that obedience which belongs to Him, the source of our strength and life? How our hearts should swell with praise to Him, for He has rewarded us a hundred fold for all we have done.

Each Elder who goes on a mission testifies of the great happiness he enjoys in that labor. He testifies that God was with him and His angels were round about him. These Elders return and associate among the people. Today, you may go through our settlements, and though they may have spent years on missions, you cannot find them by their poverty; there is no distinction in their property to indicate their sacrifice, because God has multiplied His temporal blessings upon them and prosperity attends them. Thus God manifests that He is willing to reward those who serve Him. Examine these things and you will find they are true. You Latter-day Saints can testify to them. This shows that those who serve God are blessed as no others are. Those who have been liberal to the poor, and have been strict in the payment of their tithes, have also received of similar blessings. They have been prospered more than those who have been stingy and neglectful of their duties. In this way God has been testifying to us that He rewards us for serving Him. And if we continue to obey His laws, blessings will continue to flow unto us, and the favor of God will be upon us.

The Apostle John says that "we will be like Him." It is for this purpose that God has revealed the

Gospel—that His children may become like unto Him. I do not mean in a spiritual sense; that is, in the way these things are spiritualized by some men. We believe that we are the literal offspring of Deity. We have descended from that great Being who formed this earth, and from Him we have inherited the glorious aspirations to be like unto Him. With this hope within us we will seek to purify ourselves as He is pure.

In remarks made here a few Sundays ago by Elder Penrose, he referred to a doctrine held by some men about each people having their own God to worship. The Indian has his idea of God; the Hindoo has his idea of God; the various nations of the earth have their different views of God; and the Christian has his idea of God. Now, there is something correct in this. We worship that which we admire; and no doubt everything that is admirable pertains to God and the Godhead. We may not have it all, even with our light and our intelligence. We may not comprehend all the attributes, and certainly cannot comprehend the greatness of our God. Others may have ideas of Him, correct to a certain extent. There is truth among even Pagans. With the lowest of the human species there is something of truth from God. As men advance they receive more truth. This is the distinction between us and others. We believe in a God of revelation who will give more and more light to us till we can become like Him.

We worship the Being who has revealed Himself to us. It was necessary at the outset of this work to have a revelation from Him. There were many erroneous ideas about God, and the first revelation to Joseph Smith was the appearance of the Father and the Son. I have heard that there are some among us who say both are one person. This is a fallacy. There are two personages, the Father and the Son. God is the Being who walked in the Garden of Eden, and who talked with the Prophets. This revelation came to us in certainty. As I said, in the very outset, the Father and the Son were revealed in ineffable glory and were seen by mortal men. Their testimony, this testimony, stands on record, corroborated and sustained by the testimony of others who have since seen the Lord Jesus Christ; we are living witnesses that they have seen Him, that He lives, and that He is indeed the Son of God and one of the two personages which form the Godhead. In this respect we differ from others; among this people there is knowledge concerning God. We know to a certain extent of Him and His attributes. "As man now is, God was; as God now is, man may be." We possess the attribute He possesses, and the object of the Gospel is to lead us to what He is. This is the true theory of evolution—that we can progress to become like unto God. This is the incentive of faithfulness.

Who that comprehends this principle would think of sacrificing such

glorious prospects by committing sin? No one who has the Spirit of God would sin to be deprived of these great blessings. We may do things when we are not conscious of the results, but no Latter-day Saints will commit sin in view of the glorious prospects we have by keeping ourselves pure. There have been thousands upon thousands who have made all kinds of sacrifices for earthly preferment. But who shall compare this with the great glory that God has in store for us? Who shall compare it with the Kingdom which God has promised unto us? He has promised that we shall sit upon a throne, that we shall have a crown, that we shall have a posterity as numerous as the stars in heaven, as countless as the sands by the seashore. "For," says He, "I seal upon you the blessings of kingdoms, of thrones, of principalities, of powers, and of dominions. I seal upon you the blessings of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob; I seal upon you the promise that you shall come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, clothed with glory, clothed with immortality, clothed with eternal life." These are the promises which are made to the Latter-day Saints. They have been sealed upon the heads of most of you. What sacrifice is there, then, that we should not make for such blessings? None. There are none of us who understand these things that will relinquish them for worldly pleasure.

Those not of us, and yet who profess Christianity, say that our doctrines are strange. Are they any more strange than the principles believed in by the Christian world? They worship Jesus as their God, and He is. But He was once a babe, and there are many who worship his mother Mary. He was born of a woman. And if one God was born of woman, may not others be also? To say they could not is not logical. Some deny the doctrine of pre-existence in the face of the fact that Jesus the Lord was born of woman and that this same God had appeared to Moses and others. Is it mystery to say that if He could be born of woman, our spirits could also be so compressed that we could be born as infants? Because we do not comprehend these things shall we reject them, or shall we wait till we receive the full light? On one occasion Jesus met a man possessed of devils, who said their name was Legion. The devils besought Him that they might enter a herd of swine. Jesus gave permission, and they entered the swine, which ran down into the sea of Galilee and were drowned. Just think of a legion of devils in one man! Yet that was the fact. These spirits had rebelled against God in heaven, and lost their first estate. They wander about the earth, seeking to lead men astray, and endeavoring to bring the rest of the family of God to the same condition in which they are. We have in this an instance of how spirits can be compressed.

We had an existence before we came into mortality. There is probably not a man or woman who has not an impression as of something