

ven, and it was communicated through an humble instrument whom men despised. It is a test of faith to embrace gospel taught by a man with the repute that the world gave to Joseph Smith, with all the falsehoods that were circulated concerning him. It is a test of faith to-day to the inhabitants of the earth to receive any thing that has an origin among the "Mormon" people. Why, you might as well accuse a man of being a leper in some societies as accuse him of being a "Mormon!" Men will shun coming in contact with him. To those who know the Latter-day Saints, it is laughable to see the feeling that is manifested, and there is no greater cause of wonder in the minds of this class than when they come to Utah and see the condition of things existing here, it is so different from everything they have expected. Men and women frequently get filled with the most outrageous ideas respecting the Latter-day Saints. They come here expecting to see monsters, as though you were horns or were beings of a different species to other people. Now, as I have said it takes faith and a love of the truth to embrace the gospel under such circumstances. And the devil is doing all he can, as he always has done, to prejudice men's minds, to deceive them, to throw dust in their eyes by maligning the servants of God and the people of God. He did this with the Saviour. Why was it that all Judea did not believe in the Saviour? a holy being whose life was spotless, performing mighty miracles in the midst of the people. Could they not all have embraced the gospel? Was it God's design that they should not embrace it? No. God gives unto us our agency, and we do not ourselves realize how great this is. There is no limit to our agency. The power to choose good, the power to refuse evil, the power to choose evil and refuse good is given to every human being. We can, if we choose accept God, we can, if we choose reject God. There is no compulsion about Him, about His gospel, about the plan of salvation. If you and I are saved, we will be saved because we have been obedient, and we have exercised the power that God has given unto us. There is no limit to this. We can seek unto Him in humility in the name *Jesus and continue faithful* to the end; we can walk humbly and uprightly with all the ability of which we are capable, observing virtue, chastity, honesty and truthfulness; or we can on the other hand turn to evil, we can reject everything that is good, we can be untruthful, we can be unvirtuous, we can be dishonest, we can practice iniquity. As the Lord said to Cain, "If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." If he would do right, he would be accepted. The agency was within him. God had given it to him, and he would not take it from him. We should cease to be the beings He designs us to be if He did. We are not automatons to be moved by some master hand or pulled with a string. God will control our actions, but He will not dictate to and compel us. He overrules all things for His glory and for the accomplishment of His purposes. You act and mine and the acts of all the inhabitants of the earth are subject to God, who is the overruling providence over all, and He controls all to suit His divine purposes through His superior knowledge and supreme power. But if you get to heaven, I have said, if you sing the songs of the redeemed, you will do it, because you yourselves have chosen the path and have determined, by His aid, to walk therein all your days; any are ever numbered with the damned, if any ever go into outer darkness and endure the misery of those who have rejected the truth and violated those laws which God has given, violated, in other words the light that was within them, and which comes from God—if any there it will be because they have chosen to walk in the path that leads in that direction, and Jesus came not to save them unless they seek to save themselves; it would be contrary to the plan of salvation for Him to do so. There is divine wisdom, therefore, in our seeing a little of the divine presence as we do, it is a test of our faith, and of those who follow the right course receive the light that is necessary. I can testify of this to you this day in all solemnity before the Lord. I know that God is a God of revelation. I know it for myself. I know that He is a God that hears and answers prayer. I know that He is a God that heals the sick when