

Then come the Seventy. Seventy men ordained as an appendage to that Apostleship. If you kill off the three who form the Presidency, we have Twelve; if you kill off the Twelve, we have the Seventy. It broadens as it goes. And, thank God! there are so many Elders ordained now, having a portion of this high and holy Priesthood, that the enemy cannot destroy it, and it will not be taken away nor be left to another people, but will abide and endure forever.

This is our testimony. When we refer to history; when we refer to the Bible; when we use any kind of argument, it is only incidental to the great fact, that God and His Son Jesus Christ revealed themselves to Joseph Smith. That is the great crucial point. That is the fact upon which we build. If God did not appear to Joseph Smith; if revelation was not given to him from God in these last days, then we are nothing as a church, although we have a great many truths collected here and a magnificent organization, and we are ahead of all the "Christian" denominations because of these things. We have found that the word of God has been fulfilled in this, that the Lord has added "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little;" and that every soul who is baptized in water and receives the imposition of hands, with the full intent to serve God and keep His commandments, realizes and knows that his sins are remitted, that he has been regenerated, that he is made clean, that though his sins were as scarlet, he is washed white as wool. He knows also that the power of God has entered his soul, and opened up his mind, and given him to comprehend eternal things. He knows that the light grows brighter and brighter towards the perfect day, and that the Holy Ghost is the same Spirit that it was anciently. It teaches the things of the Father and the Son. It brings things past to his remembrance; it shows him things to come. It lifts up the veil that hides the spiritual world. It shows that which is about to take place on the earth. Every man, woman and child may receive that Spirit, and will be enlightened according to the degree of faithfulness and earnestness in seeking after its gifts and blessings.

All the gifts of the Gospel are in the Church. As in the time of the Corinthian Saints, "To one is given by the Spirit of the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues." These signs have followed the believer, as the Lord said they would. These are in fulfillment of what God told the Prophet Joseph Smith, and these are the witnesses and signs of his ministry. The servants of God go out and carry these promises to all the world, and God is with them. He raises up friends for them, and gives them power to learn the languages of the world; and sometimes gives them this gift of tongues to enable them to speak to people in their own language when they do not understand the language. These are some of the signs of this ministry. But we do not rest upon them. The great thing is, the testimony of the Holy Ghost. And no one can understand the fullness of that great blessing unless he has received it. To have the power of God resting down upon him, filling his soul with His Spirit; to be baptized in it, quickened by its power to comprehend the things of eternity; to commune with his Father, and with his Elder Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ; to be

prepared to receive the ministration of the angels of God; to know, without a cloud of doubt coming over his soul, that he is accepted of God and called of Him to labor for the Lord on the earth—to have and to be all this is the great boon and blessing which one enjoys who receives the gift and testimony of the Holy Ghost. And all can enjoy it; for the promise is "unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off," as Peter said on the day of Pentecost, "even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The promise is to all, for the Lord is calling all. "The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and hath called the earth, from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof;" and this is His word to all people:

"Repent, ye repent, of your sins and your wickedness. O ye inhabitants of the earth; and turn unto me, the Lord your God, and I will abundantly pardon. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. Repent of your sins, and be baptized in water for the remission of sins, and receive the imposition of hands; yea, be born of water and of the Spirit, and ye shall enter into the kingdom of God. I will visit you with the Holy Ghost, and I will reveal unto you the precious things of eternity—things that are past, things that are present, things that are to come; things, in the heavens, things on the earth, and that which is about to come to pass in the nations. For this is the fullness of times, and all the truth of the past shall be gathered into this fold of Christ; all things in the heavens and on the earth shall be gathered together in one; all things, spoken of by the Prophets shall be accomplished; and I will witness unto you, by my power, that you are accepted of me, saith the Lord."

This is His voice to the ends of the earth and by His help we will carry it to every nation until the whole earth has vibrated with the sound thereof, and the upright and honest in heart have received our testimony. Then, when we have finished our work on earth, when God shall call us hence, we will go and continue our ministry in the spirit world. "And the gates of hell" cannot prevail against this Priesthood and authority; but they must yield, as they did when Christ went to preach to the spirits in prison. The servants of God in this Church, when they depart hence, carry their authority and Priesthood and power with them, and they will proclaim the Gospel in every part of that spiritual world, among the spirits in prison and among all the millions who have departed from the earth who have not heard the Gospel; and they will receive it and be gathered into this great Church of Christ, not the Church on earth, but the Church in the heavens. It will all be gathered in unity and be made one; and the Saints on high will come down to the Saints on earth, and they will be united together when the work ordained of our God is accomplished.

I might continue this subject, but we have heard sufficient this afternoon. I thank our friend for his eloquent discourse to us this afternoon and for his good feelings towards us. And we have good feelings to him, and to all people on earth. For our mission is a mission of peace. We do not come with a sword. We do not expect to fight with carnal weapons. Our warfare is against spiritual wickedness in high places. The powers of evil that are incorporeal and the powers of evil that are in man, our work is against them. We do not expect to triumph in our might, in our strength, by our wisdom, or by our learning; but by the power of God we expect to prevail. This work will go forth conquering and to conquer, until the kingdoms of this

world become the kingdom of our God and His Christ, and He shall come and reign over them "in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients gloriously." May the peace and blessings of God attend what has been spoken this afternoon. I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

Before the meeting closes I feel disposed to make a few remarks to my friends. I had a very pleasant interview with Dr. Reiner at our office, and I related to him a certain principle which was presented by Joseph Smith at a conference in Illinois, before some fifteen thousand people. In speaking upon religious liberty, he said: "If I were the emperor of the world, and I had control of all the human family, I would sustain every man, woman and child on the face of the whole earth, in the enjoyment of their religion, let that religion be what it may." I have told the doctor that those were my sentiments. They are my sentiments, today. I was much pleased with my interview with our friend, and I have been pleased with his address here today. I do not feel to find any fault with it.

I will say, for his benefit and any others that may be present, that one reason why we are strenuous in our faith and belief with regard to this being the Church of Christ, is because the Gospel we have received is the Gospel that Paul taught, and he said: "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Another reason is that the gifts and graces which were in the Church in the days of Christ and the Apostles are with us today and have been with us since the organization of this Church.

Now, I have a favor to ask of this congregation. This congregation is composed largely of Elders and members of the Church. There are many Elders here who have traveled abroad in the vineyard. Now, I say that many of the gifts and graces and miracles that were manifest in the days of Christ and the Apostles I have seen manifest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and so have you. Whoever has traveled as an Elder of Israel throughout the nations, and has been true and faithful unto God in administering in the ordinances of the house of God, has had the power of God upon him sufficient to receive those gifts and graces at the hands of the Lord. They have been with the Latter-day Saints. Now, I want every Elder who has ever preached abroad, and every man and woman who has ever been present when any of these gifts and graces have been manifest—when the sick have been healed, devils cast out, the lame made to leap, the blind to see, the deaf to hear—I want every man and woman who have seen manifested any of these gifts and graces that were in the ancient Church, to raise their right hand. I do not want anybody to bear testimony of this except those who have seen it. [In response to this request, a large majority of the congregation raised their hands.] I have seen the sick healed, I have seen devils cast out. The blind have seen, the deaf have heard; and all the gifts and graces have been with us! While I was in Herefordshire I helped carry a sister into the water who had not walked for twelve or fifteen years, and we baptized her. When we confirmed her she said she believed she had faith sufficient to be healed. President Young and Dr. Richards called upon me and I told them of this case. I wanted them to administer to her with me in confirming her. We laid hands on her, and President Young was mouth. That woman rose to her feet,