

man who had injured his limb. He examined it carefully. The rich man, in order to give him an inducement to save the limb, had told him that if he could save it and his life he would give him a large monetary reward. The doctor's knowledge of the human system gave to him the feeling that in order to save the man's life the limb would have to be amputated; but hoping for reward he deceived the patient under the belief that perhaps he might recover, and he did not tell him the real condition of the case. The result was that gangrene set in and in a short time the man's life was lost; whereas, if the physician had taken the knife and had severed the afflicted member, the man's life might have been saved.

So, too, if the physicians of our souls would take the knife and separate from us the false doctrines, theories and dogmas which we have inherited and imbibed, the soul might be saved and preserved to become a choice instrument in the hands of God. But instead of this, the love of reward, the hope of gaining wealth, the desire to preach for money and divine for hire, prompts some men to pursue steadfastly a course which deceives the human family and keeps them in ignorance of the true doctrines of Christ, which men and women must accept in order to attain salvation in the kingdom of God. The Christian world continues singing this peaceful lullaby of "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved;" and men guilty of every sin under heaven can, according to the creeds of men—not, mark you, according to the doctrines of God—secure for themselves salvation and exaltation in the presence of God. We do not want to deceive ourselves with this notion. Even Latter-day Saints, who profess to have accepted the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, need not suppose for one moment that because they are baptized, because hands have been laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and they have had a testimony of the truth, that their salvation is secure; for if they depend upon a dead faith for their salvation, they too will find that they have missed their aim, and that faith without works is dead and of no value.

I have heard a legend told of the Desert of Sahara. There is a clump of trees situated in one of the most desolate spots in that great arid region. The roots of the trees are fed by hidden and undiscoverable springs, and in the shade of those trees the weary traveler is tempted to sit down and rest; and as he rests, the wind whistling through the leaves lulls him to sleep, and he dreams of home and its pleasures, and gradually he loses consciousness and his spirit takes its flight, his physical organism having been poisoned by the odor from the trees and the surrounding ground. It looks as though mankind were in this condition. We are tempted by the plausible theories of men to pay a little for our religion, and thus be lulled to sleep, picturing in our imaginations the beauties of eternity, until we gradually pass away from life and find that our sleep has been the sleep of death—eternal death, because we have neglected the opportunities which God has placed in our way for our exaltation.

It is the duty of the Latter-day Saints to preach to the world the Gospel of the Son of God, to chide them for their

sins, to reprove them for their iniquities, to encourage them in everything that is good and ennobling, but to be fearless in the defense and proclamation of truth. For truth will be sustained. It may for the time seem to be overcome by the sophistries of men. But God is at the foundation of truth, and as He will stand, so will all that which emanates from Him stand and endure, in time and in eternity. Upon this people rests the duty of crying repentance unto this generation, teaching them faith in God; that there is an existence hereafter; that not as the tree falleth so shall it lie; not as our bodies are placed in the tomb so will they forever remain; but there will come a time in the experience of every soul when the spirit will reunite itself with the body, and thus men will appear before God and be called upon to give an account of the deeds done in the flesh. This faith which we desire men to receive is the faith which works miracles—which has the power to raise the dead unto life, the power to commune with God, and to receive His Spirit in such a measure as to make men and women prophets and prophetesses. This is the faith which we desire to implant in the hearts of the children of men.

Then we want them to be filled with the spirit of repentance, which follows faith, and which is the natural result of faith in God; for if men are filled with faith in the Father and in the Son, they will naturally desire to place themselves in a condition to be fit associates for such holy beings, and they will look back upon their past lives with sorrow—with a sorrow which will prompt them to be more righteous, more God-fearing, more upright in the future. Then repentance of sin will come upon them; not repentance as the murderer possesses; not such as men feel who are called to account in the flesh for their crimes, and who, when the penalty is paid, go back to their iniquities, and only fail to sin because the opportunity to do so is lacking; but a repentance that prompts men to make restitution, so far as it is possible for them to do so, for the sins which they have committed, and to restore four-fold, if necessary, in order to obtain pardon for the wrong done; a repentance which will keep before our minds continually the view of our own sinfulness, our own weaknesses, and fill us with a desire to avoid the sins and weaknesses of the past. This is the repentance which worketh salvation to the souls of men, and prepares them to receive any ordinance, however humiliating it may be considered.

They will then go into the waters of baptism; they will do anything else, in order to receive a forgiveness of their sins. They will be buried in the water, as Christ was; they will come forth out of the water new men, laying off the old Adam, the old sinfulness of their lives, and determining that thereafter their lives shall conform as near as possible to the divine pattern which Christ set.

Then they will be prepared to have the Holy Ghost conferred upon them, with all its powers, gifts and blessings, by the administration of men who possess the authority to act in the name of Christ. This is the same power which Jesus conferred upon His disciples in times of old, and which made them such mighty men in the midst of an unbelieving world. It gave them the courage to suffer their bodies to be tor-

tured, their lives to be taken, still praising the name of God. It gave them strength to withstand every temptation and to pass through every trial, still clinging to the faith which God had given them—that faith which brings out of trouble salvation and blessing. It is this spirit and this faith which have gathered this people together from every nation of the globe, and enables them to testify of the restoration of the Gospel of the Son of God, and to tell in solemn language that the Lord has again spoken from the heavens, revealed His Gospel, called His servants to go forth for the last time to teach to the world the plan of salvation, that before the end comes, every people upon the whole earth may hear the sound of the truth and receive or reject it, as seemeth them good. It is this spirit, received through the laying on of hands, that gives our Elders the strength to go to the nations of the earth and preach the Gospel, enduring hardships of every kind, persecutions, and even suffering death, to testify of the truth which the Lord has restored to the earth. And this is the spirit which every man and woman will receive who accepts the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But," says one, "how can you expect men and women to receive these doctrines? We have your testimony; but what other evidence do you have that this is the truth?" We only ask you to place to the test that same request which Jesus made of His disciples and people in His day when He said to them, "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." We say to the people of the world today: "Do not accept our testimony alone. You have heard the words which the Elders have spoken; you have seen their diligence in visiting the nations of the earth; you have heard of the restoration of the truth; now listen no further to these men, but appeal directly to God. Seek Him in prayer, exercise faith in Him, and He will tell you for yourselves whether or not this doctrine is His or the doctrine of men. You need not accept the testimony of any man concerning this religion. You need not receive baptism until you yourselves are converted through the workings of the Holy Spirit upon you—that spirit which God alone can bestow, and which men cannot give, except as they are made the instruments, under God, of exercising the authority which He has restored to the earth. You can seek the Almighty in your closets. He is not a God that is afar off; not one whose ears are closed, or whose arm is withdrawn from His children; but He is a God whose eye is upon the humblest creature that lives, of every race and color, and whose love is extended to the whole human family. It is to Him that you should appeal for a testimony of the truth of this work which the Lord has established. And if you will do this, in humility and in faith, we have no fear as to the results of your prayers; for God will hear and answer every soul."

I know the prejudice which has existed and which now exists against this Church; but it is only a renewal of the old-time prejudice that existed in the days of Jesus and at every time when the Church of God has been upon the earth. Men, however, have got to become so humble that they are willing