

they should be prepared to encounter all these things, and perhaps it might be necessary, in the providence of God, for them to lay down their lives for the truth. I do not think there is a faithful Elder that has ever gone forth to preach the Gospel who has not told this to those who manifested an interest in the truth and a desire to espouse it. Many of them knew by experience how much the people would have to contend with, and they felt it to be their duty to prepare them for these things, so that their baptisms, their confirmations and their entrance into the Church would not be useless. The Elders have not desired to draw people into the Church for the sake of numbers; but every time they have baptized a soul they have hoped that he or she would be faithful while life should last; and they wanted all persons, in entering into the Church, to enter into it understandingly, and with as full a realization of all that they would have to meet with as it would be possible for persons in their condition to comprehend. Those warnings have not been in vain. They have not been unnecessary. For notwithstanding the years that have passed since the organization of the Church the trials of the faith of the people have not lessened. There are as many causes to test their faith today as there ever were; not exactly in the same form, perhaps, as those which the Saints had to meet in earlier days; but still they have been of a sufficiently trying character to test the faith of the people. The words of God will be fulfilled concerning us, that everything that can be shaken will be shaken. We shall have to pass through the furnace of affliction and be tried as gold that is seven times purified, until all the dross of our natures is cleansed, and nothing but pure gold remains. Why should it not be so? Other people may be content with a certain degree of happiness and glory, and with a certain amount of salvation. But there is no people upon the face of the earth who have higher conceptions and loftier views concerning their future than the Latter-day Saints entertain; in fact, our conceptions and our anticipations are incomparably greater than those of any other people who now live, of whom we know anything. That which would satisfy ordinary people would not, with our views, satisfy us. Indeed, our aspirations, to the ordinary mind, seem almost to be sacrilegious. Our views of the equality of man, our belief concerning his relationship to Deity and respecting our future, are so immeasurably beyond the views of mankind generally that when they attempt to follow us they become lost, they cannot conceive of that which we picture to ourselves, and that which the revelations of God sustain us in entertaining and believing. Therefore, it is quite proper and consistent, having such anticipations as we indulge in, that we should have all these things to contend with that are necessary to test us and to prove us to the very uttermost. We would not possess the qualifications necessary for the career of glory that we have entered

upon, if we were not tried to the very uttermost, if our integrity were not completely proved, or if there was anything left in us like doubt or unbelief or a want of courage to meet with and overcome all the persecutions that could be brought to bear upon us. Other men may court ease; other men may seek for worldly profit; other men may constantly be looking out for self-interest. But not so with us. We cannot turn aside from the path that God has marked out for us to pursue, to promote any worldly interest or to gratify any worldly ambition. We must pursue that path undeviatingly, following the example of our Lord and Master. He has pointed out the path that we should walk in; and in asking us to tread in His footsteps, to do as He did, He has given unto us the same promises that He Himself has received. He has promised us that we shall be co-heirs with Him, and joint heirs in whatever glory He receives. Whatever exaltation He attains unto we shall in like manner receive, if we follow His precepts and His example. Can any people on the earth desire more than this? Is there anything that is left out? It comprehends all; it embraces all glory, all exaltation, all power, all dominion. The promises are illimitable—as boundless as eternity itself. And these are made to you who are here today. They are made to everyone who has entered into covenant with the Lord in the way that He has appointed. Shall we not then hear patiently all that we have to contend with? Shall we grow tired and weary, and after going so far, give up and say we cannot proceed any farther? Or shall we, by putting our trust in God and relying upon Him who has always been at our right hand and at our left, pursue uncomplainingly the path that our Savior has trod, bearing with meekness, with humility and with patience all the trials, the persecutions and the evils that we have to meet? I think I can answer for this congregation this morning. We do not walk in the dark. We do not rely upon that which men tell us. I thank God this morning, as I do all the time, that He has not left His servants without a witness. All who have joined this Church and been sincere in their espousal of the truth have a living testimony in their hearts concerning all that the Elders say to them and all the counsel that is given. It is this that constitutes the great strength of the work of God. Every faithful member of the Church is a witness to the truth of the work. If it were not for this, we should be a very weak people and could easily be broken up. It is not the President of the Church, or his Counselors; it is not the Twelve Apostles; it is not the Presidents of Stakes, nor any other officer in the Church, upon whom the people depend, or unto whom they look solely for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. They have the privilege given unto them by the Lord to know for themselves concerning all these matters; and

there is no counsel given by the Presidency of the Church, no step taken, nor no policy pursued that they have to depend upon their personal influence to have the people believe, because the people can go to God themselves, if they have doubts upon any point, and call upon Him, in the name of Jesus, to reveal to them whether that which is done or taught is from Him or not. They need not be in doubt. They need not run around asking questions about matters which may appear mysterious to them; but they can go to the Lord in their secret places, and He will remove their doubts and answer their questions, and He will throw light upon their minds respecting the matters about which they may be disturbed.

There have been many things in this Church which have come in contact with the traditions and the pre-conceived ideas of men. There are many things today which, perhaps, come in contact with views which we have entertained. There is scarcely any thinking man or woman in the Church who has not indulged in views and ideas concerning the future of this work—the manner in which it would go forth, etc., and some of these views have been rudely opposed by events. We have been shown that God's ways are not our ways, and that our thoughts are not God's thoughts. We have been made to see that He is the author of this work, and that He will conduct it to suit His purposes, and not the purposes of man. I have no doubt that all of us who have had any experience in the Church have seen this. We have seen many of our anticipations disappointed in the manner in which the work has gone forth. It has required the Spirit of God poured out upon us to reconcile us to many things, perhaps, that have been taught and done in this Church from the beginning. But this is our refuge, this is our tower of strength, that we can go unto the Lord, without the mediumship or intercession of man, and in secret we can ask Him for, and obtain from Him, the light, the intelligence and the knowledge necessary to enable us to pursue our course as Latter-day Saints. Think of how many doctrines have been taught that have been new to the world, but that God has revealed in our day! How could we understand them unless the Spirit of God bore testimony to them? Who on the earth believed them? They were not sanctioned by tradition. They were not upheld by the common belief of man. They were new to this generation. Yet, though they shocked the prejudices of mankind, and perhaps startled us as Latter-day Saints, when we sought God for a testimony concerning them, He never failed to give unto us His Holy Spirit, which witnessed unto our spirits that they were from God, and not of man. So it will be to the end. The Presidency of the Church have to walk just as you walk. They have to take steps just as you take steps. They have to depend upon the revelations of God as they come to them. They cannot see the end