

Latter-day Saints a great appreciation for the blessings of the gospel and a determination and resolution to keep the commandments which he has given to his children, I ask humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER HYRUM G. SMITH

Presiding Patriarch of the Church

I, also, have had opportunity to visit the stakes of Zion where we have recently held the Priesthood conventions and conferences, with the membership of the Church, and I think of all the quarterly conferences that we hold with the stakes of Zion I have enjoyed most the work of the Priesthood. I have been greatly pleased, as well as many of the parents of the Church, to see the young men of Zion stand up and in a public place declare their appreciation for the power of God that has been given unto them. With my brother who has just spoken, I, too, am impressed with the thought that it is a wonderful sensation to discover in ourselves a power which comes from above, and the only way to discover that power, is to use it, when it is given to us. It sometimes takes a little courage on the part of young men in the Church, as well as some of the elderly men also, to go forward and use their powers which the Lord has given them, but unless we do use and magnify them I am impressed that they will be of little or no value to us. It is a wonderful sensation to witness in yourselves the power of God, the power to do and say things that are beyond your own physical and mental strength. I heard a very splendid lecture the other evening by one of our educators and doctors in speaking of some of the gifted men of the nation, in their efforts to bring to light the truth. He said that it was probably their imagination which places them in the lead in bringing to the world the things which they were permitted to do; but I have been willing to grant just a little further blessing to these men, because, I believe that they are possessed of a power that is just a little beyond their imagination, even though it may be keen and brilliant, because I believe that our Father in heaven inspires men who are honest in heart and who are seeking after truth, and that he blesses them with gifts that make men more powerful and useful than those of ordinary intelligence, or brilliant imagination. It occurs to me that the joy which comes to men through using their gifts, is somewhat comparable to the feeling that impresses men when they are moved upon by the power of God while functioning in his work, even under the influence of the Holy Spirit, by the power of the holy Priesthood. In my mind one of the greatest blessings that can come to a man, is to function in the holy Priesthood, to fulfil his duty in assisting to bring about the purposes of the Lord in the earth.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, we understand, is for all people who will obey its teachings, who will hearken and who will study and practice the laws of truth which have been taught to the world, and in spite of

that the Master himself taught his disciples, and in one particular passage of the scripture were these statements:

“Enter ye in the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat, because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, but few there be that find it.”

When men and women take advantage of their opportunities to use the light and knowledge which comes to them, then they enjoy the blessings, because the Lord has been merciful unto them, those who obey his commandments, he has remembered with the power that has strengthened them against doubt and discouragement and against the thwarts of the adversary to place barriers in their pathway, until just in my brief experience in the work of the Lord I have discovered, to my great satisfaction, that those who are willing to seek and to learn and to take advantage of their opportunities, are the ones to whom the Lord is very merciful, and whom he will strengthen against the temptations of the adversary to place barriers in their pathway; until I believe it is possible for a greater number of the children of men to receive important powers and blessings which God has in store for them than are enjoying them at the present day. The Lord has been kind in establishing his work in the earth where men and women have taken advantage of their opportunities and have in a way cultivated their talents and have prepared themselves to teach God's truth, which is his gospel, which has been revealed to the earth in its plainness, in its fulness, in our own language, it has been taught in nearly all the languages of the world; so I have been constrained to believe that the Lord has been very kind to his children. It is my humble desire to express the wish that all who desire to teach the truth may have occasion to do so, by taking advantage of their opportunities to further cultivate their gifts and talents in preparation to stand upon the towers of Zion as watchmen, as teachers, as defenders of God's work in all of its departments, for I want to testify, my brethren and sisters, that this is a day when the Lord has required of you and me that we be prepared to defend his work, to teach it by precept and by example, wherever it may be our lot to labor. I pray that the spirit of defendership may be upon us all, that the spirit to avoid the conditions of the world, the spirit to live so that we may walk in that narrow way which leadeth to life instead of the easy, forgetful, disobedient way, perhaps, that leadeth through that broad gate to the way of destruction; and in humility, as a servant of the Lord, I leave in this conference, and in the Church today, with the leaders thereof, and with the membership thereof, the blessings of the Lord, that the spirit of discernment, that the spirit of teachership, the spirit of true defense may be in our hearts, and with us all in our homes and in our work, both in temporal and spiritual affairs, in the name of Jesus Christ Amen.