

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

I wish that it were given to all of the audience to stand here and see this magnificent sight as we are standing and singing our songs. Of course, we get a view that those of you in the audience cannot have. This is a wonderful inspiration—to view such an audience, the main body of this house full of men holding the Priesthood of God, and the power of Almighty God, to declare his will to the world.

REED SMOOT

I could do no better than repeat the words that have been spoken by President Grant. I had it in my heart to do so, and I want to say amen to all that he has just said, also I want to express my appreciation for the privilege of attending this general conference. While we were singing the last song, "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah," and the one before, I thought, if the author of these two songs were allowed to be present and hear the words sung by this wonderful and enthusiastic audience, such an audience as cannot be found in any other place on earth, his heart would be filled with joy and praise-giving. The fundamentals of the gospel of Jesus Christ are found in the words of these two songs. Where else in all the world could you see an audience of ten thousand people every one of them capable of quoting every word of the song, and every soul interested in singing the praises to God as contained in these two songs?

NEVER DESPAIR

The other day a middle-aged man called to see me. It was about a question in which he was deeply interested, and after I advised him that his wishes, as far as any action on the part of our government was concerned, were useless, he began to talk to me about his life and what he had been called upon to sacrifice for the gospel's sake. He said that he became almost discouraged and was almost at the road of despair. I thought, my brethren and sisters, that that condition, if a man reached it, is a most dangerous one, and at that time if a word of encouragement or a helping hand could be extended, it may save him. I remembered when I was going to school as a young boy of being asked to learn and repeat an article found, I think, in the *National Fifth Reader*, entitled "Never Despair," and as I had it with me I read it to him. I think, my brethren and sisters, that perhaps it would be a proper thing to call it to your attention, and I shall do so, in part:

"There is no trait of human character so potential for weal or woe as firmness. To the business man it is all important. Before its irresistible energy the most formidable obstacles become as cobweb barriers in its path. Difficulties, the terror of which causes the pampered sons of luxury to shrink back with dismay, provoke from the man of lofty determination only a smile.

The whole story of our race—all nature, indeed—teems with examples to show what wonders may be accomplished by resolute perseverance and patient toil.

"It is related of Tamerlane, the celebrated warrior, the terror of whose arms spread through all the eastern nations, and whom victory attended at almost every step, that he once learned from an insect a lesson of perseverance, which had a striking effect upon his future character and success.

"When closely pursued by his enemies—as contemporary tells the anecdote—he took refuge in some old ruins, where, left to his solitary musings, he espied an ant tugging and striving to carry a single grain of corn. His unavailing efforts were repeated sixty-nine times, and at each several time so soon as he reached a certain point of projection, he fell back with his burden, unable to surmount it; but the seventieth time he bore away his spoil in triumph, and left the wondering hero reanimated and exulting in the hope of future victory.

"How pregnant the lesson this incident conveys! How many thousand instances there are in which inglorious defeat ends the career of the timid and desponding, when the same tenacity of purpose would crown it with triumphant success! Resolution is almost omnipotent. Sheridan was at first timid and obliged to sit down in the midst of a speech. Convinced of, and mortified at, the cause of his failure, he said one day to a friend, 'It is in me, and it shall come out.'

"From that moment he arose, and shone, and triumphed in a consummate eloquence. Here was true moral courage. And it was well observed by a heathen moralist, that it is not because things are difficult that we dare not undertake them.

"Be, then, bold in spirit. Indulge no doubts—they are traitors. In the practical pursuit of our high aim, let us never lose sight of it in the slightest instance: for it is more by a disregard of small things, than by open and flagrant offenses, that men come short of excellence. There is always a right and a wrong; and if you ever doubt, be sure you take not the wrong. Observe this! rule, and every experience will be to you a means of advancement."

THE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL IN US MUST COME OUT

My brethren and sisters, it is in us, it must come out. We have the testimony in our souls that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of the living God, that God, through him, established this Church in this dispensation, nevermore to be thrown down or given to another people. As I looked at the faces of this vast audience of the priesthood before me, I wondered if there is made that determined effort for success, that firmness maintained that is so essential to success in every vocation of life, and in their belief in any principle; that if it were, what could not be accomplished. I am not afraid of the ultimate success of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. God is at the helm. I can see every year that passes by, step by step, it is gaining its way and men are studying the results of it; men who hold mighty positions, men of affairs. While, of course, they have not the knowledge that it was from God, they can't but look at the results of it, and they can't but see there is something in the gospel of Jesus Christ greater than mere numbers of souls. If we are faithful, if we are true to the covenants that we have made with God, if we have an eye single to his glory, if we think more of God's work and its success than of our own individual success, or our own individual positions in this world, I

say to you now that the gospel of Jesus Christ will grow just as fast as God wants it to grow, or knows that the people are ready for it to grow.

PREJUDICES NOT ALL ELIMINATED

The prejudices against our people that have been so bitter in the past are not all eliminated yet. Perhaps they never will be until final success comes, but I want to testify to you that this wall of prejudice is crumbling, it is being destroyed in the minds of the opposition when they see the results of "Mormonism" in the community in which "Mormons" live, and I haven't any doubt, my brethren and sisters, that the final triumph of the work of God will come in his own due time. I thank God for his Spirit made manifest to us this day. My heart gave echo to all that has been said, and I am, with my brethren, interested in the advancement of the Church that it may spread to all the four corners of the earth, that the testimony of the elders shall be heard in all lands.

A WEALTH OF SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH

I wondered when we were singing the last song if every person in the world could have heard it—and that time may come when they can do so, if they desire—what effect it would have had upon them. I know that no stranger, no man, could have been in this building today and heard the song that was sung and the power that was manifested by every one who took part in the singing and not have been touched to the heart. He never could have said there is not faith among the people known as the "Mormons." He never could have claimed that there was not a wealth of spirituality and faith emanating from those who have taken part in the singing and speaking, both would have impressed him with the earnestness and with the truthfulness of the words that were sung and the testimonies of the gospel of Jesus Christ as proclaimed.

GOD LIVES AND THIS IS HIS CHURCH

My brethren and sisters, I want to leave with you today that testimony for which I prayed so long. My mother said if I would keep myself unspotted from the sins of the world it would come, and this is that testimony, that I know that God lives and this is his Church. I hope, as long as I have breath, that whatever is required of me as a servant of God, I shall be perfectly willing to do, to make sacrifice of any name or nature, even unto life itself; and if a humble prayer, offered to my heavenly Father morning and night, will keep me in that same frame of mind, I shall glorify his name and thank my Maker for that testimony.

May God's choicest blessings be with his people. May they increase in wisdom, and may their works be such that the world seeing them will concede that they are directed from other sources than man, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.