

little girl's having a little pet pup and how in her ecstasy she takes it to the well and pumping on its little paw, tries to teach it the word "water," but the pup only wags its tail. Doctor Thompson then goes on to point out that the pup was an animal who could see and hear and after a fashion speak, and on the other hand, here was another of the animal kingdom who could neither see nor hear and up till this time could not speak, yet, one remained only a pup while the other was destined to become a great soul. The reason, says he, lies in the fact that the pup was just a dog while in this child there was an immortal spirit—personality he calls it—the offspring of God, the Creator.

As I read that interesting part of Helen Keller's life, I thought what great potential powers do we have as men holding the Priesthood of the living God. We are not only the physical creation of Him, but we have within us that immortal spirit that has come from God, and with that consciousness that all of our brethren are the immortal offspring of our Heavenly Father, and furthermore being endowed with a power that enables us "to grow up unto Him who is the Head, even Christ," how great is our responsibility in that great field that is already white and ready for the harvest!

God help us to appreciate our opportunities and our responsibilities. I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Elder Albert Eccles sang a solo, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (Edwards). The congregation joined in singing the chorus.

### ELDER RUFUS K. HARDY

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

I am impressed, my brethren, today with the great gathering which is here and which was here yesterday, and I am thinking that perhaps there will never come into the lives of men that they may build a thing so perfect even as we now see it constructed before us—I speak of the organization of the Church. Here, according to President McKay this morning, is every officer of the two Priesthoods, the Aaronic and the Melchizedek, represented in this building.

#### PRIESTHOOD A CHOICE GIFT

This Priesthood is referred to as "being without father, without mother, and without descent, and has neither beginning of days or end of life." Each of us is called with a peculiar calling, each in his respective calling to do vastly different things. Every appointment and calling in the Priesthood is of such importance that all of the time devoted by each man to his designated sphere, in close application to his work, will not begin to encompass the greatness and eternal decrees of God.

One thing, however, of which we must ever be wary is the warning which God has given. That warning is that "all other authorities or

offices in the church are appendages to this priesthood" (D. & C. 107:5), and then again, God gave a revelation to the Prophet Joseph and told him this: "For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time" (D. & C. 132:45). And, yet, I am sure, my brethren, that we zealous and energetic laborers in the work of God are tempted at times to exaggerate our own importance, to accomplish personal ambitions, but we should adopt the humble attitude of standing still "to see the glory of the Lord pass by"; this would accomplish a great deal more. We grow despondent with what we think is delay, forgetting momentarily that since the very beginning of time God has planned and wrought with patience, and has seen afar the very time in which we now find ourselves.

Let us remember that we are blessed with the choicest of God's gifts, the inestimable calling in the Priesthood which we ourselves hold; "that the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness" (D. & C. 121:36).

It is a revealing and marvelous thing that God has brought about the many miracles that we see performed in our midst this day.

#### A LAND BLESSED OF THE LORD

When we consider the early sending forth of the Priesthood bearers and the scattering of the membership of this Church and Priesthood, which then we looked upon as a calamity, to the various parts of the earth, and the gathering of it all here and concentrating its executive power in this locality, and then to look at the beauty of our land compared with what it was, to realize that it has become an inviting, charming place, and behold these buildings, now in our midst, we must give fervent thanks to God. This surely is the land of Joseph, the land which God gave and blessed in the beginning that all men who came here might enjoy it who would lend ear to that which God has given us, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the only land, my brethren, which is surrounded on all sides by friends and not enemies, God's blessed land.

#### PRESENT NEED FOR MISSIONARIES

Now, in this turmoil through which we are passing, we have a need, a great calling, to put to work that thing which God has given us, the Priesthood. We need missionaries to teach these hungry, eager people, strangers within our midst, something of the Gospel, to let them know how it came about and was restored, and why God's children are here doing what they are.

I am very sure that in our council, the First Council of the Seventy, every man is keenly alert to this situation. Notwithstanding the two thousand-odd who were baptized last year by our stake missionaries, we have not touched the surface.

God will bless us in this work if we will put our mind and attention to it, and I sincerely trust and hope and pray that this may be the case.

and that we may recognize in this strained and trying condition that besets us the privileges which are ours now, and that will be, for they were given by the Lord, even as He says: "Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence" (D. & C. 107:99).

I pray that God will give a keen desire to each man to serve in his own sphere to the best of his ability, that His work may roll on and that these blessings which are ours may be given to others, which I do in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER THOMAS E. MCKAY

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

It is a wonderful opportunity that we brethren have of meeting together twice a year in these great gatherings. Personally, I am very thankful for the privilege. It is a great strength to me to associate with you brethren. I love to meet with people and shake hands with them. I have enjoyed meeting you leaders in the stakes of Zion that I have had the privilege to visit, getting better acquainted with you and your good people. I appreciate the welcome I have received, and also commend you for the welcome that has been given as a rule by you or by a committee representing you to the people, especially the newcomers and the backward members, as they come into your chapels or your tabernacles at these stake conferences.

#### STRENGTH COMES FROM PRAYER

In visiting your conferences I have taken the occasion, usually in the Priesthood session, to call attention to the responsibility resting upon each one for the success of the conference. I have felt the need of the support, as I do this morning, of you brethren, of an interest in your faith and prayers; and I have suggested, and I hope I will not be presumptuous in suggesting now, that it is a good thing for every person present to offer up a silent prayer for those who are called upon to speak, I know each one will be strengthened by so doing; it will help you to concentrate and keep your mind upon the things that are being said, and I am sure the speakers will be benefited. I am a firm believer in the power of prayer. I love to think of and repeat the first verse of the song:

Ere you left your room this morning,  
Did you think to pray?  
In the name of Christ, our Savior,  
Did you sue for loving favor,  
As a shield today?

Oh how praying rests the weary!  
Prayer will change the night to day:  
So when life gets dark and dreary,  
Don't forget to pray.

Life is dark and dreary already for many families whose sons have