

member, Gideon won the battle for Israel. Numbers do not count in the end. It is even so with modern Israel. That is the thought that has gone through my mind during this conference. It is the message I would leave with you.

#### SACRIFICE NECESSARY

Of course, such service means sacrifice. Certainly it means sacrifice, but the Lord said to us at the beginning of this great latter-day work, "This is a day of sacrifice." Later on, you recall that he said on one occasion we cannot really live up to our covenants as we should unless we sacrifice. But what does sacrifice matter when we are in the cause of the Lord and feel the power of the spirit of God? Many years ago the message came, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10.) We can trust him. We give a little, and the Lord returns ten-fold, often a hundred-fold. Look at the men of our own Church, who have spent years and years in service to the great cause. They have prospered, not only temporally but spiritually. To them we go for help and counsel. From them we receive support, to make our own lives more beautiful. Of course, sacrifice is required of us; but we, with a great world commission, must lift our eyes to it, prepare for it, have faith for it, and try to do what the Lord requires of us. If we stand ready to give full service, not half service, not half surrender but complete surrender, we shall become mighty men. May that spirit grow strong among us I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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The congregation sang the hymn, "Glory to God on High," L.D.S. Hymns No. 113, Hymn Book No. 137.

#### ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

I stand before you this afternoon, my brethren, with mingled feelings of joy and sadness. I am glad that the absence of President Hardy and President Bennion has been mentioned here this afternoon. They were both men who were very, very dear to me, and I want you all to know that I miss them very keenly. As I sit here on the stand today, I feel their absence because I used to go to both of them for support in the questions that so frequently arose, and I used to sit next to Brother Bennion in all of our conference gatherings. I hope that God will comfort Sister Hardy and Sister Bennion, and that he will give us the power to give them some aid in their trials and make it easier for them. On the other hand, I rejoice in the fine quality of the men who have been selected to take their places. I want to make public acknowledgement of my esteem for them and tell them that they have my support in the work that they shall have to do.

## THE COMFORT A TESTIMONY GIVES

I am glad for the testimony I have of the gospel of Jesus Christ and for the faith that it gives me, faith that the work which God initiated in this dispensation, through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, shall go on and on and on. I feel very insignificant as one of the cogs in the great machine which is to carry it forward, but I have gained through my observation and experience the faith that God will see it go forward, regardless of the fact that those of us who are here now will eventually lay down the burdens of life. I like to think of life as something that began before mortality and something that will go on after it; that death is but an incident in life, just as is birth, and I like to think that these companions of mine now are exercising an influence just as they did here. The sun rises in the morning, and we feel its warmth during the day. For us it sets in the evening, but when it sets for us, it warms another land. I feel that those fine men are doing that very thing, that through their personalities and the power that they gained through their experiences here, they are warming another land and helping another group of men and women. I am thankful for that faith, for it helps me over many difficult problems in life.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP

We who are here, this afternoon, represent the leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We come together for inspiration and to learn better how to do the various things that we have to do in administering the work of the Church. We have a great and grave responsibility because we stand at the head of this large group of people, and it is expected of us that we will show them the way to go. It is true, as has been said, that he who holds a lantern to light the footsteps of his friends, lights his own. In leading the people we see more clearly our own duties, our own responsibilities, and the pathway that we should follow. It is a great obligation, and I stand in fear and trembling before you and before God when I think of my responsibility in the position I occupy. I hope that I may have your faith and prayers as my life carries on, to do it properly.

Man is the crowning creation of God, who spent a long time fashioning the world and the plants and the animals that grow upon it. As his crowning effort he placed man to rule and reign over them. Man is the great workmanship of God. To bring about the eternal life of man is his great objective. He starts us out as almost the weakest of all of the animal creations which he has placed upon the world. There are few of the animals that are born as weak and puny as we, and all of them grow more quickly to maturity and to independence than we. We are the most dependent of all the creations, I believe, but we grow, if we are properly nurtured and cared for, into the crowning glory of the work of God. To take that new soul

and tiny body as it comes into the world and develop it into a personage who will eventually attain to the qualities of godhood is a responsibility that few of us appreciate in its enormity. We talk a great deal about the delinquency of this present day, juvenile delinquency and the delinquency of others, but we seem to be startled mainly with what we term juvenile delinquency. The other night I sat and listened to a discussion by one of our prominent educators on that question and one of the things that I gained from his discussion was this statement, "Back of every delinquent child, there is a responsible and frequently a delinquent adult." Now if we will think of it that way, think what a responsibility we have. It isn't their fault, if that is true, there is delinquency in the world, but it is our fault and the fault of our grandfathers, because we respond to influences down through all these generations, the present generation being the product of the past. When we think, too, of a child whose career is changed by some careless act or teaching of ours and that he becomes an undesirable member of society passing his undesirable qualities down to future generations, which pyramid as a great fan beyond him, how can we think of the end of that evil influence and how can we determine the enormity of the offense; thus it is not surprising that we read in Matthew and in Mark and in Luke the statement of the Savior that "he who shall offend the least of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone had been tied about his neck and he had been drowned in the sea." (See Matt. 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2.) Verily, that is true, for had that been done before his evil influence was felt, it had been better for the world.

#### THE PROPER WATCHCARE OF CHILDREN ENJOINED

Now, brethren, the children of this Church are our children. God has entrusted us with their care, and ours is the problem to see that they are properly taught and led. I am very, very sure that there are many homes, and perhaps most of the homes of the Latter-day Saints, where this obligation is properly appreciated and where the parents do what is within their power properly to lead as well as direct their children, and I give you in testimony of it the fact that I have seen many young men and women come out of these homes with a faith that is fine and holy. At the same time, it is quite possible that some of us do not attend to these responsibilities as we should. We have frequent cases reported to us where children are on the streets at all hours of the day and night, while their parents are off on some errand, perhaps for pleasure, perhaps for gain, a questionable gain when you consider the sacrifice they make for it. So there may be among us some cases which should have attention, and we who are here are the ones who are charged with that part of it, to see that our people are properly taught and properly led.

It isn't every parent that has the tact to do those things as he should, and it isn't every parent whose children go astray who is re-

sponsible for that, because they come under the influence of people outside the family as well as within it, but when we expose them to those external influences we should do everything within our power to protect them from within. Perhaps we who are here in this section of the country have felt so secure in the past that we haven't done as much as we should in preparation and in protection.

I remember visiting an outlying stake established in a large community. When I suggested to the president of the stake that we at home were worried over the temptations that are now being presented to our young people, he said, "President Ivins, we have had to contend with temptation since we came into this section. Our children have developed a method of withstanding it, and we can trust them." So it seems possible to build up a resistance to those things. That is our charge and that is our task. I wonder how many of us get close enough to our children, so that when they come in in the evening, they come to our bedside and tell us where they have been, and how many of us get close enough to them that they will come and confide in us their problems as their advancing years come upon them? Too many of us, I am sure, as parents, are backward in teaching them some of the principles of life which they should learn, and there develops between father and son, between mother and daughter, a barrier that seems hard to surmount; but when we recognize that, at its very first appearance, we should consciously attempt to break it down, tactfully, nicely. Let us see if we can't gain the confidence of these children that we are producing, and let us who are the fathers in the wards and the stakes of the Church see if we can't so gain the confidence of the fathers and mothers that we can talk to them in the same spirit, that we can teach them the value of family prayer. It is astonishing how many people in this last report that we received have admitted that they don't practice regularly family prayer. Now there is no greater safeguard in the family, and there is no greater protection to a child than that habit which he should develop. The principles of integrity, righteousness, and upright living should also be taught them. If it is true that back of every erring child there is an erring parent or other adult, there is a grave responsibility resting upon us, and we shouldn't shirk it; we shouldn't evade it because we are backward or bashful with our children. We should face it fairly and squarely with our arms around them, bringing them close to our hearts and talking confidentially with them. Some of the greatest pleasures of my life have been the sessions that I had with my father, under the stars of heaven, sleeping side by side with him. We should get close to those children; we should love them. We would give our lives for them, but frequently we are so embarrassed and bashful that we won't even talk plainly to them in love and good will. I don't mean a dominating spirit or anything of that kind. I remember one time in going through a mission we attempted to teach a father that he should put his arms around his child, his boy, and bring him close to him. The man who

made the appeal in the public address said, "You must hang on to your children," and the man who translated into Spanish, said, "You must govern them with a hand of mail." You can imagine how far we got. That isn't what I mean, brethren. "We must put our arms around them; we must love them; we must teach them; we are the leaders of the people, the heads of the wards and stakes; and what are we doing for them? Let every man of us look himself in the eye, and see if he can say, 'I have done my full duty, I am satisfied and happy.'" If he can't, I call him to repentance.

May God give us the strength to do it, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ELDER SEYMOUR DILWORTH YOUNG

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

A good portion of my life I have thought that the calls which came to those who are to do things for the Church, while officially coming from the prophets, perhaps might come as a still, small voice speaking to the person in the manner of the words of the Lord when he spoke to Samuel. He called, "Samuel." Samuel had to answer two or three times. The words which came to me sounded distinctly like those of President David O. McKay.

#### THE WAY THE CALL CAME

I submit to you the questions he asked of me because I believe there have never been propounded, to me at least, three more innocent questions. He said, "Where are you?" Of course, I was in my office. He said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I am working." He said, "Would you like to attend conference?" Well, the only reason I wasn't attending conference was because I had no ticket. So I assured him that I would be very happy to attend conference.

He told me he wanted me to attend conference, would I please come down as quickly as I could and sit in the audience and see him at noon. That was as much as I knew until I got to the temple gate, when a very polite and delightful officer of the Salt Lake City police force informed me that I was a member of the First Council of the Seventy, and for the first time in my life I was escorted by a policeman across the temple grounds.

#### PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Now I know, and many of you know, that, whatever the reason why I am called (and I do not know what it is) I should not be here in any event without the love and the backing and the work of the men with whom I have labored in the past twenty-two years. A sprinkling of those men sit in this audience today. All I can see before me is a sea of faces, as one man put it this morning, but there are islands in that sea, and those islands are the faces of my friends from