

The Brigham Young University Mixed Chorus and the congregation sang the hymn, "High On the Mountain Top," by Beesley. (Hymn Book, p. 134; L.D.S. Hymns No. 131.)

### ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My beloved brothers and sisters, I have here in this book a talk upon which I have spent many hours in thought and preparation. I had intended to give it at this conference. If I had spoken before President David O. McKay, I would have talked to you about the necessity of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as an effective means of bringing peace to the world. He has given my talk, body and soul, and in a much better way than I could have given it. I shall therefore not talk on that subject, but I will ask each of you, if you will, to offer a silent prayer in your heart for me, and for you, too—because you probably will stay here and listen to me—that I may have the Spirit of the Lord while I speak to you wholly extemporaneously.

#### PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I have something for you which no other person in this world can give to you. It is my personal testimony. You have your testimony, and you can give that, but I have mine, and while you are not bound by my testimony, I am bound by it, and I would like to bear it to you if the Lord will give me strength.

#### FAITH IN GOD

I know that God lives. The first article of our faith begins, as I recall it, "We believe in God, the Eternal Father. . . ." I believe in him as a personal being. I do not think he is an immaterial substance. I do not think that, as a person he fills the immensity of space and at the same time is so small that he can dwell in my heart. I believe that his spirit can be in my heart, but I believe that God is my Father, a person. I believe with all my soul that he appeared personally with the Savior to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the grove and talked to him. At least he introduced the Savior to the boy Prophet in that great revelation and vision which opened this last dispensation. I believe he is the Father of my spirit and the Father of your spirit. I believe we were born to him and to our mother in heaven. I do not know the process, but I do know how we are born to our fathers and mothers in this earth and that is the way I think about it. I feel that there is a similar relationship between him and me that I feel toward my earthly father, or that I did feel toward him when he was here. I have always thought about God in this way. I believe I was born to him as a spirit child in the spirit world before I was born here, and what I say about myself—and you will pardon the personal reference—I feel about

every other human soul that lives in the earth. I believe we all lived with him before we came here.

#### DIVINE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST

I likewise believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. With all my soul I believe in him, and I put my hope of peace in this life and of exaltation and happiness in the life to come in the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe he was a Son of God in the same sense that we were sons and daughters of God in the spirit, and I believe that he was and is the Son of God in the flesh. I do not believe that Joseph was the father of Jesus Christ, although I do believe that he was a good and great man. I believe that Mary was the mother of Jesus as my mother was my mother, and I believe that the father of Jesus Christ in the flesh was Elohim, my Eternal and Heavenly Father.

I believe that Jesus came into the world with a very definite mission. I do not regard him merely as a great teacher nor as a profound philosopher, nor do I merely profess to believe in him, as is the case with many so-called Christian people of the day. President Grant used to illustrate their lack of faith in Him by telling of the experience of Senator Beveridge, who among several hundred eminent ministers of popular churches of the day, whom he interviewed and interrogated, failed to find a single one who could unequivocally say that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of the Living God, sent by him to save the world. I believe that, with all my soul I believe it, and I believe that in Gethsemane and on the cross Jesus suffered for the sins of all men, good and bad, that they might be resurrected from the dead and have immortal life. I believe that through his atonement, Jesus paid for the sins of every human soul who has lived or will live upon the earth, upon condition of repentance and acceptance of the gospel. I believe that by living the gospel we may be washed clean through his atoning blood and come back into the presence of God, our Eternal Father, when life is over; and live with him eternally in his celestial presence.

These things are realities to me. I do not believe the past experience of my own life any more than I believe these great truths.

#### THE HOLY GHOST

I believe in the gift of the Holy Ghost. On one occasion the Prophet Joseph Smith was in Washington talking to one of the presidents of the United States, I believe it was President Van Buren. I often think of that picture. There sat the president of what in my judgment is the greatest nation in the world and with him, although he was unknown, sat a man who was infinitely greater than the president of the United States, the Prophet of the Living God, the man whom God had reserved in the spirit world to come to earth in these latter-days to be the instrument through whom God would restore the everlasting gospel in this last dispensation. "Well," said President Van Buren to the Prophet, "What is the difference between you and the

rest of the Christian world?" The Prophet answered in one sentence, "We have the Holy Ghost."

I believe that the Holy Ghost is the third member of the grand council that presides over the destinies of this world. I believe he is a person, because when Jesus spoke of him he said,

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13.)

I believe he is not a person with a physical body of bone and flesh, but a spirit person, and I suppose if I should see him he would look something like the Savior looked to the brother of Jared when he appeared to him on the Mount. When Jared's brother looked upon him, he appeared to be a personal being as we appear, as men appear. Jesus explained to him that what he was looking upon was the body of his Spirit. Now I am not saying this is the doctrine of the Church. It is, however, the only way I can think about a spirit person, so I think about the Holy Ghost in this way. I believe his influence and his power are capable of spreading out into the hearts of all people, as many as will accept the gospel and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

When I was made a member of the Church, Elder George Teasdale, one of the Council of the Twelve, confirmed me. He laid his hands upon my head and confirmed me a member of the Church and said in words about like this, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." All of us who are members of the Church have had that same gift given to us. He did not tell the Holy Ghost to come to me; he told me to receive him. I believe that if I live the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost will come to me and guide me into all truth. Every one of us can be led and directed by this third member of the Godhead. The Prophet Joseph Smith said that his whole purpose was to bring light and intelligence and truth to the minds of men and women, and they cannot be deceived as long as they have his spirit with them.

Now, I believe that the gospel which we have accepted is the gospel of Jesus Christ. I do not think that President Smith, as much as I admire and love him, is the head of this Church. I think it is the Church of Jesus Christ, and I believe he directs its affairs.

#### CHURCH GUIDED BY REVELATION

My testimony of revelation does not end with the revelations of Joseph Smith. I believe that Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, and Heber J. Grant were led, guided and directed by direct revelation. I believe that President George Albert Smith is now guided in the affairs of the present day by the revelations which come from Jesus Christ directly and through the Holy Ghost. I do not believe revelation has ceased. If I did, I would not spend my time doing what I am doing. I believe that these prophets of God now seated on this stand live by revelation. I believe that when a man is chosen in the Council of the Twelve, he is chosen by revelation through the mind of Presi-

dent George Albert Smith, and I believe that when a man becomes President of this Church it is not just because he has lived a long time. It is because God Almighty wants him to lead this Church in the earth.

What these men say I follow, not because I think they are almighty as individual men, but because I think they live true and pure lives and through them God gives the direction he wants his Church to have. I believe that I would be a very unwise man to put the little information and knowledge I have above the vision of the Almighty which guides these men.

I believe this is the Church of God. I believe that it will yet save whatever of the world is saved. I believe we have the commission to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. God help us that we may keep this testimony burning in our hearts and that we may do as he would have us do and live so that when life is over we will have brought ourselves within reach of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and enjoy his rest forever, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

In speaking to you at this time let me recall to you the lesson contained in the story of Jonah as given by Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University.

#### FAILURE TO SEE ARIGHT

Temptations beset every one of us in every walk of life. By temptations I mean failures to see aright. Jonah's was the case of a man who in success lost sight of the real object of his work. He failed to see the right path. He did no harm because God disposed otherwise; but if he could have had his way, he would have destroyed all the people of Nineveh, and thought he was doing right. Yet, had he stopped to ask himself seriously *what was the right of his mission*,\* his own answer would certainly have been that it was to bring the people of Nineveh to repentance. His neglect to ask himself that question was the cause of his error. He lost sight of his object, not because he could not see it, but because he did not try to.

Men have good intentions; they mean well; but they do not act well. They do not continually ask themselves, "In what does my best consist?" They pursue lesser aims, not because they prefer them, but because in the press and strain of events, in the cares of life, they become absorbed in immediate objects and forget the higher ones. Then, too, many of our young men do not realize the importance of long, hard work. They have not disciplined their minds to persevere in diligence and steadfastness. They have not learned how to endure strenuous, conscientious work; how to wrestle and work through delays, through disappointments, and failures, through the darkness till the breaking of the day. Let us be sure we never become busy calling attention to our own virtues. Never let us thirst for praise but do *right*