

desires to have to continue on his great work. I so pray for all those who preside with him.

My testimony is that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ, and the gospel of Jesus Christ as restored in these last days is true. I bear it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER THORPE B. ISAACSON

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

President Smith, President Clark, President McKay, and my other beloved brethren of the General Authorities, and my brothers and sisters: I can assure you that this is indeed a strain and certainly a shock whenever one's name is called who is to speak. President Joel Richards just handed me a note, as my name was called, and I hope you'll all say the same thing silently, and if you'll pardon me, I'll read his note: "Thorpe," he says, "I'm praying for you, and I know God will bless you."

It is always a worry when one is called upon to occupy this position: it is to me, at least. Sometimes, I know I shouldn't envy, but sometimes I do envy my brethren who can come up here and appear so composed and so comfortable, and I only pray that the Lord will help me during the next few moments that I stand here.

I do believe in prayer, and I realize that without the help of the Lord we can do very little. The first time that I was called up here the experience was such that I didn't know how I ever got up those steps. I thought it would get a little easier as experiences came, but it doesn't get any easier for me.

PURPOSES OF CONFERENCE

We are assembled in this great house of the Lord so that we can partake of his Spirit, so that we can be made to feel more humble and more charitable, so that we can truly worship God, our Eternal Father. We are here to bear testimony to the goodness of our Father in heaven to us. We are here to receive inspiration and counsel. We are here to be advised and taught. Surely "the Spirit of God like a fire is burning" here—it has been at every session of this conference. Words of inspiration and words of revelation have been spoken and will be spoken. We are here so that our faith in God our Eternal Father may be increased. There is great inspiration and revelation in the Church today, and I would like to quote from the Doctrine and Covenants just a few words regarding the messages that we have received yesterday and today and that we will receive Wednesday, and every time when we meet in the name of the Lord:

And whatsoever they [our leaders] shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation. (D. & C. 68:4.)

I am sure that as Latter-day Saints when we sustain these prophets, seers, and revelators, we know they are speaking under the inspiration of the Almighty. May our faith be so strong that we will accept this.

IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

Sometimes we are inclined to question whether it is revelation or inspiration, but that's because sometimes our faith may waver. Nothing in the world can take the place of faith. Yes, good, sincere, simple faith. Talent will not—nothing is more common in our world than many unsuccessful men who have great talent. Genius will not—unrewarded genius by the score is almost a proverb. Education will not—the world is full of so-called educated men and even educated derelicts. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the mission of his Son is all-powerful. Carlyle has said:

The chief aim of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

We can enjoy the Spirit of the Lord by the gift of the Holy Ghost that we have heard of, just a moment ago, by President McConkie, if we will only draw near unto him and live the commandments of our Father in heaven, and if in our thinking, and we must watch our thinking, and in our study and in our work we can understand the love of our Father in heaven, to that degree only can we partake of that sweet spirit. The Lord has said to us, "If you will seek after me, you shall surely find me," and if we desire to partake of the blessings of the Lord, we can find the Lord. Spirituality is as essential to a man's soul as vitamins are to a man's body.

THE SEARCH FOR GOD

Recently I received a letter from an inactive member of the Church, and, oh, I love those men. I know they have become dilatory and inactive, but if they are given a chance, by the help of God they can be magnified in their calling. Recently a man sent a letter to me, and I would like to read one paragraph:

My activities and ambitions have been directed to the things of the more material nature, but now, as a result, a restlessness disturbs my peace of mind.

Oh, that those men could become active in the Church and do away with that restlessness that disturbs their peace of mind!

For centuries a philosophy has been gnawing at the soul of man, eating into his spiritual fibre, a philosophy that proposes to build a society in which man is sufficient in himself, but a great educator has recently written, and I quote:

The search for God is on. One sees it everywhere, and it is growing. We are coming to know that modern life lacks something. A man may

have a bank full of money and a library full of books, but he cannot be happy without the Spirit of God. Man is coming to know that he cannot depend altogether on science. Man has learned at last that science has its limitations and that only God, our Father in heaven, is unlimited. At the point beyond which science cannot go, God stands unchangeable, now and forever.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

I am quoting from an eminent scientist who when he was recently asked: "In what line of research do you expect to see the greatest development in the next fifty years?" answered:

I think the greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines. Someday people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and that they are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer, and the spiritual forces which, as yet, have been hardly scratched. When that day comes, the world will see greater advancement in one generation than it has seen in the last four generations. (Steinmetz.)

Men will come to accept spirituality as part of their soul and part of their living. As President Clark once stated: "God has placed in every man's heart a divine spark which never wholly goes out." Many times it may be dimmed. I am speaking now to some of the good inactive men in the Church. Oh, I would plead with them that they overcome some of the little things that are keeping them out of the Church, and that they will not feel that we who are perhaps spending a lot of our time in the Church are so critical of them that they can't join us in our different functions and activities in the Church. I like to think of Matthew, and to those men who have become inactive, the Lord has said in Matthew:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, (Matthew 11:29)

That is the rest and that is the love and that is the spirit that those men will find when they come back into the Church, and that spirit is waiting for them just as soon as they can realize that they should not absent themselves further from activity.

ACTIVITY IN THE CHURCH

Now, I would like to say just a word to the young people, the young married people, not the adolescent people of the Church, but those that are about to be married. You should be careful in your social life today; yes, even in your business circles, that you will not adopt practices which will make you feel as though you cannot become active in the Church. It is so easy for you to absent yourselves from the Church activities when you do little things that you know are contrary to the teachings. My experience with men has been that when they are not active, they are more likely to do

things that they wouldn't do if they were active in the Church.

So, to those good men, may I plead with them to seek activity in the Church and the help of the Lord, and the combination of the two will make it possible for them to overcome their shortcomings.

Recently, a man said to me, talking of tithing, "I can't afford to pay tithing under my heavy tax structure to the government and under my heavy expenses," and I wondered if people are beginning to say and to think and to wonder whether or not we can afford to serve the Lord. We cannot afford not to serve the Lord. I have never known a man in my life that paid an honest tithing or that kept the commandments of the Lord that said he was sorry for it. I hope when our young men are thinking of a mission we will not wonder whether or not we can afford to send them on a mission. We cannot afford not to pay our tithing, we cannot afford not to send these young men on missions, we cannot afford not to keep the commandments; and if we will try to become humble and prayerful, the Lord will help us overcome our shortcomings. May each of us be thoughtful and tolerant with the man sitting next to us or to the neighbor or to the man who is inactive in the Church, that we can touch his heart so that he can share some of the blessings that we are privileged to enjoy.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Family relationships—we have heard so many beautiful remarks about the family. I would like to say a word about our wives.

I am very grateful to my wife. I don't know what my life would have been if I did not have a wife and a companion that has stood with me even when I have been discouraged, even when I felt I had no confidence. I am grateful to her. I cannot express to her how much I love her and how much I think of her. A man asked me recently: "Do you love your wife?" I said: "Yes, I love my wife." And he said: "When did you tell your wife you loved her?" Well, it made me think. It was quite a while ago when I told her in all sincerity that I loved her, and I am wondering if we are too busy in this world, and if we leave in the mornings without saying good-bye to our wives, I wonder if we leave without kissing them good-bye, and I wonder if we come home at night and never say a word. I am fearful that we are inclined to be living too fast to pay attention to those beautiful things; and then to the wives, I wonder when you last told your husband that you loved him. Maybe if you would do that a little oftener, it would be a little easier for us to say: "Well, so do I."

WORK IN PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

I am very grateful for the blessing that has come to me in my work with men that I love and honor and respect. My life has been enriched in my association with two of the greatest men that I have

ever known. It is a pleasure to partake of their spirit. I couldn't ask for more encouragement than I have received from Bishop Richards and Bishop Wirthlin. Many times I have known they have seen my follies. Many times I have known they have seen my shortcomings, but they have given me a slap on the back, and that made me want to try just a little bit harder, and all the brethren of the General Authorities are great and good men.

I hope that you people will have the faith to accept what they tell you as the word of the Lord, because they are prophets, seers, and revelators, and servants of God the Eternal Father. If our faith ever wavers to the point where we cannot accept their teachings as the word of the Lord, then we should go and humble ourselves and pray to God the Eternal Father to take that kind of feeling away from us.

I want to bear you my testimony that I know God is my Father; I know that Jesus Christ was his Son, our eldest brother; I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; I know there is inspiration in the Church today stronger than perhaps we realize. That inspiration and revelation may be unrecorded, but nevertheless it has been spoken by the prophets of the Lord, and sometimes I wonder if we have the faith and the true spirit to recognize it as inspiration and revelation from our Father in heaven.

May the Lord bless each of you that you may be mindful of those who have not been blessed as you have. I am referring particularly to those who have become inactive in the Church for some reason or another. They, too, are waiting for the blessings that you and I have been privileged to enjoy.

I am grateful for the bishops of this Church. I hope our people can draw near to them. I do not believe there is a bishop in the Church that will give anybody unsound advice. I do not believe there is any bishop in the Church that will steer anybody wrong, and I hope that our people and our inactive men in the Church may get to know our bishops and love them for what they are.

May the Lord bless you this day and during the coming sessions of this conference, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Ricks College Choir and the congregation joined in singing:
"Praise to the Man Who Communed with Jehovah."

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I would be most ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the prayers of the Saints of the Church in my behalf and thank my Heavenly Father for the restoration of my health. It was a great disappointment to be unable to attend all the sessions at the last conference, and I am grateful to be here today.