

**President David O. McKay:**

We have just heard Elder Milton R. Hunter, of the First Council of Seventy. We shall now be favored with remarks from Elder Harold B. Lee.

I cannot explain my stumbling over that middle initial, except it be through mental weariness, that sounds better

than advancing age. Certainly, I am sure that it was not because of the lack of nearness to Brother Lee. No man is nearer to us in the commencement of the Welfare, even before Brother Lee was called to the Council of the Twelve, than Harold B. Lee, who will now speak to us.

**ELDER HAROLD B. LEE***Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**I** WANT President McKay to know that it does not make any difference to me whether he remembers my name or my middle initial; all I want him to know is that I want to be counted as one who loves the Lord, and who loves our President, as our prophet, seer, and revelator.

I am sure that because of the lateness of the hour, and the desire of all of us that we have a closing word from President McKay and his blessing before this conference closes, you will indulge me the discretion of not presuming to discourse on what I may have prepared to say at this conference. Therefore, I shall close my remarks by only bearing my testimony.

With all my heart I welcome four great, noble souls to new positions among the General Authorities of this Church: LeGrand Richards, Joseph L. Wirthlin, Thorpe B. Isaacson, and Carl W. Buehner. I think there is no man or no person in this Church happier than I at the changes which have come to give these men their present positions.

I am thinking back, to that brief moment up in Idaho, when Brother LeGrand Richards lay at death's door. The doctors had thought that Brother Richards might not be with us long, because of a serious heart attack. The late Bishop Marvin O. Ashton and I drove up one Sunday afternoon to Grace, Idaho, to visit him. In a brief moment, when my hands were on the head of Brother Richards, I knew that the Lord loved him and that he was going to

live. The certainty of that was as sure to me then as it is today that he was spared for a great and glorious mission.

The Prophet Moroni enjoined his people to seek for the great gift of faith in words that, as nearly as I can recall, were something like this:

... Faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith. (Ether 12:6.)

Eleven years ago this morning, I climbed the steps and took my place on the stand where Brother Richards is today. In eleven years, to the day, I have moved from the arm rest to my left, to the arm rest to my right. That call was an overpowering experience, as only these, my brethren, know, but the greatest experience was not eleven years ago today, but eleven years ago the week following today.

It was on the day or so following conference that President Stephen L. Richards, who was then chairman of the Church radio and publicity committee, approached me and said, "Brother Lee, next Sunday is Easter, and we have decided to ask you to give the Sunday night radio talk, the Easter talk, on the resurrection of the Lord." And then he added, "You understand now, of course, that as a member of the Council of the Twelve, you are to be one of the special witness of the life and mission of the Savior and of that great event." The most overwhelming of all the things that have happened to me was to begin

to realize what a call into the Council of the Twelve meant.

During the days which followed, I locked myself in one of the rooms over in the Church Office building, and there I read the story of the life of the Savior. As I read the events of his life, and particularly the events leading up to and of the crucifixion, and then of the resurrection, I discovered that something was happening to me. I was not just reading a story; it seemed actually as though I was living the events; and I was reading them with a reality the like of which I had never before experienced. And when, on the Sunday night following, after I had delivered my brief talk and then declared, simply, "As one of the humblest among you, I, too, know that these things are true, that Jesus died and was resurrected for the sins of the world," I was speaking from a full heart, because I had come to know that week, with a certainty which I never before had known.

I do not know whether that experience was the realization of the workings of the gift of the more sure word of prophecy, but this much I came to know: neither the Prophet Joseph Smith, nor any who have followed since, have ever received a personal visitation from the Master, nor have they ever received a special witness of his life and mission, except they have had a supreme faith. Until that faith had been tried and tested, only then did they receive the witness.

This much more I know, and bear

humble witness, that only shall I receive a greater witness than I today have, that he is, when my faith through trial shall have become the more perfect.

I know with all my soul today, God being my witness, that the Savior died, was resurrected, and lives today, so close to us in the councils of the priesthood, so near to those whom he has chosen as his mouthpieces, that if they will but open their hearts and minds, they may know with a surety that they have done his will and that he has spoken.

I am thinking today of the quoted testimony of a great defender of the faith recorded in Brother Barker's splendid priesthood lessons which we are now studying in the priesthood quorums, when he told how his testimony came. This is what that faithful Cyprian said: "Into my heart, purified of its sins, there entered a light which came from on high, and then, immediately, in a marvelous manner, I saw certainty succeed doubt."

God help us, as the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, that we, having the right to the witness of the Holy Ghost, shall by faith so purify our hearts that the light from on high may enter into them, that in a marvelous way we, too, may see all doubt flee in the face of absolute certainty. God help us to this end, and keep us in the faith, worthy of the testimonies of the reality of the mysteries of heaven and godliness, I humbly pray, in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

**E**LDER Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. His address marks the last of a series of addresses given during this conference by the General Authorities of the Church, all of whom you have heard, excepting Elder Stayner Richards, who is presiding over the British Mission. Elder Romney, as you know, gave the Church of the Air address this morning.

Thus comes to a close a great confer-

ence, another glorious opportunity that the Church has had of meeting together, making new resolutions, receiving timely instructions, and sustaining the Authorities of the Church. The weather has been most propitious. The attitude of the individuals who have assembled in the various gatherings, including the Primary conference, has been hopeful, promising, eager; that of the congregations, most responsive.