

And no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; therefore nothing entereth into his rest save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end.

Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. (III Nephi 27:19-20.)

No unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven. ". . . Be ye clean

that bear the vessels of the Lord." (D. & C. 133:5.) In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President David O. McKay:

That short and impressive sermon just delivered was by Elder Bruce R. McConkie, of the First Council of Seventy. We shall now hear from Elder Richard L. Evans of the First Council of Seventy.

### ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

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

I WAS quite willing, I think truthfully I can say, even eager, that you should be spared this. Before the meeting began, I gave to President McKay all rights I might have to any time this afternoon—with the result that you see.

I should like to say before proceeding, that, with you, I have much missed here the presence and the utterance of Dr. John A. Widtsoe and Brother Albert E. Bowen. These men have meant much in my life, as they have in yours. I pray that the healing, sustaining, strengthening, peace-giving influence of our Father in heaven, may be with them to give comfort and health and peace to their thoughts and to their souls.

From the first utterance of the conference, the impressive and satisfying statement of comfort and encouragement and caution from President McKay, down to the present, we have been fed and strengthened. A wonderful sermon of summary could be given here, I think, by taking a sentence or a theme from each of the brethren, and putting them together, and almost I think it would be well to do it. I cannot attempt it fully, but some have lingered indelibly in my thoughts, beginning with the message of encouragement from President McKay; the earnest invitation this morning of President Richards to come into the kingdom, to enjoy its full fruits

and fellowship; the fervent utterance of President Clark yesterday as to the power and blessed privilege of prayer. And so we might continue.

I remember Brother Moyle's appeal to live in accordance with our opportunities, to serve in accordance with the lot that is ours, each of us; and a sentence from Bishop Wirthlin lingers from last night, and runs through my thoughts: that we cannot criticize people into activity.

It has been a glorious conference, a summation of which would be impressive and soul-satisfying any place in the world, to any group of men and women, as it has been to us here.

I should like to make this plea to all of us: that we do not wait for another prophet to come to tell us what we already know. I think if we shall miss realizing our highest happiness and possibilities and opportunities and progress and peace and development, it will not be because of what we do not know; it will be because of what we ignore, for I believe verily that the Lord God has given us in his plan and purpose a knowledge of every principle that is essential to our happiness and salvation and to the realizing of our highest possibilities here and hereafter.

In all that we do, of course, there is the element of the human and the divine, a mixture of the two. We are

not a perfect people; we are not perfect as individuals, but I hope, and repeat, that we shall not wait for other prophets or for yet another prophet to come to tell us what we already know, but that we shall act on what we have, and go forth from here with renewed purpose and determination to do our best according to our opportunities in the place and in the circumstances and with the gifts and talents with which we find ourselves, with which the Lord God has blessed us, each of us.

And where we have need of repentance, I plead that we shall repent—as a nation, as a people, as individuals. Where we have made mistakes, I plead that we shall face the facts and admit them. It is well-nigh impossible for a man to repent who is not willing to admit that he has need for repentance. I plead that we shall search our own souls, each of us, that we shall search ourselves individually and as organized entities, as a nation, as a people, as communities, as families, and where we have need for repentance, that we shall not withhold it.

Repentance should be a very popular principle. It has not always been so. Prophets have been stoned and ridiculed and rejected for proclaiming the need for it. But it is the one great, peace-giving principle that is open to him who has erred. It is the principle that is open to all of us that makes it possible to improve.

And over and over again I am comforted with this great, sustaining, strengthening thought, and I leave it with our young people, and with all of us, for such consideration as it may merit: Our Father in heaven knows us; he knows our hearts; he knows our thoughts. He understands us and loves us as his children, as we love our own children but with his infinitely greater capacity and wisdom and understanding. He knows the motives which move us to do the things we do or fail to do. He knows the influences by which we are sometimes swayed. He understands our missing a perfect performance. He knows our desires, our diffi-

culties, our sorrows, our disappointments, our hopes, our objectives, our wants and our wishes. And he will help us, if we will take him into our confidence in our daily lives, if we will admit him into the counsel of our hearts, and approach him in prayer. He will help to sustain us in life against all adversity and difficulty and disappointment, against all uncertainty, against all the evils of the day. In the fulfilling of our worthy plans and purposes and our cherished hopes, he will help us. It is his declared purpose and intention to help us to immortality and eternal life. It is always comforting and sustaining to know that he understands us and that this is his declared purpose, if we will take him into our confidence and live to merit his companionship and direction, with this great saving, comforting, sustaining principle of repentance ever in mind.

May God be with each of us and all of us. Let this be a time for returning to him in those things in which we might have erred or strayed, a time for considering the values that endure, for calling our families together and teaching them truth, for working and praying and living for the preservation of free principles, for furthering our Father's work, with all that we have and all that we are. Let it be a time for looking inside ourselves, and searching honestly and improving and repenting and altering our ways where they need altering, and strengthening them where they need strengthening, and pursuing them further where they need so pursuing.

And let us not wait for another prophet to come and tell us what we already know—for I believe with all my heart, and know, and testify to you, that the principles of salvation and eternal happiness and progress and peace are within our knowledge and reach, and if we fail in realizing all that the Father intends for us, it will not be because he has left us in darkness, but because we have ignored something that was within the sphere of our understanding and within our reach.

May our Father be with all of us, in our decisions, with our families. May he be with you young people with your problems, and in all that you face; with President McKay and his counselors, and all associated with them in the far-reaching decisions and weighty problems that pertain to the Church officially; and with each of us, and all of us in our personal lives, that his peace may go forth from here

with us, with his guiding, directing, sustaining influence, that we may carry back to our homes, back to our wards, back to our businesses and our varied places of activity and acquaintance and association a greater determination to live life to the best of our ability and in accordance with the great knowledge which has been given unto us, I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

**A**S WE draw near the closing hour of this great inspirational conference, I think we can say in the words of Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

I believe conscientiously nearly every person who has assembled with the vast audiences beginning with the Relief Society last Wednesday to this moment may feel a gratitude in his or her heart for the conferences that have been held.

We can express this feeling in prayer and gratitude. At this moment we have a prayer in our hearts that the Lord will bless those of our number who are ailing. We pray that comfort and healing may attend our beloved brother, Albert E. Bowen. What a strength he has been to me personally! Brother Bowen, I want you to know we are not unmindful of your loyalty and your hours and hours of devotion to the special assignment given you during the last two years. Today one heart, throughout the Church, says, "God bless you."

Brother Widtsoe, our prayers go to you, also. Your loyalty and faith we all know. Now, as your body is somewhat weakened, we unitedly pray our Father in heaven to sustain you.

Our hearts go out to those in the Church who are grieving and worried because of sore affliction to their loved ones, and to those who have recently been bereft of loved ones, particularly through polio. As I look over those to whom we should express appreciation, I notice the absence of Brother Roy

Darley, one of our organists. He and his wife are at the bedside of their only son, stricken with polio. Our prayers go out to them, and to President Clark and his daughter. President Clark's little granddaughter, Luacine, has been suffering from that same affliction. We are thankful that she is recovering. We want the parents whose little child was stricken last evening, necessitating the father's being called out from the priesthood meeting, to know that our prayers are that that dread disease may not be fatal to your loved one.

That goes to all parents whose hearts are filled with anxiety because of afflicted ones. This is a prayerful Church. We are one body, and when one suffers, we all, to a degree, share that suffering.

I wish to express appreciation for the sustaining help of these noble counselors, President Stephen L. Richards and President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. No man—I make no exception—has been more blessed with the strength and wisdom, loyalty and devotion, of two counselors than I, and I express in your presence deep gratitude for their loyalty.

Likewise to the members of the Council of the Twelve and to the other General Authorities of the Church—I want them to understand that I am not unmindful of their willingness to minimize my weaknesses which often stand out so glaringly, and of their magnanimity in magnifying any virtue they might see. They are loyal men, seeking first the kingdom of God and his right-