

Saturday, April 7

Second Day

mind ourselves again and again of these words which he has spoken:

... he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come. (D & C 59:23.)

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the First Council of Seventy has just concluded speaking. We shall now hear from Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric. Bishop Buehner will be followed by Elder Marion G. Romney, our concluding speaker.

## BISHOP CARL W. BUEHNER

### *Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric*

IT IS TRULY a spiritual feast to attend one of these great conferences. There has been a theme running through these talks that has said to me that we are a great Church of action, and the more action the greater the Church. I am sure we believe in being doers of the word and not hearers only.

I constantly marvel at some of the stories I hear of the faith of the young people in the Church, and I have been inspired by them. I heard a story of a student of psychology who was given an assignment to ask a series of questions of some of our very young people as part of his assignment at the university. Among the questions that he asked was: "Who are the three greatest men in the world?"

The first youngster he asked the question of was seven years of age, and the seven-year-old boy said: "George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Brigham Young." And I thought that was a pretty good answer for a seven-year-old boy. The student went two houses down the street and asked the same question of a five-year-old boy: "Who are the three greatest men in the world?" And the five-year-old boy said: "Our Heavenly Father, Jesus, and President McKay." If you could add fifty years to the age of the five-year-old child, I doubt he could give a better answer fifty years later than he did when he was interviewed at five years of age. That was a remarkable answer for a five-year-old boy, and it denotes the teaching that is going on in the homes of some of our young people.

Then this same man asked another question of a lad just turning three years of age—not much more than learning to talk. He said to this boy three,

"Who is God?" And the youngster, after a second, said, "Sunday School." He identified the word God with Sunday School. This man said: "I asked the same question of a girl much older one day: 'Who is God?' and she said, 'That's a naughty word. We do not say that in our home.'"

These statements are full of meaning to me, and I appreciate them. Good training by the parents of their children, even though they are very young, usually stays with them all their life. Think of these same youngsters a little later when they hold the Aaronic Priesthood. I have shaken hands with hundreds of young men, and girls of corresponding ages, who are attending this great conference because of having a perfect record in attending all of their meetings during the past year.

Last evening Elder LeGrand Richards and I had the honor of being entertained by a group from the West Arcadia Ward of the Pasadena Stake. Some forty-one youngsters have been brought here by their bishopric because they are one hundred percenters in the Church, and I never saw such a fine group and felt such a marvelous spirit as I did among these young people. I sat next to a girl who has been a 100 percenter, who has only been a member of the Church for three weeks, and sitting on the same row was another girl twenty years of age who had been a hundred percenter for a whole year. Her parents have been objecting to her becoming a member of the Church. She said, "I am just waiting to be twenty-one years of age so that I can be baptized a member of the Church. My parents, not understanding what this means to me, have been objecting to

this." In spite of the fact that this girl is not a member, her record has still been 100 percent perfect, and she has paid to the Church one-tenth of all she has earned during the past year. I could not help remarking to her, "Because of your great faith, I would not be surprised if you bring your father and mother into the Church when you are admitted."

It is a great blessing and a wonderful privilege to be associated with these young people—to feel their marvelous spirit. Just a few days ago a bishop came into our office, and said, "I must tell you about one of my Aaronic Priesthood boys. He has had a perfect record ever since he has been in the Aaronic Priesthood. On Monday morning he was stricken with polio. He was taken to the hospital. As soon as he arrived at the hospital and his doctor came to attend him, he said to his doctor: 'Doctor, I have to be out of here next Saturday night, even if I go on crutches. I am a hundred percent in my Church activities, and I have to be in my meetings next Sunday,' and his doctor said: 'Son, I am afraid you are going to be here for months. You will never be home next Sunday to attend your meetings.' The young man said, 'Well, I have faith that the Lord will let me get back so that I will not break my record.' He was administered to during the week. On Saturday night that boy left the hospital on crutches. On Sunday he attended his meetings, and three days later threw away his crutches."

I like the faith of these young men. I told the brethren in our temple meeting last Thursday of two others that impressed me. I was attending a conference in Idaho a year ago on a cold winter's night, with deep snow on the ground—it was seven or eight below zero. At the close of our priesthood leadership meeting, a man brought a deacon up to shake hands with me. He said, "This young man tonight walked five and a half miles through the deep snow, with the stinging wind blowing in his face to catch a ride to come sixty-five miles farther to be in the priesthood leadership meeting because you wanted the presidents of the Aaronic Priesthood in this meeting."

Well, I'll tell you, it is a great honor to shake hands with a boy who magnifies his priesthood as did this young man.

The following Sunday I could not attend my conference because of roads that were all but impassable. Early Sunday morning I was digging a little pathway through the deep snow that had fallen during the night, and down the street came another youngster without a hat on, whistling a little, yet very cheerful. As he came by, I said, "Son, is it time to go to Church?" and he said, "Yes, sir. It will be priesthood meeting in fifteen minutes, and you'd better be there."

Well, you know, if every man in our ward had had an invitation to come to priesthood meeting as I had that Sunday morning, we would have had one hundred percent of our men in attendance. As long as we have young men exercising such great faith and appreciative of the power of the priesthood as have these young men, we are always going to have leadership in this great Church.

Just one more—I heard this just a few days ago, and this is for you men in the service. We are proud of you. I heard of a young man who, with members of his company, attended a beer party. As the party progressed, the other members noticed that this young man was not indulging. They used every method they could to try to get this young man to drink beer and to smoke cigarets along with the rest of them, and the young man said, "No, I have been taught differently. I am not interested. I am just here to see what is going on, but not to take part."

Finally, they decided they were going to test him a little more, and the different men of the company began a collection until they had collected \$17.00. Then they said to this young fellow, "If you will take a drink of beer or if you will smoke a cigaret, here is \$17.00" and the young man said, "No, sir. No money can buy that which I have been taught not to do."

Standing nearby, but unobserved, was someone who heard this young man being tempted. It was the captain of his company. The following morning, the captain called this young man in

for an interview, and said to the boy, "I saw and heard what you did last night when you were out with other men of your company. I admire you for your stand. Our company and this army needs men like you. You can have any job you wish in this company."

Well, young servicemen, you are a great asset to the Church when you live your lives in harmony with its teachings. Some of you have been excellent missionaries. We have heard of a number who have been converted to the Church through your devotion and faithfulness. I say, "God bless you and the young men of the Church and

all of us." Let us make this a great Church of action.

I have often said, "Life in this Church means a job in this Church." May we all secure a job and be active and do all we can to help build up God's kingdom, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric has just spoken to us. Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve will be our concluding speaker.

#### ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

##### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**W**ITH YOU, my brethren and sisters, I have enjoyed this day very much, and in harmony with Elder Sonne there echoes in my heart feelings of approval of all that has been said and done. I join with the other brethren in congratulating the Church on having our great President, after fifty years of wonderful service, as our leader. I have loved him for a long time. I met him first in California when as a lad I was a Mormon refugee from Mexico. I saw him later in far away Australia. More recently I had the great honor to be the first member of the Council of the Twelve selected by him. I greatly honor him.

I think I can give you my message for this conference so that you can get it fully if you will do a little reading. Because of the great interest evidenced by the public in, and some resulting confusion from, certain so-called supernatural manifestations, such as telecast healings, hypnotic performances, and the doctrine of reincarnation, I thought it might be appropriate for me to take as my text the seventh Article of Faith, which reads: "We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc."

You can get the message I would like to give you in more detail than I will have time to give it here if you will read the forty-sixth section of the Doctrine and Covenants and an editorial written by the Prophet Joseph Smith in

1842, titled "Try the Spirits," which you will find in Volume IV, *History of the Church*, page 571. It is also printed in the *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, compiled by our beloved President of the Council of the Twelve, beginning on page 202.

##### *I. Gifts of the Spirit a Characteristic of the Church of Christ*

The gifts named in the seventh Article of Faith, quoted above, are gifts of the Holy Ghost. The enjoyment of them has always been a distinctive characteristic of the Church of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, without the gift of revelation, which is one of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, there could be no Church of Jesus Christ. This is apparent from the obvious fact that in order for his Church to exist, there must be a society of people who individually have testimonies that Jesus is the Christ. According to Paul, such testimonies are revealed only by the Holy Ghost, for said he, ". . . no man can [know] say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (See I Cor. 12:3.) In the 46th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord specifically lists such knowledge as one of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, as follows: "To some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, . . ." (D & C 46:13.) Everyone who has a testimony of Jesus has re-