

would be eliminated; strikes would be unnecessary; peace would prevail.

Even though revolutionary changes are taking place all over the world, even in our own land, we must remember that God has not changed. Virtue, honesty, trust, a desire to do good, a desire to be helpful are still basic and indispensable principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the first section of the Doctrine and Covenants, we are told that “. . . the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according

to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.” (D&C 1:10.)

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” (Matt. 7:12.)

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, Associate to the Twelve, has just addressed us. Brother Marion D. Hanks of the First Council of the Seventy will be our next speaker.

ELDER MARION DUFF HANKS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

Brother Christiansen's quotation makes me think of another attributed to an ancient, who said, “Lord, make me good, but not yet.” That which we would hope the Lord might do for us we had best begin to do for ourselves, with prayer and seeking his blessings, now, while there is time.

It was a glorious experience this morning to look into your faces and shake hands with many of you and nod at others. I sat recalling the many places where I have been blessed to see you and thought that I have seldom been willing to comfort myself that I have contributed greatly to you, but that I have always come away thanking the Lord for what you have contributed to me. In the years of my association with you through the stakes and missions and in the institutions of the Church, I have yet to be imposed upon by one filthy word or unworthy idea or evil story. I have had association under other circumstances, and I thank God for the fellowship of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for the fellowship of people of good will outside that Church who share common objectives and who have loyalty and devotion in their own way to their own faiths and persuasions.

But it is to this group this morning that I would hope to address a thought or two which seem to me at this moment to be of extreme significance.

Charles Malik, the former president of the United Nations General Assembly, a great diplomat and man, a time ago made this statement: “We—all of us—need a mighty spiritual revival. The ideal of a settled, successful, selfish life is wholly inadequate. One craves to see great themes sought and discussed, great causes espoused. One burns for the reintroduction into life of the pursuit of greatness. Everywhere I go I find people sitting on the edge of their seats, waiting to be shown the way.

“There are infinite possibilities, both material and moral, to vindicate freedom against unfreedom, joy of living against tyranny, man against all that is subhuman and inhuman, truth against darkness and falsehood, and God against the devil and his works. The time is here not for pessimism and despair, but for a vast advance on many fronts.”

I believe that these words are true. They reflect the experience I have had. They have been stated in his own way by President McKay this morning, and I sat thinking of what the Lord has said to bulwark and sustain and lay the foundation for optimism and faith in this time of apprehension and uncertainty and discontent and fear.

There was a little band of struggling people in Harmony, Pennsylvania, in 1829. There was not yet a Church; there was not yet a published Book of Mormon. There was a man with a

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story, and the Spirit of God moved upon them and bore witness that he was telling the truth, and so they rallied to him and gave him their allegiance and asked him what they must now do. The answers he gave them were the answers which made possible for them the greatest gift of God to man—happiness here, quiet conscience, truth, and eternal opportunities for creative expression ultimately in the kingdom of God with our Heavenly Father.

To this struggling little band, beset and sore tried, and I am sure some of them seriously concerned, came these words:

"Fear not to do good, my sons, for whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap; therefore, if ye sow good ye shall also reap good for your reward.

"Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail." (D&C 6:33-34.)

In 1831 there was a Church and a published Book of Mormon, an organization with officers, but the little Church was in its formative period. There was imposition. There was already serious mobbing. There was disbelief and great antagonism.

In that day to his people, through the Prophet, the Lord said:

"Wherefore, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you; and ye shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come." (*Ibid.*, 68:6.)

Through all the books of recorded revelations of God to man, one may read again and again the marvelous message of fearlessness, of faith, of courage, of testimony, of a sound, strong mind. The words of Paul to Timothy, his son in the gospel, give strength and courage and ought to lay foundations for us to stand up where we are and bear our own witness of faith and not of fear. Said Paul to Timothy, as well you know, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7.)

Out of the ancient record words well known, again, to all of you, words of

faith and assurance: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; . . ." (Psalm 23:4.)

Through all the dealings of God with man there have been trials and troubles and afflictions and impositions and apprehensions, and there have been the repeated assurances of God to man that he should be of courage and not fear.

There is one other citation in the Doctrine and Covenants which I would note, and one from the Book of Mormon. The section known as thirty-eight has in it some of the great literature of the restoration, in my estimation, and among the statements of faith and assurance God gave is this magnificent, simple and wonderful one: ". . . if ye are prepared ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30.)

Alma, teaching the people out of his own experience, and some of it had been less than admirable in his youth, answered in a most marvelous way what the preparation is that we must have if we are to stand without fear. In the fifth chapter of the book of Alma are these wonderful words, and they are written (spoken in their time) to those who had once experienced a change of heart. Alma's question to them is ". . . if you have experienced a change of heart, and if you have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can you feel so now?" And then these questions:

"Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?" (I skip a word or two for the sake of emphasis and time.)

"Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, if ye are not ye are not prepared to meet God. Behold ye must prepare quickly; for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.

"Behold, I say, is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? I say unto you that such an one is not prepared; . . .

". . . is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions?

"Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, . . ." (Alma 5:26-31.)

The Lord has given us in his great goodness and graciousness a foundation of firmness upon which we may stand if we will, without fear, but with faith, based on preparation, a preparation which he, through his prophets, has clearly spelled out. If you have had a testimony of the gospel, if you have felt in your heart this great stirring, moving, satisfying love of God, do you have it now? Are you obedient? Do you keep the commandments of God?

He talked of humility and of faithfulness. He talked of weeding out of our lives pride and envy, persecutions and mockery. I offer these simple suggestions—over-simplified and only in headline—as to what we may do to have faith and weed out fear. We may learn the gospel. We may obey the injunction of God to search diligently, to seek, to knock, to ask, to invest ourselves in an honest effort to know what we are talking about.

I heard someone say (and I cannot personally vouch for the accuracy of this, but I think probably it is so) that those who read the Book of Mormon out loud to put that book on the records which are for sale completed the task in something like thirty-five hours or less. Yet there are Latter-day Saints who live and die and never read the book.

In addition to learning, we must live as the Lord has commanded us. There are so many marvelous directions and injunctions and suggestions and commandments from God, but let me repeat only a few words, very familiar to all of you, because they seem to me to constitute the heart of the spirit of faith which we can have if we will. The Lord said that if we exercise power and authority and leadership in the Church it must be done on the basis of "... persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;

"By kindness, and pure knowledge, . . .

"Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom we have reproved, lest he esteem us to be his enemy." (D&C 121:41-43.)

The word *charity* is used, and the word *virtue*. I thought at an early hour

this morning of some counsel Alma gave his son, Shiblon. Some of the great instructions of the Book of Mormon are given by fathers to their own sons, a magnificent example, and some of the greatest testimonies borne. Hear these words of Alma to Shiblon:

"Do not pray as the Zoramites do, for ye have seen that they pray to be heard of men, and to be praised for their wisdom.

"Do not say: O God, I thank thee that we are better than our brethren; but rather say: O Lord, forgive my unworthiness, and remember my brethren in mercy—yea, acknowledge your unworthiness before God at all times." (Alma 38:13-14.)

If we are to have faith and turn away fear, we must learn and live, and I would add, share and serve the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are all very familiar with the impressive account in the story of Lehi's vision of the great satisfaction that came to Lehi as he tasted the fruit of the tree—that tree which represented the love of God. Let me read you what followed his expression of satisfaction as he tasted the love of God.

"And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.

"And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceeding great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; . . ." (1 Nephi 8:11-12.)

I conceive this to be the simplest and most understandable of human emotions. That which is beautiful and good and satisfying to the soul is infinitely more so when shared with those we love. I believe this is the foundation of the missionary work of the Church, of the Primary program and the genealogical program and the serviceman's program, and every other effort made by the Church to lift and inspire and strengthen the individual child of God.

If we will learn for ourselves through investment, through effort, through search, if we will live and share and serve God—the gospel, his good word,

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his glad tidings—then we have no need to fear, not him who can kill the body, not any man, or any foe. We have need to do all that we can. We have need to make the kind of preparation God asks of us, and if we have so done, then we can stand with a spirit of power, of strength, of a sound mind, and bear testimony of Jesus. We can be of good cheer and fear not. We can have that fearlessness characteristic of God's children in all the ages who have had such a change of heart—the change of which our President has spoken today. The prophets of old spoke of it, and of it I testify, thanking God that so far as I am able to know my own heart and my own mind, I may say to you that I am not afraid of Mr. Khrushchev or what he can do. I am afraid of the influence of the one whom the scriptures occasionally call Beelzebub. I have a respect for him and what he can do if we permit him. I do not want my feet on the side of the line where he is in charge.

I pray that God will bless me and you and through us all whom we may

touch, that we may radiate, exude a spirit of faith and not of fear, that we will make preparation and then stand humbly before God, of good cheer and without fear. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Marion D. Hanks of the First Council of Seventy.

Sister Florence Jepperson Madsen will now lead the chorus and congregation in singing, "High On The Mountain Top." After the singing Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin of the Presiding Bishopric will address us.

The congregation joined with the Singing Mothers Chorus in singing the hymn, "High On The Mountain Top."

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin of the Presiding Bishopric will now speak to us.

BISHOP JOSEPH L. WIRTHLIN

President McKay, my beloved brethren and sisters, I am more than grateful for the privilege of expressing to you my heartfelt appreciation. As I meet the members of the Church in the various stakes, I am meeting with my brethren and sisters, for we are brethren and sisters. I think of our Older Brother Jesus Christ the Son of God. It is a wonderful thing to know that we are all brethren and sisters and, above all, that we are the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, and also that Jesus Christ is our Older Brother.

I want to bear testimony to you that I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet. There is no question about that in my mind. I am so grateful that in my own soul I can bear that testimony without any hesitation whatsoever.

It was necessary for the world to have a prophet that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in its fulness might be available to the sons and daughters of

our Heavenly Father. Joseph Smith was a Prophet, and those who have followed him are also prophets, every one of them. President McKay is a prophet, a seer, and a revelator, brethren and sisters. That is my testimony to you this morning.

I think of the marvelous revelation given by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph in the eighty-eighth section of the Doctrine and Covenants. I suggest that you read it in your homes with your sons and daughters. It is called the Olive Leaf, and it states that the light of truth is the light of Christ. If the whole world could accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, there is no question but that many of the problems which now exist could be solved, and out of it we would have peace and good will. In the final analysis, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has the responsibility of teaching to the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.