

PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My beloved brethren and sisters, I want to talk to you briefly on our responsibilities in regard to the Sabbath day. In the beginning the Lord chose the last day after the creation as the Sabbath, and that continued until the resurrection of Christ. After the resurrection of our Savior, the Sabbath day was transferred to the Lord's day or the first day of the week, contrary to the ideas of some professed Christians.

The Lord settled this matter so far as we are concerned in a revelation given by the Lord on the 7th day of August 1831, which was the Sabbath day—Sunday. I am going to read a few of these verses.

"And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;

"For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High;

"Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times;

"But remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

"And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full." (D&C 59:9-13.)

Now, we have some people professing Christianity who are very intense upon the idea that the old Sabbath day should be maintained. The Lord himself changed the day. The Saints in olden times, that is, after the resurrection of Christ, accepted the date of the resurrection as their Sabbath, and they called it the Lord's day. It was on that day that John, in prayer before the Lord, received the great revelation known to us as the "apocalypse."

I think we Latter-day Saints should remember this fact. Now in our legislature, the session before the last, if I remember correctly, a bill was passed and vetoed by the governor, asking that businesses be closed, prohibited to operate, on the Sabbath day. It was defeated by veto.

This year the legislature could not come to a conclusion, and so no action was final. But our duty is plain and clear. The Lord has decided the matter for Latter-day Saints, as I think he did to former-day Saints, and Sunday is our Sabbath.

Now just a word of advice. You may follow it or you may reject it, but it is what I am doing, and Sister Smith. We do not patronize stores that open on Sunday, and there are stores that do not open on Sunday, and so they get our trade.

Brethren and sisters, all I want to say is that the Lord has set the time for our Sabbath by revelation. We know which day we should worship. We should follow it, and we should be true and faithful, and I think we should support those who likewise observe that day.

Now on Sunday in Salt Lake City there will be a wonderful ball game played by two of the great teams. There will be, I am positive, members of the Church who will go to the ball park instead of to their Sacrament meetings. Our duty is to serve the Lord and to remember him and the covenants that we have made. May the Lord bless you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom we have just listened is President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder John Longden.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

First Day

ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Going back to the opening by President Brown this morning on doing and living the law and keeping the commandments and proving it by our actions, I should like to talk briefly on a subject, suggested by the phrase, that "knowing is not enough."

May I share with you a sentence or two from Winston Churchill, who said, "It is no use saying 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary." I'm not sure we know really when we are doing our best. I'm not sure that in most cases we couldn't extend ourselves further in any performance in life. Since eternal life is the great prize, it isn't enough just to try. We have to succeed. There is only one journey—an everlasting one—one time and one eternity—so far as I am aware, and if I may use the vernacular, we can't afford to "sit this one out." Knowing is not enough!

Emerson said, "The world looks like . . . a mathematical equation, which, turn it how you will, balances itself." And then he added a sentence which I have often cited, "Do the thing, and you shall have the power. They who do not the thing have not the power." One eminent thinker and writer, Richter, said, "Don't wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good actions; try to use ordinary situations."

The encouraging thing in life for all of us is this or one of the encouraging things, one of the realistic facts to face, that our Father in heaven knows us better than we know ourselves; that he knows our capacity; that he doesn't expect of us the unattainable, the unreachable, or the impossible; that he hasn't given us commandments that we can't keep or requirements that we can't meet. Just to take one specific thing, for example, as to our physical well-being: the law of health that God has given us. He describes it as being counsel to "the weak and the weakest." (D&C 89:3.) Nobody can be weaker than "the weakest" and he has assured us that this counsel is for even these, and simply knowing is not enough. It

is the doing of the thing, the living of the law, the keeping of the commandment that brings the blessings. There is ample, conclusive, objective, medical evidence that this great law of health can be factually demonstrated to be what it is said to be. But mere knowing is not enough. We have to accept first the first of the first principles, which include not only faith but also repentance.

Now we hear much, and we are grateful for the wonderful wide-reaching of the Church, for its accomplishments world-wide, for conversions, for the marvelous forward moving in every field that pertains to the Church. But this is made possible by people who perform, by missionaries who go out, by people who pay tithes and offerings and building funds. And again, just knowing is not enough. Someone has to do everything; and wonderful as has been and is the growth of the Church it can be yet much more so by the performance of those who increase in faithfulness. Such things are never quite convenient. We have to stretch ourselves and exceed ourselves and set aside our convenience oftentimes.

How many times this people have heard from this pulpit the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson so often uttered in the ringing voice of President Grant: "That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing itself has changed, but that our power to do is increased," although President Grant, as I remember quoted them just a bit differently from the above.

I am thinking of our statistics pertaining to the active and the inactive, all of which are needed as a measure of performance. But I am not sure that our Father in heaven is going to be too much impressed with statistics pertaining to the missing. I think perhaps he will look at us and ask, "Where are the others?" as any father would if any of his family were missing. Where are the others?

Testimony is a great thing, but men who have had great testimonies have fallen by the wayside. Men who have

had wonderful manifestations have fallen by the wayside, and the living of the law, the meeting of the obligation, the rendering of the service, the doing of the duty, the rising to the actual performance is the essential thing, and the mere knowing of our duty is not enough.

There is one thing concerning which none of us knows enough. We don't know enough, any of us, to be safe in setting any of the commandments aside. We have to take someone's advice; we have to believe someone; and I for myself would hope to accept the counsel of my Father in heaven and not presume to know enough to set any of his commandments aside.

"No life," said one of our eminent contemporary thinkers, "ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, and disciplined."

"And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God." (D&C 14:7.)

If I may again cite Emerson, he said,

"Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles."

With you, I would wish this day to say to President McKay that I believe we have the courage, the devotion, the dedication, and the conviction to follow him wherever the Lord God leads him to lead us. With you I know that he is a prophet. With you I bear witness of the divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and with you I acknowledge that merely knowing this is not enough, and with you I would pray for strength to do increasingly well that which we know so well, which God has given us to know, and I do it in Jesus' name. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. Elder John Longden will be our next speaker. He will be followed by Elder Alma Sonne.

ELDER JOHN LONGDEN

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Being fully aware of the responsibility which is mine, yet duly grateful for it, I am mindful of the prayers which have been and are being offered and the thoughtful remembrance of President Brown this morning, invoking the blessings of the Lord upon all who should stand here. From all this, I receive strength, I desire the inspiration of the Lord with the thought in mind that our hearts may be touched that we may be built up in our faith and testimony of this glorious restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

Recently I read a survey which had been made by the American Institute of Family Relations, a reputable research organization which indicated that forty million homes in America need help. This survey did not refer to the need for financial help—something deeper. It found that there is a lack of harmony, unity, tranquility, and a distinct lack of compatibility in many families. This survey caused me to reflect on the need

of spiritual values in all our homes. I ask myself the question, "Do I live in a mere house or a beautiful spiritual home? What am I doing to bring spirituality into our home?"

Whether it be a *fale* in the South Pacific, an igloo in Alaska, a hogan on the reservation, an *hacienda* in Mexico, a tent, a trailer, a flat, an apartment, or a house in any other part of the world, each in its own place can be a home regardless of the cost of materials that went into its construction or its furnishings. Each can be a home or a castle for the family who lives therein by acceptance and application of the spiritual values taught by the gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, it will not be a home unless the breath of life is breathed into it through spirituality.

We have seen houses under construction which when completed, have been listed as "model homes." Recently I saw an advertisement which asked, "Is there living power in your home?" Here