

**Delusive Spirits—Proper Channel for Revelations to Come Through—The Calling of Joseph Smith—Indication of An Impostor—Private Antipathy to Be Curbed and the Priesthood to Be Sustained—Only One Man Appointed to Hold the Keys of the Kingdom at a Time—Men not to Judge Those Who Preside Over Them—How to Secure Justice**

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**Section I**

There has, perhaps, never been a period in the history of the Church when the delusive spirits that are abroad in the world, deceiving the children of men, were more active than they are and have been for the last few years. I have never in my recollection heard of so many pretended prophets and revelations, special messages, missions and manifestations to various individuals, as have come to my notice within the last few months or perhaps years. Some claim that they are in constant communication with angels, others that they have received a direct command from God to accomplish a certain mission, others claim to be Christ, and therefore assume the right to dictate and direct the labors of the Presidency and Twelve, and undertake to correct and set them right and to show them wherein they lack inspiration, etc., and wherein it is necessary that a strong arm should be raised up in order to steady the ark of Zion. There has been a great deal of this kind of spirit manifested of late among men who are and have been in the Church for years; and not only such, but by men who never have been members and who have no knowledge of the character of this latter-day work. Messages from the spirit world, communications from the departed through mediums, people that permit themselves to be used for this purpose by lying and delusive spirits.

It has sometimes been sorrowful to see respected members of the Church, men who should know better, allow themselves to become the tools of seductive spirits. Such men seem, for the time at least, to lose sight of the fact that the Lord has established on earth the Priesthood in its fullness; and that by direct revelation and commandment from heaven; that He has instituted an order or government that is beyond the capacity, and that is superior to the wisdom and learning and understanding of man, so far, indeed, that it seems impossible for the human mind, unaided by the Spirit of God, to comprehend the beauties, powers, and character of the Holy Priesthood. It seems difficult for men to comprehend the workings of the Priesthood; its legitimate authority, its scope and power; and yet by the light of the spirit it is easily comprehended, but not understanding it men are easily deceived by seductive spirits that are abroad in the world. They are led to believe that something is wrong, and the next thing that transpires, they find themselves believing that they are chosen specially to set things right. It is very unfortunate for a man to be taken in this snare; for be it understood by the Latter-day Saints that as long as the servants of God are living pure lives, are honoring the Priesthood conferred upon them, and endeavoring to the best of their knowledge to magnify their offices and callings, to which they have been duly chosen by the voice of the people and the Priesthood, and sanctioned by the approval of God, so long as the Lord has any communication to make to the children of men, or any instructions to impart to His Church, He will make such communication through the legally

appointed channel of the Priesthood. He will never go outside of it, as long, at least, as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints exists in its present form on the earth.

The Church of God has been organized, the kingdom of God has been established, and the Gospel has been restored to the earth for the last time; and this work which has fairly begun will never cease, but will continue to spread abroad and increase in the earth, and gather to its fold the righteous, the honest, the pure, the meek and the poor of the earth, until "the kingdom" shall be exalted to power and glory in the midst of the world; and it will reign triumphant when Babylon will be broken to pieces, and will fall to rise no more. These are the promises that have been made to us.

This fact is indicated by the revelations of God to man through ancient and modern prophets, and through angels that have visited the earth in this dispensation of the fullness of times.

It is not my business nor that of any other individual to rise up as a revelator, as a prophet, as a seer, as an inspired man, to give revelation for the guidance of the Church, or to assume to dictate to the presiding authorities of the Church in any part of the world, much less in the midst of Zion, where the organizations of the Priesthood are about perfect, where everything is complete even to the organization of a branch. It is the right of individuals to be inspired and to receive manifestations of the Holy Spirit for their personal guidance, to strengthen their faith, and to encourage them in works of righteousness, in being faithful and observing and keeping the commandments which God has given unto them; it is the privilege of every man and woman to receive revelation to this end, but not further. The moment an individual rises up assuming the right to control and to dictate or to sit in judgment on his brethren, especially upon those who preside, he should be promptly checked, or discord, division and confusion would be the result. Every man and woman in this Church should know better than to yield to such a spirit; the moment that such a feeling presents itself to them they should rebuke it, as it is in direct antagonism to the order of the Priesthood, and to the spirit and genius of this work.

We can accept nothing as authoritative but that which comes directly through the appointed channel, the constituted organizations of the Priesthood, which is the channel that God has appointed through which to make known His mind and will to the world. It was necessary prior to the organization of this Church, that God should select from the inhabitants of the earth some person through whom to reveal His will to mankind; and it pleased Him to select for this purpose the youthful and untutored boy Joseph Smith, as David of old was His choice, but as there was no Priesthood on the earth when Joseph was called, legally constituted by the authority of heaven to officiate in the name of the Lord, it was necessary therefore that someone should be selected as the first Elder for the beginning of this work, for there has to be a beginning, and he was the one foreordained for the position which he occupied and filled. After calling and setting him apart for the work of introducing and establishing this Gospel of the kingdom, the Lord of course recognized him as His mouthpiece, as His authorized agent, if you please, and it would be absolutely inconsistent, unreasonable and absurd to suppose that after God had called one man and appointed him to this work, that He should pass him by and go to somebody else to accomplish the same purpose.

No sensible person would accept for one moment such a proposition. To seriously contemplate any such idea would be charging the Almighty with inconsistency, and with being the author of confusion, discord and schism. The kingdom of God never could be established on earth in any such way.

**Antonia's Thoughts:**

**False and Delusive Spirits**

**TPJS P.208**

**Try the Spirits**

**Section Four 1839-42, p.161**

**We may look for angels and receive their ministrations, but we are to try the spirits and prove them, for it is often the case that men make a mistake in regard to these things. God has so ordained that when He has communicated, no vision is to be taken but what you see by the seeing of the eye, or what you hear by the hearing of the ear. When you see a vision, pray for the interpretation; if you get not this, shut it up; there must be certainty in this matter. An open vision will manifest that which is more important. Lying spirits are going forth in the earth. There will be great manifestations of spirits, both false and true.**

**"Try the Spirits"**

**The Prophet's Editorial in the Times and Seasons**

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**Section Four 1839-42, p.202**

**Recent occurrences that have transpired amongst us render it an imperative duty devolving upon me to say something in relation to the spirits by which men are actuated.**

**Section Four 1839-42, p.202**

**It is evident from the Apostles' writings, that many false spirits existed in their day, and had "gone forth into the world," and that it needed intelligence which God alone could impart to detect false spirits, and to prove what spirits were of God. The world in general have been grossly ignorant in regard to this one thing, and why should they be otherwise--for "the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."**

**Section Four 1839-42, p.202**

**The Egyptians were not able to discover the difference between the miracles of Moses and those of the magicians until they came to be tested together; and if Moses had not appeared in their midst, they would unquestionably have thought that the miracles of the magicians were performed through the mighty power of God, for they were great miracles that were performed by them--a supernatural agency was developed, and great power manifested.**

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**Section Four 1839-42, p.202**

It would have been equally as difficult for us to tell by what spirit the Apostles prophesied, or by what power the Apostles spoke and worked miracles. Who could have told whether the power of Simon, the sorcerer, was of God or of the devil?

Section Four 1839-42, p.203

There always did, in every age, seem to be a lack of intelligence pertaining to this subject. Spirits of all kinds have been manifested, in every age, and almost among all people.

Section Four 1839-42, p.203

If we go among the pagans, they have their spirits; the Mohammedans, the Jews, the Christians, the Indians--all have their spirits, all have a supernatural agency, and all contend that their spirits are of God. Who shall solve the mystery? "Try the spirits," says John, but who is to do it? The learned, the eloquent, the philosopher, the sage, the divine--all are ignorant. The heathens will boast of their gods, and of the great things that have been unfolded by their oracles. The Mussulman will boast of his Koran, and of the divine communications that his progenitors have received. The Jews have had numerous instances, both ancient and modern, among them of men who have professed to be inspired, and sent to bring about great events, and the Christian world has not been slow in making up the number.

### Ignorance of the Nature of Spirits

Section Four 1839-42, p.203

"Try the spirits," but what by? Are we to try them by the creeds of men? What preposterous folly--what sheer ignorance--what madness! Try the motions and actions of an eternal being (for I contend that all spirits are such) by a thing that was conceived in ignorance, and brought forth in folly--a cobweb of yesterday! Angels would hide their faces, and devils would be ashamed and insulted, and would say, "Paul we know, and Jesus we know, but who are ye?" Let each man of society make a creed and try evil spirits by it, and the devil would shake his sides; it is all that he would ask--all that he would desire. Yet many of them do this, and hence "many spirits are abroad in the world."

Section Four 1839-42, p.203

One great evil is, that men are ignorant of the nature of spirits; their power, laws, government, intelligence, etc., and imagine that when there is anything like power, revelation, or vision manifested, that it must be of God. Hence the Methodists, Presbyterians, and others frequently possess a spirit that will cause them to lie down, and during its operation, animation is frequently entirely suspended; they consider it to be the power of God, and a glorious manifestation from God--a manifestation of what? Is there any intelligence communicated? Are the curtains of heaven withdrawn, or the purposes of God developed? Have they seen and conversed with an angel--or have the glories of futurity burst upon their view? No! but their body has been inanimate, the operation of their spirit suspended, and all the intelligence that can be obtained from them when they arise, is a shout of "glory," or "hallelujah," or some incoherent expression; but they have had "the power."

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.204

The Shaker will whirl around on his heel, impelled by a supernatural agency or spirit, and think that he is governed by the Spirit of God; and the Jumper will jump and enter into all kinds of extravagances. A Primitive Methodist will shout under the influence of that spirit, until he will rend the heavens with his cries; while the Quakers (or Friends) moved as they think, by the Spirit of God, will sit still and say nothing. Is God the author of all this? If not all of it, which does He recognize? Surely, such a heterogeneous mass of confusion never can enter into the kingdom of heaven.

#### Discerning of Spirits by Power of Priesthood

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.204

Every one of these professes to be competent to try his neighbor's spirit, but no one can try his own, and what is the reason? Because they have not a key to unlock, no rule wherewith to measure, and no criterion whereby they can test it. Could anyone tell the length, breadth or height of a building without a rule? Test the quality of metals without a criterion, or point out the movements of the planetary systems, without a knowledge of astronomy? Certainly not; and if such ignorance as this is manifested about a spirit of this kind, who can describe an angel of light? If Satan should appear as one in glory, who can tell his color, his signs, his appearance, his glory, or what is the manner of his manifestation? Who can detect the spirit of the French prophets with their revelations and their visions, and power of manifestations? Or who can point out the spirit of the Irvingites, with their apostles and prophets, and visions and tongues, and interpretations, etc. Or who can drag into daylight and develop the hidden mysteries of the false spirits that so frequently are made manifest among the Latter-day Saints? We answer that no man can do this without the Priesthood, and having a knowledge of the laws by which spirits are governed; for as no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God, so no man knows the spirit of the devil, and his power and influence, but by possessing intelligence which is more than human, and having unfolded through the medium of the Priesthood the mysteries operations of his devices; without knowing the angelic form, the sanctified look and gesture, and the zeal that is frequently manifested by him for the glory of God, together with the prophetic spirit, the gracious influence, the godly appearance, and the holy garb, which are so characteristic of his proceedings and his mysterious windings.

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.205

A man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight this hellish influence and unfold it unto the world in all its soul-destroying, diabolical, and horrid colors; for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God. Thousands have felt the influence of its terrible power and baneful effects. Long pilgrimages have been undertaken, penances endured, and pain, misery and ruin have followed in their train; nations have been convulsed, kingdoms overthrown, provinces laid waste, and blood, carnage and desolation are habiliments in which it has been clothed.

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## The Spirit of God the Spirit of Knowledge

Section Four 1839-42, p.205

As we have noticed before, the great difficulty lies in the ignorance of the nature of spirits, of the laws by which they are governed, and the signs by which they may be known; if it requires the Spirit of God to know the things of God; and the spirit of the devil can only be unmasked through that medium, then it follows as a natural consequence that unless some person or persons have a communication, or revelation from God, unfolding to them the operation of the spirit, they must eternally remain ignorant of these principles; for I contend that if one man cannot understand these things but by the Spirit of God, ten thousand men cannot; it is alike out of the reach of the wisdom of the learned, the tongue of the eloquent, the power of the mighty. And we shall at last have to come to this conclusion, whatever we may think of revelation, that without it we can neither know nor understand anything of God, or the devil; and however unwilling the world may be to acknowledge this principle, it is evident from the multifarious creeds and notions concerning this matter that they understand nothing of this principle, and it is equally as plain that without a divine communication they must remain in ignorance. The world always mistook false prophets for true ones, and those that were sent of God, they considered to be false prophets and hence they killed, stoned, punished and imprisoned the true prophets, and these had to hide themselves "in deserts and dens, and caves of the earth," and though the most honorable men of the earth, they banished them from their society as vagabonds, whilst they cherished, honored and supported knaves, vagabonds, hypocrites, impostors, and the basest of men.

## The Gift of Discernment of Spirits

Section Four 1839-42, p.206

A man must have the discerning of spirits, as we before stated, to understand these things, and how is he to obtain this gift if there are no gifts of the Spirit? And how can these gifts be obtained without revelation? "Christ ascended into heaven, and gave gifts to men; and he gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers." And how were Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists chosen? By prophecy (revelation) and by laying on of hands--by a divine communication, and a divinely appointed ordinance--through the medium of the Priesthood, organized according to the order of God, by divine appointment. The Apostles in ancient times held the keys of this Priesthood--of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, and consequently were enabled to unlock and unravel all things pertaining to the government of the Church, the welfare of society, the future destiny of men, and the agency, power and influence of spirits; for they could control them at pleasure, bid them depart in the name of Jesus, and detect their mischievous and mysterious operations when trying to palm themselves upon the Church in a religious garb, and militate against the interest of the Church and spread truth. We read that they "cast out devils in the name of Jesus," and when a woman possessing the spirit of divination, cried before Paul and Silas, "these are the servants of the Most High God that show unto us the way of salvation," they detected the spirit. And although she spake favorably of them, Paul commanded the spirit come out of her, and saved themselves

from the opprobrium that might have been heaped upon their heads, through an alliance with her, in the development of her wicked principles, which they certainly would have been charged with, if they had not rebuked the evil spirit.

### The Gift Held by the Prophets

Section Four 1839-42, p.207

A power similar to this existed through the medium of the Priesthood in different ages. Moses could detect the magician's power, and show that he [himself] was God's servant--he knew when he was upon the mountain (through revelation) that Israel was engaged in idolatry; he could develop the sin of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, detect witches and wizards in their proceedings, and point out the true prophets of the Lord. Joshua knew how to detect the man who had stolen the wedge of gold and the Babylonish garment. Michaiah could point out the false spirit by which the four hundred prophets were governed; and if his advice had been taken, many lives would have been spared, (2 Chronicles 18) Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and many other prophets possessed this power. Our Savior, the Apostles, and even the members of the Church were endowed with this gift, for, says Paul, (1 Corinthians 12), "To one is given the gift of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discerning of spirits." All these proceeded from the same Spirit of God, and were the gifts of God. The Ephesian church were enabled by this principle, "to try those that said they were apostles, and were not, and found them liars." (Revelation 2:2.)

### Wicked Spirits Restricted in Power

Section Four 1839-42, p.208

It would seem also, that wicked spirits have their bounds, limits, and laws by which they are governed or controlled, and know their future destiny; hence, those that were in the maniac said to our Savior, "Art thou come to torment us before the time?" and when Satan presented himself before the Lord, among the sons of God, he said that he came "from going to and fro in the earth, and from wandering up and down in it;" and he is emphatically called the prince of the power of the air; and, it is very evident that they possess a power that none but those who have the Priesthood can control, as we have before adverted to, in the case of the sons of Sceva.

### False Prophets

Section Four 1839-42, p.208

The "French Prophets" were possessed of a spirit that deceived; they existed in Vivaris and Dauphany, in great numbers in the year 1688; there were many boys and girls from seven to twenty-five; they had strange fits, as in tremblings and faintings, which made them stretch out their legs and arms, as in a swoon; they remained awhile in trances, and coming out of them, uttered all that came in their mouths. [see Buck's Theological Dictionary]

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.209

Now God never had any prophets that acted in this way; there was nothing indecorous in the proceeding of the Lord's prophets in any age; neither had the apostles nor prophets in the apostles' day anything of this kind. Paul says, "Ye may all prophesy, one by one; and if anything be revealed to another let the first hold his peace, for the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets;" but here we find that the prophets are subject to the spirit, and falling down, have twitchings, tumblings, and faintings through the influence of that spirit, being entirely under its control. Paul says, "Let everything be done decently and in order," but here we find the greatest disorder and indecency in the conduct of both men and women, as above described. The same rule would apply to the fallings, twitchings, swoonings, shaking, and trances of many of our modern revivalists.

#### False Spirits in the Church

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.213

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has also had its false spirits; and as it is made up of all those different sects professing every variety of opinion, and having been under the influence of so many kinds of spirits, it is not to be wondered at if there should be found among us false spirits.

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.213

Soon after the Gospel was established in Kirtland, and during the absence of the authorities of the Church, many false spirits were introduced, many strange visions were seen, and wild, enthusiastic notions were entertained; men ran out of doors under the influence of this spirit, and some of them got upon the stumps of trees and shouted, and all kinds of extravagances were entered into by them; one man pursued a ball that he said he saw flying in the air, until he came to a precipice, when he jumped into the top of a tree, which saved his life; and many ridiculous things were entered into, calculated to bring disgrace upon the Church of God, to cause the Spirit of God to be withdrawn, and to uproot and destroy those glorious principles which had been developed for the salvation of the human family. But when the authorities returned, the spirit was made manifest, those members that were exercised with it were tried for their fellowship, and those that would not repent and forsake it were cut off.

#### Section Four 1839-42, p.214

At a subsequent period a Shaker spirit was on the point of being introduced, and at another time the Methodist and Presbyterian falling down power, but the spirit was rebuked and put down, and those who would not submit to rule and good order were disfellowshipped. We have also had brethren and sisters who have had the gift of tongues falsely; they would speak in a muttering, unnatural voice, and their bodies be distorted like the Irvingites before alluded to; whereas, there is nothing unnatural in the Spirit of God. A circumstance of this kind took place in Upper Canada, but was rebuked by the presiding Elder; another, a woman near the same place, professed to have the discerning spirits, and began to accuse another sister of things that she was not guilty of, which she said she knew was so by the spirit, but was afterwards proven to be false; she placed herself in the capacity of the "accuser of the brethren," and no person through the discerning of spirits



can bring a charge against another, they must be proven guilty by positive evidence, or they stand clear.

Section Four 1839-42, p.214

**BY JOD VOL:PG**

**FALSE SPIRITS**

**There are many spirits gone out into the world, and the false spirits are giving revelations as well as the Spirit of the Lord 3:44**

**There are myriads of disembodied evil spirits—those who have long ago laid down their bodies here and in the regions round about, among and around us; and they are trying to make us and our children sick, and are trying to destroy us and to tempt us to evil. They will try every possible means they are masters of to draw us aside from the path of righteousness. 6:73-74**

**The children of men give heed to the deceiving spirits that are abroad, and that is the cause of ten thousand errors, wrongs, sins and divisions which are in the world, and for this reason the multitude are unable to distinguish between the voice of the Good Shepherd and the voice of the stranger 16:75**

**It was revealed to me in the commencement of this Church that the Church would spread, prosper, grow and extend, and that in proportion to the spread of the Gospel among the nations of the earth, so would the power of Satan rise. It was told you here that Brother Joseph warned the Elders of Israel against false spirits. It was revealed to me that if the people did not receive the spirit of revelation that God had sent for the salvation of the world, they would receive false spirits and would have revelation. Men would have revelation, women would have revelation, the priest in the pulpit and the deacon under the pulpit would have revelation, and the people would have revelation enough to DAMN the whole nation, and nations of them, UNLESS they would hearken to the voice of God. It was not only revealed to Joseph but to your humble servant, that false spirits would be as prevalent and as common among the inhabitants of the earth as we now see them 13:280**

**No man gets power from God to raise disturbance in any Branch of the Church. Such power is obtained from an evil source 9:93**

**You may be within the pale of the Kingdom of God on earth, yet we are liable to be overcome of evil. There are many spirits who have gone abroad in the world, and men are overcome by false spirits, and led astray from the path of truth. They will begin by doing**

some evil thing out of sight, and say “O it is nothing, it is a mire trifle, and the Lord is merciful and forgives sin.” The sins which are considered trifles lay the foundation for greater evils, and expose men to be tempted, and buffeted by Satan, and they will be overcome little by little, until by and by they are overtaken in a fault which is more aggravating in the sight of justice, which lays the foundation for another trial more severe, and to be buffeted more by the Devil, for they lay themselves more liable to his power. 2:121

Suppose I were to teach you a false doctrine, how are you to know it if you do not possess the Spirit of God? As it is written “The things of God knoweth no man but by the Spirit of God.” 18:72.

Our doctrine is right—there is no deception in it. It requires no argument, for it is a self-evident fact. Still, when we meddle with that which we know nothing about, we are apt to fall into error and differ; but we have so much which we do know, and think about and talk about, that we have no time to speculate about that which we do not know. We know that God lives. 10:327.

What is called spirit-rapping, spirit-knocking and so forth, is produced by the spirits that the Lord has suffered to communicate to people on the earth, and make them believe in revelation. 7:239

When we go into the world we find quite a portion of the people who belong to a class called Spiritualists. They would like to have it considered that “Mormonism” is nothing but spiritualism. A great many want to know the difference between the two. I will give one feature of the difference, and then set the whole scientific world to work to see if they can ever bring to bear the same feature in Spiritualism. Take all who are called Spiritualist and see if they can produce the order that is in the midst of this people. Here are system, order, organization, law, rule, and facts. Now see if they can produce any one of these features. They cannot. Why? Because their system is from beneath, while ours is perfect and is from above: one is from God, the other is from the Devil, that is all the difference. 13:266

Spiritualism is a mass of confusion, it is a body without parts and passions, principle or power 13:266

There is evil in the world, and there is also good. Was there every a counterfeit without a true coin? No. Is there communication from God? Yes. From holy angels? Yes; and we have been proclaiming these facts during nearly 30 years. Are there any communications from evil spirits? Yes; and the Devil is making the people believe very strongly in

revelations from the spirit world. This is called Spiritualism, and it is said that thousands of spirits declare that “Mormonism” is true; but what do that class of spirits know more than mortals? Perhaps a little more in some particulars than is known here, but it is only a little more. They are subject in the spirit world to the same power they we subject here. 7:240

Mesmerism is an inverted truth; it originated in holy, good and righteous principles, which have been inverted by the power of the Devil 3:156

The principle of animal magnetism is true, but wicked men use it to an evil purpose. Speaking is a true gift, but I can speak to the glory of God, or to the injury of his cause and to my condemnation, as I please; and still the gift is of God. The gift of animal magnetism is a gift of God, but wicked men use it to promote the cause of the Devil, and that is precisely the difference. 3:370.

I know of many whom mesmerism has led out of this Church; they would see the sick healed, and attribute it to the power of God; would fall under its influence, embrace and practice it, and thus give the Devil power over them to lead them out of the Kingdom of God. They could not tell whether it was the power of God or the power of the Devil. What is the reason? They had not the light of revelation within them; they had not the knowledge of God Are you not aware how easily we may be deceived? 3:156.

There are many Elder in this house who, if I had the power to mesmerize that vase and make it dance on that table, would say that it was done by the power of God. Who could tell whether it was done by the power of God or the power of the Devil? No person, unless he had the revelations of Jesus Christ within him. I suppose you are ready to as Brother Brigham if he thinks the power of the Devil could make the vase dance. Yes and could take it up and carry it out doors, just as easy as to turn up a table and move it here and there, or to cause a rap, rap, rap, or to bake and pass around pancakes, or to get hold of a person’s hand, and make him write in every style you can think of, imitating George Washington’s, Benjamin Franklin’s, Joseph Smith’s, and other autographs. Can you tell whether that is by the power of God or by the power of the Devil?

No, unless you have the revelations of Jesus Christ. 3:157

I have seen the effects of animal magnetism, or some anomalous sleep, or whatever it may be called, many a time in my youth. I have seen persons lie on the benches, on the floor of the meeting house, or on the ground at their camp meetings, for ten, twenty, and thirty minutes, and I do not know but an hour, and not a particle of pulse about them. That was the effect of what I call animal magnetism; they called it the power of God, but no matter what it was, I used to think that I should like to ask such persons what they had seen in

their trance or vision; and when I got old enough and dared ask them, I did so. I have said to such person: “Brother, what have you experienced? “Nothing.” “what do you know more than before you had this; what do you call it—trance, sleep or dream? Do you know any more now than before you fell to the earth? “Nothing more.” “Have you seen any person?” “No.” “Then what is the use or utility of you falling down here in the dirt?” I could not see it, and consequently I was an infidel to this. But I said then as I say now—“Show me a church that God has organized, and you will find apostles to rule, govern, control, dictate, and give counsel. You will find prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, governments, helps, and diversities of tongues. When the Church and Kingdom of God is upon the earth you will find all these things and you will also hear prophesying therein. 14:113

Many people in this city do not know whether astrology is true or not, whether it is of God or the Devil; hence they are liable to be deceived, as is every person unless they have the power of revelation within themselves. If there are any brethren here who have been studying astrology, and they were called upon to speak, would they not say that they believed it to be a true science? They would; they testify that they know it to be true. But what does it do for them? It leads them into thousands of errors. Does God ever lead you into error? Is he mistaken when he reveals? No; when he sets you to make calculations and figures, I will insure you that every sum will prove and come out precisely right. The Lord does not deceive people, but astrology and mesmerism do lead them astray. How many deceptions are there in the world? Millions, for a great many spirits have gone forth into the world to deceive the people. Spirit rappings are of the same class.

Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, prove them, and learn whether they be God-like, and, if so, receive those spirits, but, if not, reject them; for whatsoever is not of God is evil. It is no uncommon thing for a false spirit to assume a more plausible appearance to a casual observer, than a true spirit would on the same subject; it was so formerly, it is so latterly.

We were forcibly reminded of these truths when a sister remarked in a recent conversation, “What a happy thing it would be if the writings of the clairvoyants and mesmerizers were true concerning the spirit world, for then all would be saved.” Yes, said we, just as happy a thing would it now be as it was in the councils of eternity, when the Father made proposals concerning the salvation of man, when he should sin on the earth; Jesus offered to redeem all who would repent and keep a celestial law; Lucifer, a younger brother, offered to save all; Jesus’ offer was accepted by the Father and Lucifer’s was rejected; and yet Lucifer’s proposition appeared so plausible, so much more liberal, noble, benevolent, and kind-hearted, that one-third part of the sons of God believed it and joined Lucifer’s standard. That was what made division in heaven and war followed; Lucifer, with one-third of the spirits of heaven, which he drew around him by his sophistry and false philanthropy, declared war against Jesus and the two-thirds that rallied round His standard to maintain the truth; and they fought until Lucifer and his followers were

overcome and cast out of heaven, even unto the earth, and were cursed with this curse, even that they should not receive unto themselves bodies on the earth, like the two-thirds who maintained their integrity and fought by the side of Jesus.

This curse came through imbibing and exercising a false spirit, a sympathizing spirit, a spirit that will sympathize with misery or punishment, when misery is justly due by punishment. Lucifer made his followers believe that he was a far more tender-hearted and merciful being than Jesus, and got all he could to help him sympathize for the miseries that must follow the abominable crimes of man on the earth, and they want it for salvation anyhow, right or wrong; they were so good, so holy, and so benevolent they could not do otherwise.

There are multitudes of just such benevolent souls on the earth at the present day. Men may lie, steal, swear, get drunk, then murder and shed innocent blood, for which there is no forgiveness in this world nor the world to come, and for which as good a man as King David, “a man after God’s own heart,” was thrust down to hell, and there will remain till he has paid the uttermost farthing. And yet there are men in abundance on the earth who are possessed of the same holy benevolence with their father Lucifer, who will pray over them, exhort them to repentance, petition the governor to pardon them, and do all in their power to save them from the punishment decreed by the laws of heaven. They are so sympathetic, have so much kind-hearted feeling, so full of Christian benevolence, disinterested benevolence, they would save the rascals from punishment if possible. They can’t bear to have their poor fellow creatures suffer so much; it is too bad. Such conduct is the disinterested benevolence of which the world is so full and boasts so much.

But what is the benevolence of heaven, the sympathy of the Holy Ones in such matters? Down to hell where David went; down to hell, ye murderers, ye whose sins cannot be pardoned; ye have taken the blood of your fellows, and ye can’t restore it; therefore howl ye, for hot wrath is upon you, and he that sitteth in the heavens will laugh at your calamity, and mock when your fear cometh. Your destruction cometh like the whirlwind, and no power can stay it.

Herein is the benevolence of God manifested; when there is no more hope of a man, instead of keeping him in the midst of the children of men to commit further outrages and mar the peace of His kingdom, He thrusts him down to his own place, to howl out his lamentations and work his passage to the last milestone; while the disinterested benevolence of the priests of Baal would pray him into heaven, in spite of the decrees of heaven, with all his unpardonable sins upon his head, if they had the power.

They are so full of sympathy, “dear spirit, sweet spirit,” they would have all men saved; as much as the sister who had read clairvoyance till she had almost forgot her God and hoped the mesmeric world of spirits was true, or that the followers of Lucifer who lost their own salvation by exercising a spirit of false sympathy; and so will it be with all who forsake the living God, and raise up gods of their own imaginations and harbor false spirits.

False spirits are more subtle and more contagious than the small pox; their number and diversity of operations cannot be counted by man; and the first moment the Saints leave the path of duty, that moment they are subject to the influence of evil, false spirits, which once having taken possession of the soul, are difficult if not impossible to be removed, by

the person so receiving them without assistance from those who have more wisdom. The great object of evil spirits is to get bodies, and the only chance they have is to dispossess a soul of the spirit of the Lord, the light of eternal truth, and take possession of that body thus dispossessed; and when thus once in possession, it may truly be said there is a body possessed of the devil.

Jesus and His disciples in different ages, have commanded the unclean and wicked spirits to depart out of those of whom they had taken possession, and they have departed; but there are those spirits which are not easily dispossessed and go out only by prayer and fasting. And again, there are those spirits that will hardly go out at any price, except it is by the will of those who harbor them. And of what class are they? They are invited spirits. Invited spirits? Yes, many spirits watch their opportunity to thrust themselves into a person when and where they are not wanted, and such are much more easily cast out than those who are invited guests.

For instance, a person for some real or supposed injury or neglect from a friend, wishes to retaliate, to be revenged, and of course opens the way and invites the spirit of jealousy to take possession; and the moment jealousy enters the breast, there is a perfect hell of happiness. No scheme that hell itself can devise to torment, perplex, harass, disturb, vex, or mar the peace of friend, wife, or husband, is left untouched, or unmoved; and by that time the breast of the harbinger is opened to all the evil spirits of Pandemonium—all have free access, and oh, what a world of glory dwells there!

And how shall that jealous spirit be removed? By the laying on of hands? The Lord deliver us from such an ordinance, in such a case. Why? That spirit was invited to take up its abode there, and while the spirit is made welcome by that person, what right have we to dispossess it? It would be abridging the agency of the individual who invited the spirit for any one to cause that spirit to depart, without the person's leave; and we choose that all should exercise their own agency and responsibility, and then they are subjects of accountability.

Other spirits, not particularly invited or desired, gain an easy access to those who are careless, heedless, and but too indifferent to the statutes, ordinances, and duties of God's kingdom; who neglect their prayers, their assembling together, and doing as they would be done unto; and from these spirits arise contention, strife, evil thinking, evil speaking, evil surmising, detraction, revenge, law-suits, and a host of such perplexing annoyances, sufficient to disturb a nation; but the man who is obedient to his God in all things, who knows no will of his own, only to do the will of his Father in the heavens, is free from these spirits; the Devil has no power over him, for he resists him, and evil spirits are compelled to flee at his rebuke.

Some may ask, "How shall I know when I am operated upon by a false spirit?" There are many keys by which the door of knowledge is unlocked to the Saints in relation to spirits, as well as other things pertaining to the kingdom; but one may suffice at the present time, for we have not designed this brief notice to cover all or any considerable portion of the ground which the subject includes.

The spirit of heaven is a spirit of peace, joy, comfort, consolation, and knowledge to its possessor, and all Saints who have enjoyed this spirit, (and all Saints have more or less)

may know when this peaceful spirit dwelling within them is disturbed, that something is wrong, that some false spirit is lurking within or about them, striving to enter; and if they will resist the first impulse of their disturbed feelings and command Satan in the name of Jesus to depart, peace will instantly be restored to their souls.

It is not the wrong doings of others that destroy that peace within ourselves which the world can neither give nor take away; it is our own wrongs which cause that peaceful spirit to leave us; and would to God that His truth were indelibly imprinted on the heart and recollection of every Saint. It is your own wrongs or evil spirits that destroy your peace, and not the wrongs of your friend or neighbor. Know ye, all ye Saints, if the peace of heaven and a foretaste of the blessings of the celestial world are not continually with you, there is something wrong within; some foul spirit has got possession of yourself, and the quicker you dispossess it, the better.

Carry out this principle, and what will be the result? Every Saint will live by his creed, and “mind his own business.” Every dear wife will look with a zealous eye towards the happiness and welfare of her dear husband, and if she is tempted to think he is doing wrong, she will say, Get thee behind me, Satan; that is none of my business. I will do right, and that is enough for me, and I shall have peace in my soul. And so continue to do, till he has done so wrong that forbearance is no longer a virtue, then give him a divorce and do better if you can; but while you live with him, live in peace, and keep jealousy out of doors; if you don’t, you will always have hell within, and devils enough to carry it on. The moment you are jealous that your husband is wrong, that moment you are miserable, that misery is proof positive that you yourself are wrong, for it destroys your peace.

Jealous husbands are quite as bad and a little less excusable (if there can be any excuse) than jealous wives. Husbands, if your wives do wrong, teach them better if they are willing to be taught, and if they are not, keep out of their way till they are willing, and no quarreling between you. You need not fret your soul because your dear wife does wrong. Don’t let the devil destroy your peace and cause the Holy Ghost to depart from you, because your wife has given way to a bad spirit. Show yourself a man of God; be at peace with yourself, pray for her, and when she has been buffeted by the devil long enough, she will get tired of him, leave him, and return to you.

Some husbands are so mighty big because they are the head, that the wife has no room in the house; if she thinks, she thinks wrong; if she speaks, she speaks wrong; if she acts, she acts wrong; she can’t do a right thing for the life of her; and do what she will, no matter, she is as likely to get a cuffed ear as anything else, and a little more so; and if she should ask forgiveness, she would meet with the consoling retort from her dear lord, “yes, and you’ll do the same thing again next minute.” Why all this? Because the dear husband, the great lord of the house, has got so many devils in him, they make him so big there is not room for anybody else in that house.

The things of which we speak are but too common among the nations of Christendom, and too much of them have been brought together among the Saints; but it is time for Saints to stop such things. Husbands, love and cherish your wives as you ought; give them their place, their rights, their dominion, that they may act upon their agency, as you do on yours; and quit your fretting, and snarling, and quarreling with them, if you ever did it. What, a man quarrel with himself? Yes, just as well as quarrel with his wife—’tis all the same.

If there is one solitary case, such as we have supposed, among the Saints, we would venture a prescription. What, are you a doctor? We make no such pretensions, but men may say that we are. Let the husband who wants a quarrel with his wife go to some deep, remote canyon, where no human voice was ever heard or foot trod, there strip and fight till you are tired of it; then come home and behave yourself.

Let the wife who wants to pick a quarrel with her husband, retire to some dark room or cellar, which contains nothing but bare walls and total darkness, and there fight till you are tired of fighting; then return to your family and behave yourself. And when husband and wife have got through with their fights, they will each be willing to acknowledge that they had had as many devils in them as Mary Magdalene, or they would not have been such fools as to fight themselves at such fearful odds; and if they don't, we'll make another gratis prescription.

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#### Priesthood Authority

#### THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

#### SECTION 1

*Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, on November 1, 1831, during a special conference of elders of the Church, held at Hiram, Ohio. Many revelations had been received from the Lord prior to this time, and the compilation of these for publication in book form was one of the principal subjects passed upon at the conference. This section constitutes the Lord's preface to the doctrines, covenants, and commandments given in this dispensation.*

*1–7, The voice of warning is to all people; 8–16, Apostasy and wickedness precede the Second Coming; 17–23, Joseph Smith is called to restore to earth the Lord's truths and powers; 24–33, The Book of Mormon is brought forth and the true Church is established; 34–36, Peace will be taken from the earth; 37–39, Search these commandments.*

1 <sup>a</sup>**Hearken**, O ye people of my <sup>b</sup>**church**, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose <sup>c</sup>**eyes** are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

2 For verily the <sup>a</sup>**voice** of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to <sup>b</sup>**escape**; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither <sup>c</sup>**ear** that shall not hear, neither <sup>d</sup>**heart** that shall not be penetrated.

3 And the <sup>a</sup>**rebellious** shall be <sup>b</sup>**pierced** with much <sup>c</sup>**sorrow**; for their iniquities shall be <sup>d</sup>**spoken** upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.



4 And the <sup>a</sup>voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have <sup>b</sup>chosen in these <sup>c</sup>last days.

5 And they shall <sup>a</sup>go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.

6 Behold, this is mine <sup>a</sup>authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my <sup>b</sup>commandments, which I have given them to <sup>c</sup>publish unto you, O <sup>d</sup>inhabitants of the earth.

7 Wherefore, <sup>a</sup>fear and <sup>b</sup>tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have <sup>c</sup>decreed in them shall be <sup>d</sup>fulfilled.

8 And verily I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to <sup>a</sup>seal both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and <sup>b</sup>rebellious;

9 Yea, verily, to seal them up unto the <sup>a</sup>day when the <sup>b</sup>wrath of God shall be poured out upon the <sup>c</sup>wicked without measure—

10 Unto the <sup>a</sup>day when the Lord shall come to <sup>b</sup>recompense unto every man according to his <sup>c</sup>work, and <sup>d</sup>measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.

11 Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear:

12 Prepare ye, <sup>a</sup>prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is <sup>b</sup>nigh;

13 And the <sup>a</sup>anger of the Lord is kindled, and his <sup>b</sup>sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth.

14 And the <sup>a</sup>arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the <sup>b</sup>day cometh that they who will not <sup>c</sup>hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his <sup>d</sup>servants, neither give <sup>e</sup>heed to the words of the prophets and <sup>f</sup>apostles, shall be <sup>g</sup>cut off from among the people;

15 For they have <sup>a</sup>strayed from mine <sup>b</sup>ordinances, and have <sup>c</sup>broken mine <sup>d</sup>everlasting covenant;

16 They <sup>a</sup>seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man <sup>b</sup>walketh in his <sup>c</sup>own <sup>d</sup>way, and after the <sup>e</sup>image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth <sup>f</sup>old and shall perish in <sup>g</sup>Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

17 Wherefore, I the Lord, <sup>a</sup>knowing the calamity which should come upon the <sup>b</sup>inhabitants of the earth, <sup>c</sup>called upon my <sup>d</sup>servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and <sup>e</sup>spake unto him from heaven, and gave him <sup>f</sup>commandments;

18 And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets—

19 The <sup>a</sup>weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man <sup>b</sup>should not counsel his fellow man, neither <sup>c</sup>trust in the arm of flesh—

20 But that every man might <sup>a</sup>speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world;

21 That faith also might increase in the earth;

22 That mine everlasting <sup>a</sup>covenant might be established;

23 That the <sup>a</sup>fulness of my <sup>b</sup>gospel might be <sup>c</sup>proclaimed by the <sup>d</sup>weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and before <sup>e</sup>kings and <sup>f</sup>rulers.

24 Behold, I am God and have spoken it; these <sup>a</sup>commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their <sup>b</sup>language, that they might come to <sup>c</sup>understanding.

25 And inasmuch as they <sup>a</sup>erred it might be made known;

26 And inasmuch as they sought <sup>a</sup>wisdom they might be <sup>b</sup>instructed;

27 And inasmuch as they sinned they might be <sup>a</sup>chastened, that they might <sup>b</sup>repent;

28 And inasmuch as they were <sup>a</sup>humble they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive <sup>b</sup>knowledge from time to time.

29 And after having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to <sup>a</sup>translate through the <sup>b</sup>mercy of God, by the power of God, the <sup>c</sup>Book of Mormon.

30 And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have <sup>a</sup>power to lay the foundation of this <sup>b</sup>church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of <sup>c</sup>darkness, the only true and living <sup>d</sup>church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well <sup>e</sup>pleased, <sup>f</sup>speaking unto the church collectively and not individually—

31 For I the Lord cannot look upon <sup>a</sup>sin with the least degree of allowance;

32 Nevertheless, he that <sup>a</sup>repents and does the <sup>b</sup>commandments of the Lord shall be <sup>c</sup>forgiven;

33 And he that <sup>a</sup>repents not, from him shall be <sup>b</sup>taken even the light which he has received; for my <sup>c</sup>Spirit shall not always <sup>d</sup>strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts.

34 And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth: I the Lord am willing to make these things <sup>a</sup>known unto <sup>b</sup>all flesh;

35 For I am no <sup>a</sup>respector of persons, and will that all men shall know that the <sup>b</sup>day speedily cometh; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand, when <sup>c</sup>peace shall be taken from the earth, and the <sup>d</sup>devil shall have power over his own dominion.

36 And also the Lord shall have <sup>a</sup>power over his <sup>b</sup>saints, and shall <sup>c</sup>reign in their <sup>d</sup>midst, and shall come down in <sup>e</sup>judgment upon <sup>f</sup>Idumea, or the world.

37 <sup>a</sup>Search these <sup>b</sup>commandments, for they are true and <sup>c</sup>faithful, and the prophecies and <sup>d</sup>promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

**38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my <sup>a</sup>word shall not pass away, but shall all be <sup>b</sup>fulfilled, whether by mine own <sup>c</sup>voice or by the <sup>d</sup>voice of my <sup>e</sup>servants, it is the <sup>f</sup>same.**

**39 For behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the <sup>a</sup>Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the <sup>b</sup>truth abideth forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Micah's Thoughts:**

This is one of those things that amazes me when I read it. The fact that Saints continue to be fooled by this exact pattern over and over again is such a damning proof of our neglect of the written word of the prophets of God. How many examples do we have in just this last generation of this exact pattern playing out? How many books have been written purporting such angel visits and visions of glory? How many cases have we heard of angels visiting members, showing them the future, some cases even being anointed by the angels for some work among the Church? How many of these people in their visions or calling or whatever you want to call it have also been told to correct or have witnessed the "correcting of the brethren"? The number of such cases and examples is staggering and the only reason why it is made possible is the indolence of members of the Church and their neglect and in some cases outright contempt for the words of prophets.

To quote President Joseph F. Smith's son:

"We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men." (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

This is one of those cases, once again, which is only made possible due to people not reading talks such as this. I would further warn that such individuals also follow a pattern of crudeness, lack of seriousness and compulsion (one could say almost a demonic compulsion) to tear down when they have nothing to replace with, or as Elder Boyd K Packer simply said,

"Beware of the testimony of one who is intemperate, or irreverent, or immoral, who tears down and has nothing to put in its place." (In Conference Report, Apr. 1974, p. 138; or Ensign, May 1974, p. 95.)

The promises that President Smith is talking about here in regard to Zion rising in the midst of the world is the redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem, which will rise in the midst of Babylon and then as President Smith concludes, will ultimately then witness the fall of Babylon. Those who have studied the macro last day timeline those points of references should

have stood out to you- we also talked about these very same points last Sunday in the Hyrum Andrus fireside.

President Smith then proceeds to give a golden quote on revelation. Every man or woman has the right of revelation to know what they themselves can do and should do but as Smith correctly points out “anything further” or anything beyond that is denied without proper authority and keys. All callings without keys the Lord promises those in those callings the same thing- “guidance and inspiration how they themselves can fulfill that calling” and nothing further. You cannot sit in judgment over somebody else without keys over that individual, meaning you cannot receive thou shalt know, or thou shalt do for or about that individual.

President Smith then lays into a fantastic breakdown of what I call the pyramid of truth. Simply put, it is a pyramid of authority for laying down doctrine, and as Smith said, if it doesn't fall within that structure it is not authoritative in the slightest and thus holds little to no value to Saints of the most high.

President Smith also lets us know once again, adding to this concert of clarity, that there will not be a replacement to Joseph Smith be that a supplant, redo, etc, let alone someone greater. The Prophet Joseph Smith is the prophet head of this dispensation and there shall follow him in this dispensation none greater than he. And this dispensation will not end in apostasy. And no sensible person would accept anything other than these facts. Period.

## **Section II**

Through Joseph then, the Lord revealed Himself to the world and through him He chose the first Elders of the Church—men who were honest in their hearts; men whom He knew would receive the word and labor in connection with Joseph in this great and important undertaking; and all that have been ordained to the Priesthood, and all that have been appointed to any position whatever in this Church, have received their authority and commission through this channel, appointed of God, with Joseph at the head. This is the order, and it could not be otherwise. God will not raise up another prophet, and another people to do the work that we have been appointed to do. He will never ignore those who have stood firm and true from the commencement, as it were, of this work, and who are still firm and faithful, inasmuch as they continue faithful to their trust. There is no question in my mind of their ever proving themselves unfaithful, as a body; for if any of them were to become unworthy in His sight, He would remove them out of their place and call others from the ranks to fill their positions. And thus His Priesthood will ever be found to be composed of the right men for the place, of men whose backs will be fitted for the burden, men through whom He can work and regulate the affairs of His Church according to the counsels of His own will. And the moment that individuals look to any other source, that moment they throw themselves open to the seductive influences of Satan, and render themselves liable to become servants of the devil; they lose sight of the true order through which the blessings of the Priesthood are to be enjoyed; they step outside of the pale of the kingdom of God, and are on dangerous ground. Whenever you see a man rise up claiming to have received direct revelation from the Lord to the Church, independent of the order and channel of the Priesthood, you may set him down as an impostor. God has not called you to go out to the world to be taught, or to receive revelations through apostates or strangers; but He has

called and ordained you and sent you forth to teach and lead people in the paths of righteousness and salvation.

It is the duty, therefore, of every Latter-day Saint to seek for the spirit of truth, and to desire with full purposes of heart, and seek diligently for the gifts of wisdom and understanding that will lead and guide into all truth, that will enable us to comprehend the purposes of God, and this most perfect, most harmonious organization which God has instituted by His own wisdom in these last days for the gathering of Israel, and for the communication of all His purposes as made known through His servants the Prophets. Men may become dissatisfied one with another, they may become dissatisfied towards the Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, or others, and may say in their hearts, "I do not like such an one; I do not believe he is as good as he should be, he has too many faults and weaknesses and, therefore, I cannot and will not acknowledge his authority, as I have not faith in the man." Doubtless there are those, too many perhaps, who feel that way, but the trouble is, and that is the worst of it, just because they have become dissatisfied with the individual and harbored feelings of bitterness in their hearts against their brethren, they lose sight of the designs of the Almighty; they turn against the authority of the Holy Priesthood; and through their blindness, allow themselves to be led astray, and at last turn away from the Church.

Now, how should it be? I will tell you. In the first place every person should know that the Gospel is true, as this is everyone's privilege who is baptized and receives the Holy Ghost. A man may be grieved in his feelings because of some difficulty between him and President Taylor, or Cannon or myself; he may have feelings in his heart which lead him to think that he could not sustain us in his faith and prayers; but if this should be the case, what is the course for him to pursue? He should say in his heart, "God has established His kingdom, and His Priesthood is upon the earth; and notwithstanding my dislike for certain men, I know that the Gospel is true, and that God is with His people; and that if I will do my duty and keep His commandments, the clouds will roll by and the mists will disappear, the spirit of the Lord will come more fully to my relief, and by and by I will be able to see—if I am in error, wherein I erred, and then I will repent of it, for I know that every wrong thing will yet be made right." I think all men should feel that way. A man may not have confidence in his Bishop, or in one or both of his Counselors; circumstances might be such that according to his judgment the Bishop or his Counselors might be in the wrong, and his confidence in them, whether right or wrong, would therefore be destroyed; but because he may feel so, would it be right or consistent in him as an Elder in Israel, to set himself up as the judge of the Bishop or his Counselors and the whole Church? If one were to get in a position of this kind he would be like some others I have heard of, John and David Whitmer, for instance, two of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, and Wm. E. McClellan, and William Smith, two of the Twelve Apostles, some of whom are still living, and many others, both living and dead. Do you think you could convince those of this class that they had apostatized from the Church? No; these men are firmly convinced in their own minds that they never apostatized. They stoutly and indignantly deny that they ever apostatized or turned away from the Church, but say that Joseph Smith and the Twelve Apostles apostatized, and all the Church had apostatized and become very wicked, and that God has cut the Church off, but that Brother David Whitmer and Brother Wm. E. McClellan, William Smith, and others are the only members of the Church in good standing, and they are all at variance with each other.

If I were to raise my hand against my Bishop, against the Twelve or the First Presidency, because I did not like them, that moment I should place myself in the position that these men now occupy, and that scores of others who have passed away have occupied, and say: "The Church has apostatized, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and John Taylor, have apostatized, but I am firm in the faith; all the people have gone astray because they will not acknowledge me." There is where the man is who rebels against the authority of the Priesthood, and at the same time endeavors to hold on to the faith. Never is there but one appointed at a time to hold the keys of the kingdom of God pertaining to the earth. While Christ remained on the earth He held them; but when He departed He committed them to Peter, he being the President or Chief of the Apostles; and it was his right to direct and to receive revelation for the Church, and to give counsel to all the brethren. After Satan and wicked men had prevailed against the Church, crucified the Savior and killed the Apostles, the keys of the kingdom were taken from the earth. John the Revelator describes it most clearly. And from that time until Joseph Smith was called by the voice of the Almighty, and ordained to hold those keys, no man held them upon the earth that we know of. It is true the Lord did appoint other Twelve upon this continent, and His Church flourished and prospered in this land for many years, but the Lord declared that Peter, James and John, and the Twelve that walked with Him at Jerusalem, held the Presidency over them. God may reveal himself to different nations, and establish among them the same Gospel and ordinances as He did anciently, if necessity require, but if these nations should be joined together there would be one head, and all the rest would be subordinate. So that from the time that the keys of this Priesthood were taken from the earth until they were received by Joseph Smith, no man ever possessed that Priesthood, nor the keys thereof, with authority to build up the Zion of God, and prepare a church or people for the second coming of Christ, "as a bride is adorned for the bridegroom;" unless it may have been among the lost tribes, yet of this we have no knowledge, but if so they would receive those keys necessary to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel for their salvation. We know not of their existence or the condition in which they are placed. The Gospel that is given to them is suited to their needs and condition, and is for their salvation, not ours, and yet it will be the same Gospel. And God will not call one from them to give to us the Priesthood, or to give to us keys and blessings, or to point out the organization of the kingdom of God, because He has established that Priesthood here, and we have it. If He has any communication to make to us He will send His messengers to us. And in this way He will deliver His law and give His mind and will to the people. He will do it through the ordained channels of the Priesthood which He acknowledges and which He has established in the earth. He will go nowhere else to do it, neither will He send us to them unless they should be without the Priesthood and it becomes necessary to take the blessings of the Gospel to them, and I presume that will be the case.

## Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:

Our thoughts in Blue 😊

*Through Joseph then, the Lord revealed Himself to the world and through him He chose the first Elders of the Church—men who were honest in their hearts; men whom He knew would receive the word and labor in connection with Joseph in this great and important undertaking; and all that have been ordained to the Priesthood, and all that have been appointed to any position whatever in this Church, have received their authority and commission through this channel, appointed of God, with Joseph at the head.*

After 2000+ years, the Lord revealed himself to the world through the Prophet Joseph Smith. We are so grateful that Joseph Smith is the head of our dispensation.

What have we learned from Joseph Smith through the restoration? (Restoration Proclamation)

1. God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ Appeared.
2. Joseph inaugurated the “restitution of all things” as foretold in the Bible
3. Joseph learned after the death of the Apostles; Christ’s New Testament Church was lost.
4. Joseph would be instrumental in the return of Christ’s church
5. The Father and Son directed heavenly messengers to instruct Joseph and establish the Church of Jesus Christ
6. Resurrected John the Baptist restored authority to baptize for the remission of sins.
7. Peter, James, and John restored the apostleship, and keys of priesthood authority.
8. Elijah came and restored the authority to join families together forever in eternal relationships.
9. Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God- to translate the Book of Mormon.
10. We learn of Jesus Christ’s Resurrection and Doctrine of Christ.
11. We learn that ALL human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Heavenly Father.
12. Heavenly Father has a divine plan for our lives.
13. Jesus Christ speaks today as in days of old.
14. The church is anchored in the perfect life of Jesus, and his atonement and literal Resurrection.
15. Jesus Christ has called Apostles
16. Jesus invites all to receive the Holy Ghost, the ordinance of salvation and receive enduring joy.
17. The promised Restoration goes forward through continuing revelation
18. The earth will never again be the same as God will “gather together in one all things in Christ”.
19. The Apostles invite all to know- THE HEAVENS ARE OPEN.
20. God is making known His will.
21. Prayerfully study the message of the restoration.
22. Gain your own witness of preparing the world for the promised Second Coming.

*. God will not raise up another prophet, and another people to do the work that we have been appointed to do. He will never ignore those who have stood firm and true from the commencement, as it were, of this work, and who are still firm and faithful, inasmuch as they continue faithful to their trust.*

What is the work that we are called to do? Prepare the world for the Second Coming. By standing in holy places and following the prophet we can become firm and faithful. One of the reasons it is so IMPORTANT to know the scriptures is because you can then have the connections revealed to you as you study. In this passage when we ready firm and faithful we immediately went to Doctrine and Covenants 138.

Doctrine and Covenants 138: 53-57

**53** The Prophet Joseph Smith, and my father, Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, and other choice spirits who were reserved to come forth in the fulness of times to take part in laying the foundations of the great latter-day work,

54 Including the building of the temples and the performance of ordinances therein for the redemption of the dead, were also in the spirit world.

55 I observed that they were also among the noble and great ones who were chosen in the beginning to be rulers in the Church of God.

56 Even before they were born, they, with many others, received their first lessons in the world of spirits and were prepared to come forth in the due time of the Lord to labor in his vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men.

57 I beheld that the faithful elders of this dispensation, when they depart from mortal life, continue their labors in the preaching of the gospel of repentance and redemption, through the sacrifice of the Only Begotten Son of God, among those who are in darkness and under the bondage of sin in the great world of the spirits of the dead.

*. And the moment that individuals look to any other source, that moment they throw themselves open to the seductive influences of Satan, and render themselves liable to become servants of the devil; they lose sight of the true order through which the blessings of the Priesthood are to be enjoyed; they step outside of the pale of the kingdom of God, and are on dangerous ground. Whenever you see a man rise up claiming to have received direct revelation from the Lord to the Church, independent of the order and channel of the Priesthood, you may set him down as an impostor. God has not called you to go out to the world to be taught, or to receive revelations through apostates or strangers; but He has called and ordained you and sent you forth to teach and lead people in the paths of righteousness and salvation.*

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 47

Consider for a moment, brethren, the fulfillment of the words of the prophet; for we behold that darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the inhabitants thereof—that crimes of every description are increasing among men—vices of great enormity are practiced—the rising generation growing up in the fullness of pride and arrogance—the aged losing every sense of conviction, and seemingly banishing every thought of a day of retribution—intemperance, immorality, extravagance, pride, blindness of heart, idolatry, the loss of natural affection; the love of this world, and indifference toward the things of eternity increasing among those who profess a belief in the religion of heaven, and infidelity spreading itself in consequence of the same—men giving themselves up to commit acts of the foulest kind, and deeds of the blackest dye, blaspheming, defrauding, blasting the reputation of neighbors, stealing, robbing, murdering; advocating error and opposing the truth, forsaking the covenant of heaven, and denying the faith of Jesus—and in the midst of all this, the day of the Lord fast approaching when none except those who have won the wedding garment will be permitted to eat and drink in the presence of the Bridegroom, the Prince of Peace!

*. If I were to raise my hand against my Bishop, against the Twelve or the First Presidency, because I did not like them, that moment I should place myself in the position that these men now occupy, and that scores of others who have passed away have occupied, and say: "The Church has apostatized, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and John Taylor, have apostatized, but I am firm in the faith; all the people have gone astray because they will not acknowledge me."*

JD 6:122, Heber C. Kimball, Advancement in Gospel Principles, Etc.



Why do we see dead limbs on a tree? Because they refuse to receive the nourishment which the root affords. Why do people become dead to their own interests and the interests of the kingdom of God? Because they refuse to obey the will of God through their leaders: the gate of communication is shut down between them and the source of their life and strength in the way of life and salvation.

Can a child enjoy the Spirit of God who refuses to obey his father, who is a man of God? No. He partakes of the spirit of apostasy, which is the spirit of death. I will ask you women of good understanding, Did you ever disobey your husband and live in rebellion to him, but what [p. 124b] you felt like the Devil? I have heard you say you never did. My wives acknowledge they cannot enjoy the enlivening Spirit of God when they rebel against my counsel; but their minds are as dark as Egypt. Why? Because I design to rule in righteousness.

The spirit of disobedience is the Spirit of apostasy; and if you do not look out, it will upset you, and you will go overboard before you are aware of it. Every branch should be interested for the root from whence it springs; for if the root perishes, the branch must perish also.

*. And from that time until Joseph Smith was called by the voice of the Almighty, and ordained to hold those keys, no man held them upon the earth that we know of. It is true the Lord did appoint other Twelve upon this continent, and His Church flourished and prospered in this land for many years, but the Lord declared that Peter, James and John, and the Twelve that walked with Him at Jerusalem, held the Presidency over them. God may reveal himself to different nations, and establish among them the same Gospel and ordinances as He did anciently, if necessity require, but if these nations should be joined together there would be one head, and all the rest would be subordinate. So that from the time that the keys of this Priesthood were taken from the earth until they were received by Joseph Smith, no man ever possessed that Priesthood, nor the keys thereof, with authority to build up the Zion of God, and prepare a church or people for the second coming of Christ.*

JD 6:122, Heber C. Kimball, Advancement in Gospel Principles, Etc.

Sometimes you may see a gardener cut off a whole top that is snarly and unhealthy, and insert thrifty grafts. You read in the Book of Mormon about the master of the vineyard Jacob 5:4 taking thrifty grafts and putting them into the wild olive tree in the nethermost part of the vineyard, Jacob 5:13 that it might bring forth good fruit. Brother Joseph was that man. Moroni, Peter, James, and John, and the angels of God came and placed their power upon him, and we grew out of the graft; and if we continue in the graft, we shall produce the same fruit.

In Nauvoo, about a year before we started to come here, do you not know the Gentiles were cut off entirely from the tree, that the new grafts might grow more thriftily in the tree? None can be saved unless they are grafted in as we were, by repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. These are the grafting principles, and you are required to live up to them faithfully, going on to perfection.

My desire and prayer is to teach you in simplicity. Anything that cannot be understood is not worth a dime. Like the limbs of a thrifty tree moving in unison with the stock, so we should, when brother Brigham says move this way or that.

I am talking to the men that hold the Priesthood. And I cannot but think that the little boys before me will have that Priesthood which we hold, and many of them will see the day when

they will have power to raise the dead. They will have power to do many things we do not have power to do.

What a powerful promise! Stay full of faith and remember Doctrine and Covenants 138. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen!.

### **Micah's Thoughts:**

Has anyone noticed how many times President Smith has already mentioned the honest in heart? Once again, those living in deception, in the dark corners of rooms in society etc. will have their deeds brought to light. Sinning in weakness is different than plotting, scheming, fuming, grumbling, murmuring etc. in secret combinations. Remember, always remember, that sins of rebellion (or as Brigham Young calls them, sins of intent) are substantially more severe than sins of weakness. The dishonest will find no such place among the Saints of God in New Jerusalem. I would also say that just like sins of weakness can become addictions and become problems your whole life, sins of rebellion can also become addictions that can plague people their whole lives. Whereas even addictive sins of weakness are still spoken of with compassion and forgiveness, those whose characters have adapted and molded around such sins of rebellion will find their characters so different from the Savior that they will not be able to withstand his presence. Lying, dishonesty, etc. are all such hinge point sins that if people go down those roads for too long they can and will hit points of no return as President Kimball referred to them as. Having your children become accustomed to the sins of lying, backbiting, murmuring etc. while in their youth is far and beyond more damning to the parent as well as to the kid than any sin of weakness or sin of passion in the moment could ever be. Training yourself and your children to be honest individuals who do what they say they are going to do and not back out of fulfilling what they pledged to do is one of the single greatest key indicators for a successful probation here on Earth.

The quote that President Smith then lays down is one of the best quotes I personally believe on this subject and is a great companion quote to go with his son's quote that I already shared above.

I also don't know how many times we have to be told this- we are not commanded to read from every book and listen to every individual speak and then determine what aspects of truth were in what they said- we are to seek learning, guidance, edification from the best books and the best people. Period. Don't rehearse your doubts with other doubters as President Nelson said, don't be taught by apostates, wolves in sheep's clothing, tares etc. Don't go diving into the dark places of the web, to LDS Freedom Forum and Redditt and every other playground of hell, such playgrounds might look fun and they might have a lot of other children playing there but we are to be no more children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We are to be men and women of God, firm in the faith and determined in our destination.

President Smith next breaks down the sad reality that many due to their own lack of Christlike attributes (i.e., unable to forgive another) are unable to look past certain individual's faults, mannerisms, personalities etc. to take hold of the message they are preaching and/or listen to their counsel. The whole thing was gold and reminded me of my parable of the man and his truck, which is literally the first video of mine that I recommend people watch over and over again until they understand it.

I also love how President Smith calls out apostates by name, many today would bark up “Oh, Brother Smith, don’t be so judgemental!” Satan has got us so wound up backwards that to do the Christlike thing and point out truths is now deemed un-Christlike and all this from a gross misunderstanding of understanding two points doctrinally: 1. What pride is and 2. What’s the difference between condemnation and judgement. From small beginnings great things are brought to pass and likewise from small amounts of leaven false teachings can leaven and ruin the whole loaf.

President Smith here once again makes it crystal clear that we do not know where the lost 10 tribes are or their state. These men hung around Joseph Smith Jr., the gathering that was taking place in Europe was not, is not, the bulk of the 10 tribes.

Detractors that claim that there is no ten tribes as a body and that we are gathering them currently through missionary work and that there will be no return of them as a body almost exclusively quote from Elder Joseph Fielding McConkie (ironically named after Joseph Fielding Smith) who happens to be Elder Bruce R McConkie’s son who lived his life as a professor at BYU. Let me emphatically declare that Elder Joseph Fielding McConkie’s words hold no more weight than that of my own. I know that this upsets people who love to call me arrogant, prideful and so forth, and that reality might be funny if it wasn’t so terribly sad. The reason why I can say that such an individual’s words hold no more weight than my own is because I am not a prideful person, I understand completely that the weight of a man’s words in regards to doctrine is purely based off of the keys of God, and the keys of God have spoken repeatedly, clearly and emphatically on this point. The ten tribes will return as a body and we currently are only finding, teaching and baptizing what are referred to as the scattered remnant of the ten tribes of Israel.

The other things that President Smith makes clear here is that there will be nobody from the ten tribes or from the tribe of Manasseh, take your pick, that will come from outside the Church organization and come into the Church organization and “fix it”. If such fixes were to come they would come from within the existing Church structure.

## **Section III**

When Joseph received the keys of the Priesthood he alone on the earth held them; that is, he was the first, he stood at the head. It was promised that he should not lose them or be removed out of his place, so long as he was faithful. And when he died, President Young was chosen by the voice of the people, and sanctioned by the voice of God. He held the Priesthood which was after the order of the Son of God, with the keys which pertain to the presidency of that Priesthood upon earth. He received it from the hands of Joseph, directly from him or by his authority; and he held it until his death. When he died that mantle fell upon John Taylor, and while he lives he will hold that authority inasmuch as he is faithful. So it was with President Brigham Young, he held it on condition of his faithfulness. If any man in that position should become unfaithful, God would remove him out of his place. I testify in the name of Israel's God that He will not suffer the head of the Church, him whom He has chosen to stand at the head, to transgress His laws and apostatize; the moment he should take a course that would in time lead to it, God would take him away. Why? Because to suffer a wicked man to occupy that position, would be to allow, as it were, the fountain to become corrupted, which is something He will never permit. And why will he not suffer it? Because it is not the work of Joseph Smith; it is not the work of Brigham Young or of John Taylor. It is not the work of man but of God Almighty;

and it is His business to see that the men who occupy this position are men after His own heart, men that will receive instructions from Him, and that will carry out the same according to the counsels of His will. You may depend that he will see to it, and risk nothing upon this head. Hence you will have no reason to find fault or to rise up in judgment upon President Taylor or upon President Young, or upon the Prophet Joseph Smith, or upon the Twelve Apostles. We have no right to rise up in judgment upon the President of the Stake, or upon our Bishop, or upon the Priesthood in any shape or form, unless we can do so agreeably to the laws of the Church. If they decide against us inasmuch as God has conferred the keys of this Priesthood upon them, and the kingdom is here, and its authority is here, and the Priesthood is here, and the organization of the kingdom of God is here—and inasmuch as the decision is reached and rendered agreeably to the laws and commandments of God, then it would be our bounden duty to humbly submit, and bow to it and acknowledge it. You or I might think it hard, and possibly feel that it was unjust, but as it would be impossible to make it otherwise, we must submit. "What," says one, "submit to an unjust decision? No, sir!" Who says it is unjust? You or I say it is; but twelve High Councilors and the Presidency of the Stake say it is just, and in holding to our idea of the unjustness of the decision, we put our judgment against that of fifteen disinterested men. Who then is to decide on the justice of the case? They, not me; and it is my business to acknowledge it and yield to it. There is, however, a supervisory authority in the First Presidency; and they may exercise in some degree the pardoning power, for unto them is given power under the laws of God to forgive. "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them, and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." President Taylor holds the keys of that authority in this Church. You may appeal then to the Presidency of the Church, and they may inquire into the justice or injustice of the decision and see if the case is entitled to a rehearing. But if the decision of the High Council should be confirmed, then you have no other appeal on earth. And yet God has given to us the broadest latitude peacefully to defend our individual rights, agreeably to just and righteous laws. He permits us first to be tried by the Bishop and his Counselors; and even before that we have the opportunity to settle our difficulties amicably without going to a trial; or if we cannot settle them amicably among ourselves we are permitted to call in our Teacher to assist us if possible to be reconciled to one another; and if that cannot be done we can then bring the matter before the Bishop to be formally tried. If we have reason to believe the decision to be unjust, we have the right then to appeal our case to the High Council, and then, if the First Presidency so decide, there may be a rehearing. So that the Lord has given unto us every possible chance to vindicate our rights, defend our causes, and maintain our standing in the Church. No man is asked to bow to unrighteousness; but to say that the decision rendered by the Bishop's Court or High Council is an unjust decision is to say one of two things, namely, that these men, from three to fifteen of them, every one of whom should possess the spirit of the Gospel, and the inspiration of the Almighty, and is quite as likely to understand such circumstances as the litigants are all in error and lack judgment, or that they are willfully wicked and unjust, while one individual, and he a party to strife, alone is right.

The moment a man says he will not submit to legally constituted authority of the Church, whether it be the Teachers, the Bishopric, the High Council, his Quorum or the First Presidency, and in his heart confirms it and carries it out, that moment he cuts himself off from the privileges and blessings of the Priesthood and Church, and severs himself from the people of God, for he ignores the authority that He has instituted in His Church. These are the men that generally get crochets in their heads, that get inspiration (from beneath) and that are often so desirous to guide the Church, and to sit in judgment upon the Priesthood. The only safe way for us to do, as

individuals, is to live so humbly, so righteously and so faithfully before God, that we may possess His Spirit to that extent that we will be able to judge righteously, and discern between truth and error, between right and wrong; and then we will know when a decision is rendered against us that in 99 cases out of a hundred we are in error, and that the decision is right; and although we may at the time not be fully able to see and feel its justness, yet will be constrained to say that inasmuch as there are sixteen chances against one for me to be wrong, "I will gracefully and humbly submit." The pith of the matter is, the Lord has established His Church, organized His Priesthood, and conferred authority upon certain individuals, councils and quorums, and it is the duty of the people of God to live so that they shall know that these are acceptable unto Him. If we begin to cut off this one and that one, and set their authority aside, we may just as well at once set God himself aside, and say he has no right to dictate. Amen.

### **Josline's Thoughts:**

*Joseph Fielding Smith cited in his discourse the following scriptures in reference to Joseph Smith that reads:*

**D&C 43: 1-7**

- 1** O hearken, ye elders of my church, and give ear to the words which I shall speak unto you.
- 2** For behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye have received a commandment for a "law unto my church, through him whom I have appointed unto you to receive commandments and "revelations from my hand.
- 3** And this ye shall know assuredly—that there is "none other appointed unto you to receive "commandments and revelations until he be taken, if he "abide in me.
- 4** But verily, verily, I say unto you, that "none else shall be appointed unto this gift except it be through him; for if it be taken from him he shall not have power except to appoint another in his stead.
- 5** And this shall be a law unto you, that ye "receive not the "teachings of any that shall come before you as revelations or commandments;
- 6** And this I give unto you that you may not be "deceived, that you may know they are not of me.
- 7** For verily I say unto you, that he that is "ordained of me shall come in at the "gate and be ordained as I have told you before, to teach those "revelations which you have received and shall receive through him whom I have appointed.

**D&C 42:**

10 And again, I say unto you, that my servant Edward Partridge shall stand in the office whereunto I have appointed him. And it shall come to pass, that if he transgress another shall be appointed in his stead. Even so. Amen.

*From the History of the church we know that Joseph Smith was faithful to the commandments of the Lord until the end. As he was martyred for his belief, he sealed His testimony and his work with his life. From the teachings of Joseph Fielding Smith and the scriptures he cited, we can clearly see that the Lord is able to remove anyone from his place if he is not faithful to Him and replace him with another. People can be easily deceived by the adversary; he can appear as an angel of light to deceive many.*

*Another scriptures reference is about King Saul*

1 Samuel 13:14

**14** But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath bought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

*As we learned later in the scriptures that David himself lost his place and it was given to another.*

*From Bruce R McConkie, "Valiance to the truth" quoting Wilford Woodruff we can see the order of succession from one prophet to another.*

"I say to the Latter-day Saints, the keys of the kingdom of God are here, and they are going to stay here, too, until the coming of the Son of Man. Let all Israel understand that. They may not rest upon my head but a short time, but they will then rest on the head of another apostle, and another after him, and so continue until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven to "reward every man according to the deeds done in the body" (2 Cor. 5:10 (JST) D&C 101:65)

I say to all Israel at this day, I say to the whole world, that the God of Israel, who organized this Church and kingdom, never ordained any President or Presidency to lead it Astray. Hear it, ye Israel, no man who has ever breathed the breath of life can hold these keys of the kingdom of God and lead the people Astray (*The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, pp. 73-74)"

*The Lord also commanded us to be obedient and heed the voice of His prophet. Not because they are perfect but because He chose them to lead His church at a specific time for a specific purpose because He knows who they are, He knows their weaknesses despite that, He will still reveal His will unto them for the edification of His people and keep his kingdom in order*  
D&C 28: we read

**2** But, behold, verily, verily, I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., for he receiveth them even as Moses.

**3** And thou shalt be obedient unto the things which I shall give unto him, even as Aaron, to declare faithfully the commandments and the revelations, with power and authority unto the church.

**11** And again, thou shalt take thy brother, Hiram Page, between him and thee alone, and tell him that those things which he hath written from that stone are not of me and that Satan deceiveth him;

**12** For, behold, these things have not been appointed unto him, neither shall anything be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants.

**13** For all things must be done in order, and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith.

And D&C 28:

6 And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the church;  
7 For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead.

*By commandment we are asked to heed a prophet's voice. God wants His people to pray so the Spirit can confirm to them that His prophet are speaking truths, The Spirit will not confirm anything contrary to what His prophet had said. He gave him authority, the Priesthood keys to direct His church, He gave him His spirit and He justifies him. Our duty is to heed the voice of His prophet, not our own counsel. We are justified by God when we are obedient.*

*In a following scripture from JFS reference we read*

### **Doctrine and Covenants 46:7**

7 But ye are commanded in all things to ask of God, who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men; for some are of men, and others of devils.

*Joseph Smith, as the head of this dispensation held the Priesthood keys as it was for previous dispensation heads. Those Keys are then passed on to his successor. We don't follow blindly; we only follow the scriptures when we follow a prophet of God, who holds the priesthood keys. We cannot follow someone without keys. From D&C 76: another reference to the discourse, it reads*

57 And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.

*There is no church without the priesthood keys, the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the only true church on earth, the others may have some truth, but they were not called of God, otherwise they would have a history to show how they obtained that authority from Christ to direct their churches.*

*In Roman 10 we read*

13 For whosoever shall acall upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not abelieved? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a bpreacher?

15 And how shall they apreach, except they be bsent? as it is written, How beautiful are the cfeet of them that preach the dgospel of epeace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

*Here the word "Sent" means Called of God In the Topical guide we find other synonymous words: Authority; Call; Calling; Election; Foreordination; Priesthood, Authority; Priesthood, Qualifying for*

*This cannot be taken, or given after studying the philosophy of men from a college to receive a diploma; it has to be given by Christ Himself or one who previously held the priesthood authority.*

### **Hebrew 5:**

**4** And no man taketh this *a*honour unto himself, but he that is *b*called of God, as was *c*Aaron.

*After Christ's resurrection, Paul was chosen and had to be ordained by one with authority in*

### **1 Timothy 2:**

**7** Whereunto I am *a*ordained a *b*preacher, and an *c*apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and *d*lie not;) a teacher of the *e*Gentiles in faith and *f*verity.

### **Marion G Romney “The restoration” 1958:**

President Joseph F Smith, who conferred the apostleship upon President McKay, had received his authority in like manner from President Brigham Young. President Young had received his authority from Oliver Cowdery and Joseph Smith, Jr.

And who was Joseph Smith, Jr.? He was none other than God's great prophet of the restoration.

At the head of every gospel dispensation the Lord has placed one of his mighty sons—Adam, Noah, Abraham, for example. Jesus Christ, himself, stood at the head of the dispensation of the Meridian of Time. Joseph Smith, Jr., than whom none of these save Jesus only was greater, was appointed and ordained in the heavens to head this last and greatest dispensation, the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, into which, as rivers into a mighty ocean, flow all former dispensations. Joseph Smith was and is to modern Israel what Moses was to ancient Israel, leader, lawgiver, prophet, seer, and revelator.

[The People Say “Amen” \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org) by Mark E Petersen

In the words of President Wilford Woodruff, “Let me exhort all elders of Israel and Saints of God to rise up in the majesty and dignity of their calling, and make full proof of their ministry and covenant. Sustain by your works the authorities, keys, and priesthood; the eyes of God, angels and men are over you, and when the work is finished, you will receive your just recompense.” (Matthias F. Cowley, comp., *Wilford Woodruff*, Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1909, p. 657.)

### **JD 15:7 Wilford Woodruff, His Testimony, Etc.:**

The Lord never created this world at random; he has never done any of his work at random. The earth was created for certain purposes; and one of these purposes was its final redemption, and the establishment of his government and kingdom upon it in the latter days, to prepare it for the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose right it is to reign. (D&C 58:22) That set time has come, that dispensation is before us, we are living in the midst of it. It is before the Latter-day Saints, it is before the world; whether or not the people have more faith in the promises of God now than they had in the days of Noah makes no difference, the unbelief of men will not make the truth of God without effect. (Rom. 3:3). The great and mighty events that the Lord Almighty has decreed from before the foundation of the world, to be performed in the latter days are resting upon us,



and they will follow each other in quick succession, whether men believe or not, for no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, but holy men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost

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But I say, in the name of the Lord,<sup>5</sup> that the kingdom of God was set up on the earth from the days of Adam<sup>6</sup> to the present time, whenever there has been a righteous man<sup>7</sup> on earth unto whom God revealed His word and gave power and authority to administer in His name.<sup>8</sup> And where there is a priest of God<sup>9</sup>—a minister who has power and authority from God to administer<sup>10</sup> in the ordinances of the gospel<sup>11</sup> and officiate in the priesthood<sup>12</sup> of God—there is the kingdom of God.<sup>13</sup> And, in consequence of rejecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ<sup>14</sup> and the Prophets whom God hath sent,<sup>15</sup> the judgments of God<sup>16</sup> have rested upon people, cities, and nations, in various ages of the world, which was the case with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah,<sup>17</sup> that were destroyed for rejecting the Prophets.<sup>18</sup>

### **1962-A: 45, Joseph Fielding Smith, An Anchor to our souls**

The Church has not gone astray. The kingdom of God that was set up never to be destroyed or given to another people (Dan. 2:44) is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and it is not going to be destroyed, and is not going to be given to any other people. There will be members of this Church because of their lack of faith and obedience to the commandments of the Lord who will go astray, for the Spirit of the Lord will not dwell in unclean tabernacles, and when a person turns from the truth through wickedness, that Spirit does not follow him and departs, and in the stead thereof comes the spirit of error, the spirit of disobedience, the spirit of wickedness, the spirit of eternal destruction”

*Paul was a murderer but yet was chosen and ordained an apostle to preach to the gentiles. We cannot declare unworthy whom God has declared worthy. He justifies his prophet to do his work, and he knows his heart, He would take them out of their place if they are not faithful. It is not our job to steady the ark, it is not our job to criticize and worry about what the prophet has done or say that are not according to our understanding. We have our own place and our own work to do. Our job is to sustain the prophet of the church and do everything in our power to bring souls to God, to defend our faith to unify ourselves in doctrine in truth and love under the leadership of the church.*

Mark E Petersen “Sustain the authorities” 1949

What about prophets in Christian times? When the Church was established on the earth in the days of the Savior, it was rounded with apostles and prophets at the head (Eph. 2:20). And why were they put in the Church? Paul explains, as has been mentioned once before, that they were put in the Church for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. They were to remain in the Church until we all come to a unity of the faith, unto a perfect man, unto the fulness of the measure of the stature of Christ (Eph.4:12-13)

Throughout the ancient times there was always a tendency to profess belief in God but to reject the teachings of the prophets. Jesus met that situation when he was upon the earth, and among the other things, he made a great appeal to overcome it. He said, "...ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1) The great tragedy of ancient Israel was that the people of those days

were willing to profess belief in God, but would not follow the teachings of the prophets of God.”

*If the church that Christ established was still on the earth, there wouldn't be such division and so many churches now. There would have been only one church where people would live in unity, it would have been Zion*

[The People Say “Amen” \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org) by Mark E Petersen

As members of the Church, by voting to sustain our new President, we have placed ourselves under a solemn covenant to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life as he gives them to us.

The modern word of the Lord says, “... You shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.” (D&C 84:44.)

And how are we to receive that word? Through his prophet!

--- “For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith.” (D&C 21:4–5.)

“For by doing these things the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name’s glory.” (D&C 21:6.)

When President Brigham Young discussed this subject, he said, “[The Lord] has but one mouth through which to make known his will to his people. When the Lord wishes to give a revelation to his people, when he wishes to reveal new items of doctrine to them, or administer chastisement, he will do it through the man whom he has appointed to that office and calling.” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, Deseret Book Co., 1925, p. 212.) *And that man is the President of the Church!*”

*Those who think they can do or know better and are judging the Lord’s mouthpiece and other authorities that are place over them are risking their own salvation, because they are in fact judging and counselling God. The Lord is the God of the universe, there is nothing He doesn’t have knowledge of, if He were to decide to burn the whole world with fire because of His indignation towards us he would do that in a twinkling of an eye. But because of His loving kindness He tolerates us, yet we think we know better than He*

*President JFS also refers to the following scriptures*

#### **D&C 20:**

**53** The <sup>a</sup>teacher’s duty is to <sup>b</sup>watch over the <sup>c</sup>church always, and be with and strengthen them;

**54** And see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither <sup>a</sup>hardness with each other, neither lying, <sup>b</sup>backbiting, nor <sup>c</sup>evil <sup>d</sup>speaking;

#### **Ezekiel:44**

**23** And they shall <sup>a</sup>teach my people *the* <sup>b</sup>difference between the <sup>c</sup>holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the <sup>d</sup>unclean and the clean.

Malachi 3: 18

**18** Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

*From there we get the following*

**Doctrine and Covenants 101:95**

**95** That I may proceed to bring to pass my act, my strange act, and perform my work, my strange work, that men may discern between the righteous and the wicked, saith your God.

Mark E Petersen in talk titled “Be Ye Not Deceived” it reads

When the Apostle John was speaking of the false teachers in his day he branded them as antichrists. Said he, “. . . even now are there many antichrists: . . . They went out from us”(1Jn. 2:18-19) In other words they had been members of the Church, and they had been led into paths of apostasy because of false religious notions.

They went out from us . . . for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us

How do these false teachers lead people astray?

They do so by attacking the fundamental doctrines of the Church. They attack the Authorities of the Church. They attack the teachings of the Authorities. They seek to develop doctrinal disputes among the people to undermine their faith, and they lead people into apostasy when they do such things as that. Very often false teachers who have come among us endeavor to justify their position by claiming to have received some revelation or dream directing them, they say, in the paths which they tread.

There were disputes anciently among the Jews, over the doctrines of the church, and these disputes led people to apostasy. There were disputes among the ancient Nephites likewise, just as there are disputes among some of our people today, disputes, let me remind you, which lead to apostasy and excommunication from the Church

*A following scripture from JFS JD*

**Doctrine and Covenants 1:14**

**14** And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

*Those who go off on their own, teaching things against the doctrine of the church to appease in order to gain popularity, they will eventually drag others with them, especially those who have not read their scriptures and are weak in their knowledge of true doctrine. They have no spirit of discernment to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. “They are lazy learners, lax disciples” who just want to hear the words and are not doer of the words. Those who lead them are doing the work of Satan, and they probably not realizing it, they are totally in the dark. Anyone who thinks His prophet is losing his way to start teaching their own ideology; would better start a self examination as to his or her own standing before God.*

Mark E. Petersen, "On Sustaining Authority in 1945

Then with his warning these chosen servants of the Lord, these authorities of the early day Church, went forth as commanded by the Lord, and they tasted of the opposition in all things. There was opposition within the Church, and there was opposition out of the Church. Persecution both within and without increased. The spirit of apostasy spread, and finally apostasy overcame the Church. The leaders of the Church were destroyed, and taken out of the ministry. The people were left in darkness, and gross darkness covered their minds (D&C 112:2) and we had a complete apostasy from the truth.

While speaking in these last days, the Lord remembered again the tendency of the people to resist the living prophets of God, and to persecute them, to say all manner of evil against them (Matt. 5: 11) and to undermine the work they are doing. The Lord remembered that there were people in his own day and in earlier days who possessed such a tendency, and he knew in these last days there would be men and women who would continue to fight against the living prophets of God. But he comforted these modern living prophets and said to them, He that receiveth you, receiveth me, and he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me (D&C 84:37) but conversely he taught, " . . . Wo unto that house, or that village or city which rejecteth you, or your words, or your testimony concerning me" (D&C 84:94)

*The same way we can recognize the wicked among us, we can also recognize the righteous, there can only be two camps nothing in between. We have to get out of our comfort zone to show the lord that we are on His camp not just by saying it but by our actions.*

Mark E. Petersen, "On Sustaining Authority in 1945

#### DISLOYALTY TO AUTHORITY WEAKENS THE CAUSE

Now, recall the scripture I read to you earlier in this discussion: "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30) Keeping in mind the doctrine of the Lord with respect to his servants, that if we, the people, reject the servants of the Lord, we reject the Lord, and that if we receive the servants of God we receive God, we are fully justified in interpreting this scripture, that I have just read to you, in this way: "He that is for the living prophets of God is also for the Lord; and he that is not for the living prophets of God is against the Lord." We may interpret it also in this way: "He that is loyal to the living authorities of the Church is loyal to God; and any Latter-day Saint who is disloyal to the authorities of the Church is disloyal to God." Or we may read it this way and still be within the truth: "He that sustains the authorities of the Church sustains the Church and the Lord, but any Latter-day Saint who does not sustain the authorities of the Church places himself in a position where he weakens the cause of God instead of lending it strength."

Now look at the other part of that scripture. "He that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." When we speak of "gathering with" the Lord, or assisting him in gathering in the souls of men, gathering them into the fold of Christ, we speak of an organized effort, and we speak of an organized program. We speak of the fold of the Church of God and therefore, if we are "gathering with" him, we are working with him, working in his Church, working in his program, accepting his program and lending our strength to it.

And then there is another thought in connection with it, that if we are "gathering with" him we engage in a cooperative effort, cooperation on the part of us, the Latter-day Saints, cooperating

with the leaders of the Church, cooperating with the Lord in gathering into the fold of Christ the souls of men.

Now, are we gathering with the Lord, or are we, by our efforts, scattering abroad the sheep that he is trying to gather into the fold? Are we cooperating with the authorities of the Church, are we gathering with them: are we assisting them in bringing into the fold of Christ the people the Lord would save? Are we gathering with them, cooperating with them in the prosecution of the program of the Church, or are we criticizing the authorities of the Church and undermining them and their efforts?

I call to your minds the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith in this connection:

I will give to you one of the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom. It is an eternal principle that has existed with God from all eternity. That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly that that man is on the high road to apostasy, and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. The principle is as correct as the one that Jesus put forth in saying that he who seeketh a sign is an adulterous person (Matt. 12:39) and that principle is eternal, undeviating and as firm as the pillars of heaven.

I ask you again, my brethren, and my sisters on the air, are you for the Lord and his program or are you against them? Are you for the authorities of the Church or are you against them? Are you gathering with them, or are you scattering abroad? Are you on the Lord's side Ex.32:26) “

*Remember we must be on one side or the other nothing in between. We should respect and obey the authorities who hold the priesthood keys of the kingdom. I pray that we can all put our shoulder to the wheel to lend our strength to help gather Israel as President Nelson is urging us to do and not scatterings abroad by our actions and non-actions.*

### **Micah's Thoughts:**

Joseph Smith Jr is at the head of this last and greatest dispensation, forever and ever the keys he shall hold, God will not take those keys from Joseph until Adam-on-di-ah-men, millions shall know Brother Joseph again...

Once again, here is another teaching of the correct doctrine that the prophet cannot lead the church astray or even attempt to or the Lord would remove him from his position- and why? Because this is the Lord's work, not ours, and why would the Lord let His own work be frustrated? It was the Lord who said this was the last dispensation, it was the Lord who called Joseph, and it was the Lord who said these shall never again be taken from the earth... The Lord's word cannot pass- it all must be fulfilled...

President Smith then gives a fantastic breakdown of all the steps one can take if they believe their local leaders are not acting in good faith- but if the First Presidency makes a statement there is no higher authority to appeal to- period. As soon as someone says they will not follow the directions of the First Presidency, as soon as they do this and see that course out, they cut

themselves off from the Priesthood and the people of God, whether they realize it or not.

President Smith then says this line: These are the men that generally get crochets in their heads, [i.e./meaning] that get inspiration from beneath. I love this! This is like my “Spirit-O-Meters” but spoken from over the pulpit! I wonder if people got upset at him for using a word to describe something that doesn’t appear in the standard works like I use things like “Spirit-O-Meters” and “Pyramid of Truth” etc.... What is he saying? The same people who disregard the counsel, the urgings, the pleading, etc. of the First Presidency also seem to be the people who use “Hear Him” for their ignoring of said counsel, urgings, the pleadings, etc. these impressions, inspiration, revelation, etc. are coming from “below and not from above- for all revelation must be consonant with the keys above us”.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 58**

26 For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

27 Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

28 For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

29 But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.

30 Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments?

31 Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled?

32 I command and men obey not; I revoke and they receive not the blessing.

33 Then they say in their hearts: This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But wo unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.