

# How and By Whom Zion is to Be Built— Sanctification—General Duties of the Saints

President Brigham Young

Journal of Discourses Volume 10 Discourse 38

## Section I

I am thankful for the privilege of meeting with you here this morning, and I pray that we may all be able to properly appreciate the blessings we enjoy in the many opportunities we have of worshipping the Lord our God in peace and quietude.

Two weeks ago this day, we met with the people in the city of St. George, situated in what is called "Mormon Dixie." Our congregations there were nearly as large as the congregations that commonly meet in this Tabernacle. We met a great many familiar faces, and for a moment we could have almost imagined ourselves in Great Salt Lake City.

Our southern journey has been one of great satisfaction to me, more so, I think, than any journey I have formerly taken to visit the Saints in this Territory.

Until this year brother Kimball has not been further south with me than Harmony. He could not refrain from speaking in fervent terms of the good spirit that was manifested through the thousands of cheerful countenances that were uplifted in the settlements to greet us as we passed along. This, and numerous other indications and manifestations in their cordial greetings, bespeak a great improvement in the moral and physical condition of the people. We cannot be deceived in coming to this conclusion, for **whoever enjoys the light of truth and has so lived as to increase the Spirit of truth within himself can testify to the workings of that Spirit upon the hearts, the understanding and works of the Saints generally. I speak for myself; I am sensible of the increase of the knowledge and Spirit of God within myself. This being the case with myself, I can easily realize the increase of the same Spirit in my brethren.** This is a matter of great joy and rejoicing to me and my brethren. I do not think that brother Kimball attended one meeting where he did not express his thankfulness because of the **improvement visible** among the Latter-day Saints.

It would take some time to give you a detailed account of our journey. The Deseret News correspondent has, through that paper, given you a pretty fair account of our travels, and what of interest has not already been laid before the public will appear in due time. I do not deem it necessary to make lengthy statements touching our journey south. Suffice it to say that in the short space of thirty days we traveled some eight hundred and fifty miles and held thirty-nine meetings. I spoke in all the meetings except one, speaking comforting and encouraging words to the people. I believe that brother Kimball spoke in nearly all the meetings we held during our journey.

It would be a source of great joy to me if I could speak of all the Latter-day Saints in the same terms of commendation that I can of a few. As people increase in the knowledge of God and godliness their joy will increase, *though some seem to think that knowledge does not produce*

*joy, peace, and glory.* So far as my experience has taught me, the knowledge of God possessed by persons of good understanding gives great satisfaction and joy, not only under ordinary circumstances but far more in the midst of deepest affliction. Where the spirit of happy submission to the providences of God is not to be found, I conclude at once that there is a lack of the knowledge of God, pertaining to his purposes and designs regarding his people individually and collectively. As a people advance in the knowledge of God, joy will increase with them, and, whether in bonds or free, they can behold the goodness, the mercy and the long-suffering of God to the workmanship of his hands. If we could understand ourselves, our own organization, the great plan of the heavens, and the attributes with which we are endowed, exercising them to accomplish the purpose for which they were placed within us, we could be constantly happy in every circumstance and under every providence of God in which we may be placed. Let our minds once be opened to behold only in part the handiworks of God, the stupendous machinery of the heavens and the earth, the power by which all things are sustained, the harmony that pervades all the works of God's hands, distributing his favors to all impartially, causing his sun to shine on the just and unjust, then can we be happy, indeed, in every changing scene and shifting circumstance of life. We are made to enjoy all that God enjoys, to inherit all he inherits, to possess all the power that he possesses, all the excellency with which he is endowed—all things are to be brought into subjection to him by his faithful children, that they may enjoy all things with him; these considerations bring peace to the heart that is opened to understanding.

Our teachings to the brethren and sisters south have been such as would meet their circumstances and wants, as our teachings are to the people here. You can readily understand, without any particular explanation, that the teachings of the Heavens to men on earth have, I may say, a certain amount of sameness, varying as the providences of God vary. He instructs people according to their circumstances, locations, wants and the dispensations in which they live. We have not preached faith, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost with the gifts and powers of the Gospel, &c.; but we have taught them how to build up a literal kingdom of God here upon earth. The first principles of the Gospel have been taught this people in the countries from whence they have been gathered, the ordinances of the Gospel have been administered to them, and in this they have experienced great joy, but they were, at the same time, taught to gather to Zion where they might be instructed how to live one with another without sinning, how to overcome every evil propensity in their nature, how to rise in the morning, how to take care of and sustain their bodies through the day, how to go to rest at night, how to feel one towards another and towards their God; not to bring heaven down, not to unveil the beauties and glories of the upper world, not to unveil the face of Him who sits upon the throne, whose face we could not behold in our present state and live, but to make heaven here by teaching the husband how to live and deal with his wife or wives, with his sons and with his daughters; by teaching the wife how to live with and treat her husband and her children, and the husband, wife and children how to live with their neighbors, that all anger and malice and all sin may be overcome by the people and never again gain mastery over them. These are the mysteries that belong to the kingdom of God upon the earth; as to the mysteries pertaining to the Father and the Son, to angels, and to the powers of the heavens and the fulness of the glory of Zion, we shall learn in good time.

### **Antonia's Thoughts:**

[Commentary on 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph](#)

Properly appreciate the blessing we enjoy in the many opportunities we have of worshipping the Lord our God in peace and quietude.

... This statement caused me to pause and truly appreciate that we as members of the church have the freedom to worship in peace and quietude ... We take this for granted we can worship in peace anywhere anytime. They could truly appreciate it because they had actually been persecuted .

#### Commentary 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph

.. Brother Kimball could not refrain from speaking in fervent terms of the good spirit that was manifested through the thousands of cheerful countenances that were uplifted in the settlements to greet us as we passed along. This and numerous other indications and manifestation in their cordial greeting, bespeak a great improvement in the MORAL AND PHYSICAL condition of the people..... What do our countenance look like?

---cheerful countenances, uplifted

---numerous other indications and manifestations...cordial greeting..

---moral and physical condition of the people... I wonder what Brigham Young would say of US now??

HERE IT IS THE WHY they were commendable.. and he could discern it

I am sensible of the increase of the knowledge and Spirit of God within myself.

Whoever enjoys the light of truth and has so lived as to increase the Spirit of truth within himself can testify to the working of that Spirit upon the hearts, the understanding and works of the Saints generally...I can easily realize the increase of the same Spirit in my brethren.

TPJS P308...

You will always discover in the first glance of a man, in the outlines of his features something of his mind...

Their hearts were manifest in their faces !!!

#### COMMENTARY 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph

Speaking comforting and encouraging words.

TPJS P135

Those who have not been enclosed in the walls of prison without cause or provocation, can have but little idea how sweet the voice of a friend is; one token of friendship from any source whatever awakens and calls into action every sympathetic feeling; it brings up in an instant everything that has passed; it seizes the present with the avidity of lightning, it grasps after the future with the fierceness of a tiger; it moves the mind backward and forward, from one thing to another, until finally all enmity, malice and hatred, and past differences, misunderstandings and

mismanagements are slain victorious at the feet of hope; and when the heart is sufficiently contrite then the voice of inspiration steals along and whispers.

Commentary 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph

As people increase in the knowledge of God and godliness their joy will increase though some seem to think that knowledge does not produce joy peace and glory.

. So far as my experience has taught me, the knowledge of God possessed by persons of good understanding give great satisfaction and joy, not only under ordinary circumstances but far more in the midst of DEEPEST AFFLICTION.

As a people advance in the knowledge of God, joy will increase with them, and whether in bonds or free, they can behold the goodness, the mercy and the long-suffering of God to the workmanship of his hands. If we could understand ourselves, our own organizations, the great plan of the heavens, and the attributes with which we are endowed, exercising them to accomplish the purpose for which they were placed within us, WE COULD BE CONSTANTLY HAPPY IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE AND UNDER EVERY PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN WHICH WE MAY BE PLACED.

TPJS P315

What is the secret—the starting point? According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. How did he obtain all things? Through the knowledge of Him who hath called him. There could not anything be given, pertaining to life and godliness, without knowledge....

TPJS P315

The Lord deals with this people as a tender parent with a child, communicating light and intelligence and the knowledge of his ways as they can bear it.

Commentary 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph

..teachings of the Heavens to men on earth have, I may say, a certain amount of sameness, varying as the providence of God vary. He instructs people according to their circumstances, locations, wants and dispensations in which they live ...We have taught them how to build up a literal kingdom of God here upon earth.

--1<sup>st</sup> principles of the Gospel have been taught

---ordinances administered

---taught to gather to Zion where they might be instructed how to live one with another without sinning, how to overcome every evil propensity in their nature, ... how to rise in the morning how to take care of and sustain their bodies through the day, how to feel one towards another and towards their God, not to bring heaven down, not to unveil the beauties and the glories of the upper world, not to unveil the face of Him who sits upon the throne, whose face we could not behold in our present state and live...but to make heaven here by 1. Teaching the husband how to live and deal with his wife or wives, with his sons and with his daughters by teaching the wife how to live and treat her husband and her children, and the husband, wife and children how to live with their neighbors

WHY... That all anger and malice and all sin may be overcome by the people and never again gain mastery over them..

### THIS IS CELESTIAL LAW

These are the mysteries that belong to the kingdom of God upon the earth.

TPJS P103

...It is not necessary that God should give us all things in His first commission to us, but in His second. John saw the angel deliver the Gospel in the last days. The small lights that God has given are sufficient to lead us out of Babylon; when we get out, we shall have the greater light.

TPJS P49

We consider that God has created man with a mind capable of instruction, and a faculty which may be enlarged in proportion to the heed and diligence given to the light communicated from heaven to the intellect; and that the nearer man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views, and the greater his enjoyments, till he has overcome the evils of his life and lost every desire for sin; and like the ancients, arrives at that point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker and is caught up to dwell with Him. But we consider that this is a station to which no man ever arrived in a moment; he must have been instructed in the government and laws of that kingdom by proper degrees, until his mind is capable in some measure of comprehending the propriety, justice, equality, and consistency of the same. For further instruction we refer you to Deut 32, where the Lord says, that Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste, howling wilderness. He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye, etc.; which will show the force of the last item advanced, that it is necessary for me to receive and understanding concerning the laws of the heavenly kingdom, before they are permitted to enter it; we mean the celestial glory. So dissimilar are the governments of men, and so diverse are their laws, from the government and laws of heaven, that a man, for instance, hearing that there was a country on this globe called the United States of North America, could take his journey to this place without first learning the laws of governments; but the conditions of God's Kingdom are such, that all who are made partakers of that glory, are under the necessity of learning something respecting it previous to their entering into it. But the foreigner can come to this country without knowing a syllable of its laws, or even subscribing to obey them after he arrives. Why? Because the government of the United States does not require it: it only requires and obedience to its laws after the individual has arrived within its jurisdiction.

**Micah's Thoughts:** The first thing I want to draw attention to is President Brigham's teaching that knowledge had increased through the Spirit of the Lord and that himself and Kimball had expressed "thankfulness because of the improvement *visible* among the Latter-day Saints." Once again I want to draw people's attention back to what Joseph Smith Jr. taught on the subject of the Holy Ghost and "physical changes upon the body"

### The Two Comforters

There are two Comforters spoken of. One is the Holy Ghost, the same as given on the day of Pentecost, and that all Saints receive after faith, repentance, and baptism. This first Comforter or

Holy Ghost has no other effect than pure intelligence. It is more powerful in expanding the mind, enlightening the understanding, and storing the intellect with present knowledge, of a man who is of the literal seed of Abraham, than one that is a Gentile, though it may not have half as much visible effect upon the body; for as the Holy Ghost falls upon one of the literal seed of Abraham, it is calm and serene; and his whole soul and body are only exercised by the pure spirit of intelligence; while the effect of the Holy Ghost upon a Gentile, is to purge out the old blood, and make him actually of the seed of Abraham. That man that has none of the blood of Abraham (naturally) must have a new creation by the Holy Ghost. In such a case, *there may be more of a powerful effect upon the body, and visible to the eye*, than upon an Israelite, while the Israelite at first might be far before the Gentile in pure intelligence. (TPJS 149-50)

These men sat at the feet of the Prophet Joseph Smith Jr, they knew what they were saying when they spoke of the power of the Spirit, knowledge, intelligence, and seeing “visible changes” in the people...

The second thing I want to point out is this absolutely golden quote, with the center or focal point being “...though some seem to think that knowledge does not produce joy, peace, and glory.” This is a topic/question that seems to cycle in my life (starting well before I ever “went online”) in which every 4-6 months someone will ask me “what is the point about studying [insert doctrines here]? All I need to do is read a scripture a day, go to church, pay my tithing, go to the temple, etc. and I will be exalted and have glory added upon my head forever and ever!” Oh thou fool! The glory of God *is* intelligence, and when we say “we have enough” the Lord will take away even that which we have! A couple of other quotes I like dealing with this subject:

**Joseph Smith Jr (TPJS 238)**

"If the people departed from the Lord, they must fall—that they were depending on the Prophet, hence were darkened in their minds, in consequence of neglecting the duties devolving upon themselves, envious towards the innocent, while they afflict the virtuous with their shafts of envy."

**Hugh Nibley (Approaching Zion Chapter 9)**

Q. But weren't Brothers Joseph, Brigham, Taylor, Woodruff, Snow, and so on, looking beyond the mark? Aren't such things out of range of our feeble vision and even more beyond our capacity, best left for the present out of sight and out of mind? Shouldn't we keep within the safe and familiar boundaries of the world as we know it, the real world?

A. That, dear brethren, is the condition known as being damned. Do you want to settle for that?

“If some tended to think that way” in Brigham Young’s time, the overwhelming majority of “Saints” feel that way now...

**Hugh Nibley (“Nibley Talks about Contemporary Issues,” 13)**

"My sense of urgency comes from the fact that I spend all my days now with the scriptures. And the two marks of the Church I see are and have been for a long time these: a reverence for wealth and a contempt for the scriptures. Naturally, the two go hand in hand. We should call attention to the fact that these things we are doing are against the work of the Lord. There is one saying of Joseph Smith I think of quite often: “If the heavens seem silent at a time when we desperately need revelation, it is because of covetousness in the Church. God has often sealed up the heavens

because of covetousness.” And now the Church isn’t just shot through with covetousness, it is saturated with covetousness. And so the heavens are going to be closed. We’re told we don’t get revelation if we put our trust in money in the bank.”

## Section II

Tradition has taught us that the great purpose of religion is to prepare people to die; that when they have passed through a change of heart, become converted, then they are ready for glory at any moment and to dwell with the Father and the Son in the heavens to all eternity. This is a mistake; for *they have to improve, become substantially changed from bad to good, from sin to holiness, here or somewhere else, before they are prepared for the society they anticipate enjoying.* They would not be nearly so well prepared for the society of the sanctified in heaven as a person brought up in the lowest classes of society would be prepared to properly present and conduct himself among the highest and most polished grades of mankind. Those who are counted worthy to dwell with the Father and the Son *have previously received an education fitting them for that society;* they have been made fully acquainted with every password, token, and sign which have enabled them to pass by the porters through the doors into the celestial kingdom. We have been traditioned to think that to rise up and speak in a meeting is to bear the cross of Christ. How often we have been exhorted to take up our cross by telling our experience before our brethren? This is but a small part of the experience and labor of the faithful Saint. I will prove you and try you, saith the Lord, by placing you in the most abject circumstances you can be placed in; I will surround you with your enemies, expose you to their derisive laugh, to the finger of scorn and to the hatred of the wicked, then will I see whether you will acknowledge me and bear your cross manfully. *All this and more has to be taught the people in Zion. They must learn there how to sanctify themselves and become steadfast in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We have taught the brethren, during our southern trip, what pertains to their everyday life, just as we teach you. We want all the Latter-day Saints to understand how to build up Zion. The City of Zion, in beauty and magnificence, will outstrip anything that is now known upon the earth. The curse will be taken from the earth and sin and corruption will be swept from its face. Who will do this great work? Is the Lord coming here to convert the people, and then drown the whole of them as the Catholic priest served the Jew? No. Is he going to convince the people that he will redeem the Center Stake of Zion, beautify it and then place them there without any exertion on their part? No. He will not come here to build a Temple, a Tabernacle, a Bowery, or to set out fruit trees, make aprons of fig leaves or coats of skins, or work in brass and iron, for we already know how to do these things. He will not come here to teach us how to raise and manufacture cotton, how to make hand cards, how to card, how to make spinning machines, looms, &c., &c. *We have to build up Zion, if we do our duty.*

In the first place, we have to become sanctified; and I may here say that our views of sanctification differ very much from the views held by some of the popular sects of the day, for they think that sanctification consists in shutting the door and securely bolting it against fulfilling the first commandment that God gave to our first parents. *I will put my own definition to the term sanctification, and say it consists in overcoming every sin and bringing all into subjection to the law of Christ.* God has placed in us a pure spirit; when this reigns predominant, without let or

hindrance, and triumphs over the flesh and rules and governs and controls as the Lord controls the heavens and the earth, this I call the blessing of sanctification. Will sin be perfectly destroyed? No, it will not, for it is not so designed in the economy of Heaven.

All the Lord has called us to do is to renovate our own hearts, then our families, extending the principles to neighborhoods, to the earth we occupy, and so continue until we drive the power of Satan from the earth and Satan to his own place. That is the work Jesus is engaged in, and we will be co-workers with him. Do not suppose that we shall ever in the flesh be free from temptations to sin. Some suppose that they can in the flesh be sanctified body and spirit and become so pure that they will never again feel the effects of the power of the adversary of truth. Were it possible for a person to attain to this degree of perfection in the flesh, he could not die neither remain in a world where sin predominates. Sin has entered into the world, and death by sin. I think we shall more or less feel the effects of sin so long as we live, and finally have to pass the ordeals of death. Do not understand that in the flesh we shall ever overcome the power of sin to such a degree that we shall never taste death. I do not look for any such thing, though what we call death, or laying down this body, is only the door to a higher state of life for the faithful. If we live our religion it will enable us to so overcome sin that it will not reign in our mortal bodies but will become subject to us, and the world and its fulness will become our servant instead of our master. Those who list to obey sin are the servants of sin. We should never list to obey that which corrupts, for in so doing we become servants to corruption. We should so live as to make the world and all its natural blessings subservient to our reasonable wants and holy desires.

The Latter-day Saints are improving, and I am rejoiced; my heart is filled with joy on this account. Do they improve in building? Not as much as they should. Do they improve by manufacturing the things they need to wear? Not as much as they should. Do they improve in educating their children? Not as much as they should. But they improve in their faith and in their love one to another; they improve in the light of the holy Gospel. The people are generally improving in these respects, and we are glad of it.

Great Salt Lake City is the first established city in the mountains, and we look for more improvement in the spirit of the people here than in any other settlement. The Lord expects this place to advance faster than any other place among all the settlements of the Latter-day Saints. Do we know how to rise in the morning? Do we leave our couches in the morning with anger in our hearts? Do we feel disconsolate, afflicted and oppressed by the Adversary? We can get rid of all this by going down upon our knees and praying until we overcome that feeling of discontent and misery and become kind to our companions and offspring, to the inmates of our habitation, to our flocks and herds, to our neighbors and to every creature God has made. We may say that our work drives us and that we have not time to pray, hardly time to eat our breakfasts. Then let the breakfasts go, and pray; get down upon our knees and pray until we are filled with the Spirit of peace. I may say, my wife is hurrying me and I feel out of sorts; perhaps I have not had very pleasant dreams, have thought somebody was abusing me or got angry with somebody in my sleep, and I rise in the morning tired and feeling unpleasant with myself and everybody around me: while the Elder who has dreamed of preaching the Gospel to the nations, of building up Zion and laboring for the Gospel all night in his mind and feelings, being filled with the Holy Ghost, rejoices in his sleep; his slumbers are sweet to him and he rises in the morning filled with the good Spirit, and with him it is, "God bless you wife, God bless you my children." He feels to bless his house and his gardens, his orchards, his flocks and his herds, and everything looks pleasant to him and he rejoices exceedingly in the works of God's hands. He cherishes no malice,



no anger; the spirit of the enemy has no place in him. How happy is such a person when compared with the man who is constantly laboring to amass gold and property, making this his only end and aim. How the Devil will play with a man who so worships gain.

### **Kelly and Ryan's Thoughts:**

**Tradition has taught us that the great purpose of religion is to prepare people to die; that when they have passed through a change of heart, become converted, then they are ready for glory at any moment and to dwell with the Father and the Son in the heavens to all eternity.** This is very true, frequently we hear the phrase endure to the end. I don't want to endure to the end, I want to change every day for the better and become closer to living celestial law. Our eternal reward and glory is with our Heavenly Father but there are so many blessings and miracles we can experience **here in THIS life.**

JD 19:258, Joseph F. Smith, Age of Visitation and Revelation, Etc.

God has given laws to govern all his works, and especially has he given laws to govern his people, who are his sons and daughters. We have come to sojourn in the flesh, to obtain tabernacles for our immortal spirits; or in other words, we have come for the purpose of accomplishing a work like that which was accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The object of our earthly existence is that we may have a fullness of joy, and that we may become the sons and daughters of God, Mosiah 27:25 D&C 25:1 D&C 76:24 D&C 76:58 in the fullest sense of the word, being heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, Rom. 8:17 to be kings and priests unto God, Rev. 1:6 to inherit glory, dominion, exaltation, thrones, and every power and attribute developed and possessed by our heavenly Father. D&C 132:19

This is the object of our being on this earth. In order to attain unto this exalted position, it is necessary that we go through this mortal experience, or probation, by which we may prove ourselves worthy, through the aid of our older brother, Jesus. The spirit without the body is not perfect, it is not capacitated, without [p. 260a ]the body, to possess a fullness of the glory of God, and, therefore, it cannot, without the body, fulfil its destiny. D&C 93:33-34

We are foreordained to become conformed to the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ; Rom. 8:29 and in order that we may become like unto him, we must follow in his footsteps, even until we sanctify ourselves by the law of truth and righteousness. This is the law of the celestial kingdom; and when we die, its power will bring us forth in the morning of the first resurrection, clothed with glory, immortality, and eternal lives. Unless we do keep the law that God has given unto us in the flesh, which we have the privilege of receiving and understanding, we cannot be quickened by its glory, neither can we receive the fullness thereof and the exaltation of the celestial kingdom.

This is a mistake; for they have to improve, become substantially changed from bad to good, from sin to holiness, here or somewhere else, before they are prepared for the society they anticipate enjoying. They would not be nearly so well prepared for the society of the sanctified in heaven as a person brought up in the lowest classes of society would be prepared to properly present and conduct himself among the highest and most polished grades of mankind. **Those who are counted worthy to dwell with the Father and the Son have previously received an education fitting them for that society; they have been made fully acquainted with every**

**password, token, and sign which have enabled them to pass by the porters through the doors into the celestial kingdom.**

Continuing with Joseph F Smith: “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.” D&C 130:20-21

We must, therefore, learn the laws of heaven, which are the laws of the Gospel, live and obey them with all our hearts, and in faith abide in them, perfecting ourselves thereby, in order to receive the fulness of the glory of that kingdom.

I make these remarks, not to the departed, but to the living—to you as well as myself, who still tarry in the flesh, to battle with the weaknesses and infirmities of human nature, who have yet to learn by experience, **that we may be instructed in the things necessary to know, in order that our course here may secure unto us the greatest reward in the presence of our Father and God.**

We have been traditioned to think that to rise up and speak in a meeting is to bear the cross of Christ. How often we have been exhorted to take up our cross by telling our experience before our brethren? This is but a small part of the experience and labor of the faithful Saint. I will prove you and try you, saith the Lord, by placing you in the most abject circumstances you can be placed in; I will surround you with your enemies, expose you to their derisive laugh, to the finger of scorn and to the hatred of the wicked, then will I see whether you will acknowledge me and bear your cross manfully. **All this and more has to be taught the people in Zion. They must learn there how to sanctify themselves and become steadfast in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

[I love the word steadfast. What does it mean to be steadfast in the FAITH of our Lord Jesus Christ? Why is that a requirement for Zion?](#)

Continuing with Joseph F Smith: But when greater light comes, and I have the privilege to make myself possessor of it, I could not remain satisfied with the lesser. We could never be satisfied nor happy hereafter, unless we receive a fulness of the light and blessings prepared for the righteous. This, in part, will constitute the misery, sorrow and anguish of the condemned—those who reject the truth when it is offered to them, for their eyes will be opened to behold, in part, the greater light, exaltation and joy which they might have attained unto, but which is irretrievably lost to them, because of their disobedience and wrong doings.

Then I say we cannot be satisfied with **anything short of a complete salvation in the kingdom of God**, our joy cannot be full unless we obtain a fullness of knowledge. Hence I am not satisfied with the Bible, the “Book of Mormon,” nor the “Doctrine and Covenants.” All these three are not sufficient for me, for the reason that greater privileges have been revealed to man, and they are [p. 263a]**within the reach of all that live upon the earth.** Therefore, I could not rest satisfied with myself until I had fully availed myself of my privileges.

**It is given to us to know these things for ourselves.** God has said he will show these things unto us; and for this purpose the Holy Ghost has been imparted to all who are entitled to it through submission, which bears record of the Father and the Son, D&C 20:27 and also takes of the things of God and shows them unto man. John 16:13-15 Convictions that we may previously

have had respecting the truth the Holy Ghost confirms, giving us a positive assurance of their correctness, and through it **we obtain a personal knowledge, not as one that has been told, but as one that has seen, felt, heard, and that knows for himself.**

We have taught the brethren, during our southern trip, what pertains to their everyday life, just as we teach you. We want all the Latter-day Saints to understand how to build up Zion. The City of Zion, in beauty and magnificence, will outstrip anything that is now known upon the earth. The curse will be taken from the earth and sin and corruption will be swept from its face. Who will do this great work? Is the Lord coming here to convert the people, and then drown the whole of them as the Catholic priest served the Jew? No. Is he going to convince the people that he will redeem the Center Stake of Zion, beautify it and then place them there without any exertion on their part? No. He will not come here to build a Temple, a Tabernacle, a Bowery, or to set out fruit trees, make aprons of fig leaves or coats of skins, or work in brass and iron, for we already know how to do these things. He will not come here to teach us how to raise and manufacture cotton, how to make hand cards, how to card, how to make spinning machines, looms, &c., &c. We have to build up Zion, if we do our duty.

In the first place, we have to become sanctified; and I may here say that our views of sanctification differ very much from the views held by some of the popular sects of the day, for they think that sanctification consists in shutting the door and securely bolting it against fulfilling the first commandment that God gave to our first parents. I will put my own definition to the term sanctification, and say it consists in overcoming every sin and bringing all into subjection to the law of Christ. God has placed in us a pure spirit; when this reigns predominant, without let or hindrance, and triumphs over the flesh and rules and governs and controls as the Lord controls the heavens and the earth, this I call the blessing of sanctification. Will sin be perfectly destroyed? No, it will not, for it is not so designed in the economy of Heaven.

All the Lord has called us to do is **to renovate our own hearts, then our families, extending the principles to neighborhoods, to the earth we occupy, and so continue until we drive the power of Satan from the earth and Satan to his own place.** That is the work Jesus is engaged in, and we will be co-workers with him. Do not suppose that we shall ever in the flesh be free from temptations to sin. Some suppose that they can in the flesh be sanctified body and spirit and become so pure that they will never again feel the effects of the power of the adversary of truth. Were it possible for a person to attain to this degree of perfection in the flesh, he could not die neither remain in a world where sin predominates. Sin has entered into the world, and death by sin. I think we shall more or less feel the effects of sin so long as we live, and finally have to pass the ordeals of death. Do not understand that in the flesh we shall ever overcome the power of sin to such a degree that we shall never taste death. I do not look for any such thing, though what we call death, or laying down this body, is only the door to a higher state of life for the faithful. **If we live our religion it will enable us to so overcome sin that it will not reign in our mortal bodies but will become subject to us, and the world and its fulness will become our servant instead of our master.** Those who list to obey sin are the servants of sin. We should never list to obey that which corrupts, for in so doing we become servants to corruption. We should so live as to make the world and all its natural blessings subservient to our reasonable wants and holy desires.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 298 Calling and Election

Now, there is some grand secret here, and keys to unlock the subject. Notwithstanding the apostle exhorts them to add to their faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, etc., yet he exhorts them to make their calling and election sure. And though they had heard an audible voice from heaven bearing testimony that Jesus was the Son of God, yet he says we have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light shining in a dark place. Now, **wherein could they have a more sure word of prophecy** than to hear the voice of God saying, This is my beloved Son.

Now for the secret and grand key. Though they might hear the voice of God and know that Jesus was the Son of God, this would be no evidence that their election and calling was made sure, that they had part with Christ, and were joint heirs with Him. They then would want that more sure word of prophecy, that they were sealed in the heavens and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Then, having this promise sealed unto them, it was an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast. Though the thunders might roll and lightnings flash, and earthquakes bellow, and war gather thick around, yet this hope and knowledge would support the soul in every hour of trial, trouble and tribulation. Then knowledge through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the grand key that unlocks the glories and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

The Latter-day Saints are improving, and I am rejoiced; my heart is filled with joy on this account. Do they improve in building? Not as much as they should. Do they improve by manufacturing the things they need to wear? Not as much as they should. Do they improve in educating their children? Not as much as they should. But they improve in their faith and in their love one to another; they improve in the light of the holy Gospel. The people are generally improving in these respects, and we are glad of it.

Great Salt Lake City is the first established city in the mountains, and we look for more improvement in the spirit of the people here than in any other settlement. **The Lord expects this place to advance faster than any other place among all the settlements of the Latter-day Saints.** Do we know how to rise in the morning? Do we leave our couches in the morning with anger in our hearts? Do we feel disconsolate, afflicted and oppressed by the Adversary? We can get rid of all this by going down upon our knees and praying until we overcome that feeling of discontent and misery and become kind to our companions and offspring, to the inmates of our habitation, to our flocks and herds, to our neighbors and to every creature God has made. We may say that our work drives us and that we have not time to pray, hardly time to eat our breakfasts. Then let the breakfasts go, and pray; get down upon our knees and pray until we are filled with the Spirit of peace. I may say, my wife is hurrying me and I feel out of sorts; perhaps I have not had very pleasant dreams, have thought somebody was abusing me or got angry with somebody in my sleep, and I rise in the morning tired and feeling unpleasant with myself and everybody around me: **while the Elder who has dreamed of preaching the Gospel to the nations, of building up Zion and laboring for the Gospel all night in his mind and feelings, being filled with the Holy Ghost, rejoices in his sleep; his slumbers are sweet to him and he rises in the morning filled with the good Spirit, and with him it is, "God bless you wife, God bless you my children." He feels to bless his house and his gardens, his orchards, his flocks and his herds, and everything looks pleasant to him and he rejoices exceedingly in the works of God's hands. He cherishes no malice, no anger; the spirit of the enemy has no place in him. How happy is such a person when compared with the man who is constantly laboring to amass gold and property, making this his only end and aim. How the Devil will play with a man who so worships gain.**

The comforting Spirit of the Holy Ghost can abide with **us twenty-four hours a day**: when we work, when we play, when we rest. Its strengthening influence can be with us year in and year out. That sustaining influence can be with us in joy and sorrow, when we rejoice as well as when we grieve.

I believe the Spirit of the Holy Ghost is the greatest guarantor of inward peace in our unstable world. It can be more mind-expanding and can make us have a better sense of well-being than any chemical or other earthly substance. It will calm nerves; it will breathe peace to our souls. This Comforter can be with us as we seek to improve. It can function as a source of revelation to warn us of impending danger and also help keep us from making mistakes. It can enhance our natural senses so that we can see more clearly, hear more keenly, and remember what we should remember. It is a way of maximizing our happiness.

The Spirit—the Holy Ghost—will help us work out our insecurities. For instance, it can help us learn to forgive. There comes a time when people must move on, seeking greater things rather than being consumed by the memory of some hurt or injustice. Dwelling constantly on past injuries is, by its nature, limiting to the Spirit. It does not promote peace.

The Holy Ghost will also help us solve crises of faith. The Spirit of the Holy Ghost can be a confirming witness, testifying of heavenly things. Through that Spirit, a strong knowledge distills in one's mind, and one feels all doubt or questions disappear.

In simple terms, the gift of the Holy Ghost is an enhanced spiritual power permitting those entitled thereto to receive it, to receive a greater knowledge and enjoyment of the influence of Deity.

In the marvelous experience of Brigham Young in February of 1847, when the Prophet Joseph appeared to him in a dream or vision, Brigham pleaded to be reunited with the Prophet. Brigham Young asked the Prophet if he had a message for the Brethren.

The Prophet said:

“Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and to be sure to keep the spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. **Be careful and not turn away the still small voice**; it will teach them what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the Brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the Holy Ghost comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it.”

The Prophet further directed Brigham Young as follows: **“They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God.”** (Manuscript History of Brigham Young: 1846–47, Historical Dept., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, pp. 528–31.)

I pray that the promise of the Lord will be fulfilled for each of us, that “the Holy Ghost shall be [our] constant companion, and [our] scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth;

and [our] dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto [us] forever and ever.” D&C 121:46 In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Micah’s Thoughts:** The first paragraph is great- a reminder that this is the time to prepare to meet God, that we simply don’t walk into Zion the New Jerusalem and are fit to live there by the waving of some magical wand- we have to do the work now, we have to personally sanctify ourselves now. Most of that sanctification, once again, comes through education and intelligence that is coupled with repentance and obedience to the new truths we obtain- line upon line- and when we say “we have enough”, that which we previously obtained will be taken away per Jesus Christ:

## 2 Nephi 28

24 Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion!

25 Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well!

26 Yea, wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost!

27 Yea, wo be unto him that saith: We have received, and we need no more!

28 And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God! For behold, he that is built upon the rock receiveth it with gladness; and he that is built upon a sandy foundation trembleth lest he shall fall.

29 Wo be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!

30 For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

Next President Brigham Young gives one of the staple quotes with regards to Zion the New Jerusalem, totally gold, would highly recommend everyone getting that quote and posting it on your fridge, hahaha! Nothing I can add to that quote, it is perfect...

The next thing he goes over is his definition of personal sanctification which is simply put “self-mastery”. He places this as the first thing we must do in preparing to redeem and build Zion. This reminded me of a talk by President Spencer W. Kimball (April 1978 General Conference) *"May I suggest three fundamental things we must do if we are to 'bring again Zion,' three things for which we who labor for Zion must commit ourselves.*

*"First, we must eliminate the individual tendency to selfishness that snares the soul, shrinks the heart, and darkens the mind.*

*"Second, we must cooperate completely and work in harmony one with the other. There must be unanimity in our decisions and unity in our actions. After pleading with the Saints to “let every man esteem his brother as himself” (D&C 38:24), the Lord concludes his instructions on cooperation to a conference of the membership in these powerful words:*

*'Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.'* (D&C 38:27.)

*"If the Spirit of the Lord is to magnify our labors, then this spirit of oneness and cooperation must be the prevailing spirit in all that we do. Moreover, when we do so, we are told by the Prophet Joseph Smith that 'the greatest temporal and spiritual blessings which always come from faithfulness and concentrated effort, never attended individual exertion or enterprise.'* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 183.)

*"Third, we must lay on the altar and sacrifice whatever is required by the Lord. We begin by offering a 'broken heart and a contrite spirit.' We follow this by giving our best effort in our assigned fields of labor and callings. We learn our duty and execute it fully. Finally we consecrate our time, talents and means as called upon by our file leaders and as prompted by the whisperings of the Spirit."*

President Young gives us a great understanding of the growth and focus of Zion from the individual, to the family, to a global community. This is one such global community, and I thank God for being a part of it in this crucial time period in the history of this temporal existence.

President Young then breaks into yet another golden quote in this talk, explaining the difference between the Light of Christ and the Holy Ghost, for those with ears to hear, and says that the Saints are slow to learn and understand the things of the Holy Ghost but are expanding via the Light of Christ- oh... how things have not changed but have only expanded in scope because we are stiff-necked people slow to hear and obey...

Young then gives a great bit of insight- when we are claiming to not have time for personal sanctification, Zion, etc. because we "barely have time to eat!" that we should then "not eat"... I love this uncompromised zeal and putter down of excuses...

President Young finishes this section off with yet another gold quote that should ring true in a lot of listener's hearts who have experienced "second mission dreams"... There is a different spirit in those who aim it is to build up Zion, to preach the Gospel of Peace, to gather people in and unto the New Jerusalem on their shoulders with songs of everlasting joy vs the individual focused on building compounds, "surviving the day", the gain- priestcraft... Oh how Satan will play with such a man!

## Section III

Let me say to the brethren and sisters, when you are chastened by any of your leaders, never consider that the enemy does it, but receive it always as a kindness from the hand of a friend and not as from an enemy. If your Presidents were your enemies they would let you alone in your faults. If you are beloved of the Lord you will be chastened; receive it with joy.

We are in one of the strongholds of Zion; let us, therefore, so live that our days and nights will be pleasant unto us, and never spend an hour without the light of truth beaming upon our understandings. I ask my friends who are with me daily, I ask my family, "When do you see me out of sorts?" You say, "We do not expect to see you angry, brother Brigham; we do not expect

to see you anything but just right." If you expect to see me just right, why do you not try with a little more determination to become just right yourselves? How is it, my brethren and sisters? If I am expected of our Heavenly Father to live just right, is not the same expected of you? If I am are you not also in duty bound to so live as to enjoy the Spirit of truth, light and intelligence? Are you not under the same obligation to purify your hearts as I am? **If any of the First Presidency or the Twelve should speak an angry word, you consider it to be very much out of character, but are you any more privileged to speak angry words or to indulge in scolding at and quarreling with one another? The First Presidency have no such privilege, and if they have no such privilege why should you have?** Let each of us begin at home and train ourselves until we become masters of ourselves, gaining the victory over every passion, if we have to pray one-half of each day until the Spirit of truth reigns within our hearts.

Some think that they should not, if they feel evil in their hearts, at the same time appear to feel good—that they should not dissemble in the least. The Devil can quote Scripture in abundance against hypocrisy. If I did not show anger towards a brother when I felt it, I should be considered a hypocrite. The Devil says, do not dissemble, do not carry two faces, do not show a pleasant countenance when you at the same time feel angry in your heart. I say, suffer not anger to rise in your countenance, to speak through your eyes, nor through your organs of speech, and in this way keep it down until you are free from it, as you would any other evil. **To say that inward evil must outwardly be made manifest in order to escape the opprobrium of hypocrisy is a trick of the Devil to cheat men out of the blessings that are in store for them.** By the word hypocrisy I do not here mean a counterfeiting of religion or goodness to gain sordid ends, but to appear good and practice goodness contrary to the promptings of the evil one or the unregenerated impulses of the human heart. **If the Devil says you cannot pray when you are angry, tell him it is none of his business, and pray until that species of insanity is dispelled and serenity is restored to the mind.**

We are inhabitants of a world of sin and sorrow; pain and anguish, every ill that can be heaped upon intelligent beings in a probation we are heirs to. **I suppose that God never organized an earth and peopled it that was ever reduced to a lower state of darkness, sin and ignorance than this. I suppose this is one of the lowest kingdoms that ever the Lord Almighty created, and on that account is capable of becoming exalted to be one of the highest kingdoms that has ever had an exaltation in all the eternities. In proportion as it has been reduced so it will be exalted, with that portion of its inhabitants who in their humiliation have cleaved to righteousness and acknowledged God in all things. In proportion to our fall through sin, so shall we be exalted in the presence of our Father and God, through Jesus Christ and by living the righteousness of his Gospel. All this the people will understand in due time through their faithfulness, and learn to rejoice even in the midst of afflictions.**

We have taught the brethren south to raise flax and cotton and to put up machinery for manufacturing cloth. We have also taught them to live so as to ever be at peace and on the best of terms with each other. Two cases of difficulty, I think, were the only ones we were called upon to examine. As to High Council and Bishops' Courts, we have almost forgotten that any such courts exist. Why is this? **Because we are continually importuning the brethren to faithfully live their religion and not let a few dimes and dollars or a little mistake infringe upon the fellowship of one with another. Perhaps a neighbor's cow is in his garden, and he is angry with his neighbor, when, at the same time, that neighbor is as innocent as an angel. Nine hundred and ninety-nine cases of difficulty out of a thousand arise from circumstances not worthy of notice.**



There are but few persons *who really design to injure each other*. I do not believe there is one man or woman in a thousand, in this community, who designs to do wrong, though there are hundreds that do wrong, and some who do a great many wrongs, but they do not *design to do wrong*. They can truly say, with the Apostle Paul, "When I would do good, evil is present with me." Paul had been a very wicked man; he had done all he could to destroy the Church of God, and, consequently, was given over to the buffetings of Satan, so that when he would do good the Devil had such power over him that he had to keep up a continual warfare. Let us endeavor to do the good and leave undone the evil.

Some desire to do good all the time, still it seems that almost every act they perform results in evil; look upon such persons as they are, through eyes of mercy, and not measure them with your measure. If you are endowed with wisdom and understanding, if you escape the evil and do the good, thank God that you have knowledge, and do not condemn your brethren and sisters who are weaker than you are for falling into evil when they know no better. This is the teaching of the Spirit of the Lord all the day long.

When the books are opened, out of which the human family are to be judged, how disappointed the professedly sanctified, longfaced hypocrites and smooth-toned Pharisees will be, when the publicans and harlots enter into the kingdom of heaven before them; people that appeared to be full of evil, but the Lord says they never *designed to do wrong*; the Devil had power over them, and they suffered in their mortal state a thousand times more than you poor, miserable, canting, cheating, sniveling, hypocritical Pharisees; you were dressed in purple and fine linen, and bound burdens upon your weaker brethren that you would not so much as help to lift with your little fingers. Did you ever go without food, suffer with toothache, sore eyes, rheumatism, or the chills and fever? You have fared sumptuously all your days and you condemned to an everlasting hell these poor harlots and publicans who never designed an evil. Are you not guilty of committing an evil with that poor harlot? Yes, and you will be damned while she will be saved.

## Angie's Thoughts:

Black is the text. Orange are my words. Green is references.

Let me say to the brethren and sisters, when you are chastened by any of your leaders, never consider that the enemy does it, but receive it always as a kindness from the hand of a friend and not as from an enemy. If your Presidents were your enemies they would let you alone in your faults. If you are beloved of the Lord you will be chastened; receive it with joy.

"...receive it with joy". This is important to understand if we desire to allow the atonement to work in our lives. Brigham Young references D&C 95:

D&C 95

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love, and **whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven**, for with the chastisement **I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation**, and I have loved you—

2 Wherefore, ye must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face;

Footnote 1c (chastisement): Doctrine and Covenants 105

6 And my people must needs be chastened **until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.**

Footnote 1d (deliverance): 1 Corinthians 10

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; **but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

We can receive our chastisements with joy, because we are guided by a loving heavenly father that is kindly preparing a way for us to escape our natural man and come unto Christ.

We are in one of the strongholds of Zion; let us, therefore, so live that our days and nights will be pleasant unto us, and never spend an hour without the light of truth beaming upon our understandings.

“...never spend an hour without the light of truth beaming upon our understandings.” This reminds us of having a constant prayer in our heart and living in a manner where we are standing in holy places and have the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. Not only does sincere prayer keep that light of truth beaming upon our understandings, it is providing the strength we need to overcome temptations of the devil.

3 Nephi 18

15 Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye be led away captive by him.

18 Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

I ask my friends who are with me daily, I ask my family, "When do you see me out of sorts?" You say, "We do not expect to see you angry, brother Brigham; we do not expect to see you anything but just right." If you expect to see me just right, why do you not try with a little more determination to become just right yourselves? How is it, my brethren and sisters? If I am expected of our Heavenly Father to live just right, is not the same expected of you? If I am are you not also in duty bound to so live as to enjoy the Spirit of truth, light and intelligence? Are you not under the same obligation to purify your hearts as I am? If any of the First Presidency or the Twelve should speak an angry word, you consider it to be very much out of character, but are you any more privileged to speak angry words or to indulge in scolding at and quarreling with one another? **The First Presidency have no such privilege, and if they have no such privilege why should you have?** Let each of us begin at home and train ourselves until we become masters of ourselves, gaining the victory over every passion, if we have to pray one-half of each day until the Spirit of truth reigns within our hearts.

Brigham Young is teaching us that God is not a respecter of persons and we are all judged with the same laws, nobody is above the law here. He is communicating to those that seek any fault in these brethren which would invalidate them as prophets of God to fit their own view of how prophets SHOULD be. We just make the effort to make ourselves right just as much as the effort of others are in making themselves right in God's eyes. We put expectations on these men as if they are not experiencing the same temptations or living in the same world we are. "The First Presidency have no such privilege, and if they have no such privilege why should you

have?” We all need to be striving to be people worthy to redeem Zion and we won't bring ourselves forward about that path if we don't do as the Lord commands us. “Let each of us begin at home and train ourselves until we become masters of ourselves, gaining the victory over every passion, if we have to pray one-half of each day until the Spirit of truth reigns within our hearts.”

Some think that they should not, if they feel evil in their hearts, at the same time appear to feel good—that they should not dissemble in the least. The Devil can quote Scripture in abundance against hypocrisy. If I did not show anger towards a brother when I felt it, I should be considered a hypocrite. The Devil says, do not dissemble, do not carry two faces, do not show a pleasant countenance when you at the same time feel angry in your heart. **I say, suffer not anger to rise in your countenance, to speak through your eyes, nor through your organs of speech, and in this way keep it down until you are free from it, as you would any other evil. To say that inward evil must outwardly be made manifest in order to escape the opprobrium of hypocrisy is a trick of the Devil to cheat men out of the blessings that are in store for them.** By the word hypocrisy I do not here mean a counterfeiting of religion or goodness to gain sordid ends, but to appear good and practice goodness contrary to the promptings of the evil one or the unregenerated impulses of the human heart. **If the Devil says you cannot pray when you are angry, tell him it is none of his business, and pray until that species of insanity is dispelled and serenity is restored to the mind.**

We can catch ourselves in weakness and call out to our Father in heaven to give us strength to escape the evils of our natural man. Elder Bednar in his talk “Pray Always” in October 2008, he shared we can have that meaningful prayer as we “confer with the Lord in all our doings” from Alma:

Alma 37

37 Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and **he will direct thee for good**; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

“We are promised that if we pray sincerely for that which is right and good and in accordance with God's will, we can be blessed, protected, and directed.

Consider this example. There may be things in our character, in our behavior, or concerning our spiritual growth about which we need to counsel with Heavenly Father in morning prayer. After expressing appropriate thanks for blessings received, we plead for understanding, direction, and help to do the things we cannot do in our own strength alone.”

We understand that we can control our carnal emotions with the help of our loving God, as we recognise our nothingness and live up to the privilege we have to call ourselves to Him. And our thoughts will be directed unto the Lord.

To elaborate on Brigham Young saying “To say that inward evil must outwardly be made manifest in order to escape the opprobrium of hypocrisy is a trick of the Devil to cheat men out of the blessings that are in store for them.” We see that today in the world, it is seen that a constant anger is not something to be ashamed of and it's just a consequence from society's unfairness towards the victim and that their anger is justified. Well that may be true, if we desire true progression, we are not required to act out on our anger and use that as power, as that is the power of the devil. We would be blocking ourselves to receive the blessings of God that

increase our capacity to overcome the trials and unfairness of this world. It is indeed a trick when we give in to releasing the wrath of our natural man to get our way. The next time we feel bitterness towards anybody, we know that it will not be hypocrisy when we “pray until that species of insanity is dispelled and serenity is restored to the mind.”

We are inhabitants of a world of sin and sorrow; pain and anguish, every ill that can be heaped upon intelligent beings in a probation we are heirs to. I suppose that God never organized an earth and peopled it that was ever reduced to a lower state of darkness, sin and ignorance than this. I suppose this is one of the lowest kingdoms that ever the Lord Almighty created, and on that account is capable of becoming exalted to be one of the highest kingdoms that has ever had an exaltation in all the eternities. In proportion as it has been reduced so it will be exalted, with that portion of its inhabitants who in their humiliation have cleaved to righteousness and acknowledged God in all things. In proportion to our fall through sin, so shall we be exalted in the presence of our Father and God, through Jesus Christ and by living the righteousness of his Gospel. All this the people will understand in due time through their faithfulness, and learn to rejoice even in the midst of afflictions.

Brigham Young references here:

Moses 7

36 Wherefore, I can stretch forth mine hands and hold all the creations which I have made; and mine eye can pierce them also, and among all the workmanship of mine hands there has not been so great wickedness as among thy brethren.

We are living in a world that has been the most wicked from all of what God has created.

We have taught the brethren south to raise flax and cotton and to put up machinery for manufacturing cloth. We have also taught them to live so as to ever be at peace and on the best of terms with each other. Two cases of difficulty, I think, were the only ones we were called upon to examine. As to High Council and Bishops' Courts, we have almost forgotten that any such courts exist. Why is this? Because we are continually importuning (persistent harassment of someone to do something) the brethren to faithfully live their religion and not let a few dimes and dollars or a little mistake infringe upon the fellowship of one with another. Perhaps a neighbor's cow is in his garden, and he is angry with his neighbor, when, at the same time, that neighbor is as innocent as an angel. Nine hundred and ninety-nine cases of difficulty out of a thousand arise from circumstances not worthy of notice. There are but few persons who really design to injure each other. I do not believe there is one man or woman in a thousand, in this community, who designs to do wrong, though there are hundreds that do wrong, and some who do a great many wrongs, but they do not design to do wrong. They can truly say, with the Apostle Paul, (He mentions he found this law working actively during his life) "When I would do good, evil is present with me." Paul had been a very wicked man; he had done all he could to destroy the Church of God, and, consequently, was given over to the buffetings of Satan, so that when he would do good the Devil had such power over him that he had to keep up a continual warfare. Let us endeavor to do the good and leave undone the evil.

Brigham Young is explaining here about how we must treat our fellow brothers and sisters. Due to our mortal weaknesses, the adversary will make us trip sometimes despite our best efforts. It is those that seek to do evil and actively try to deceive within their communities that have quite the condemnation upon them. Of those that do wrong despite striving to do good, the attack on them by the adversary is stronger since he knows you're "falling out of line" and reaching

towards God instead of falling into the demands of the devil. We must keep that strong connection with the spirit to actively combat that evil and God is on our side.

### Matthew 23

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Despite our mistakes, we can repent and persistently seek to serve and grow so that we may dodge any evil that may arise in the future. This will be one of the ways we can continually work towards the purification of our souls. This connects with the beginning of the section where we must accept chastisement in order to improve both ourselves and help others improve.

“Surely no one would accuse the Savior of not loving these scribes and Pharisees—after all, He suffered and died to save them too. But loving them, He could not let them go on in sin without clearly correcting them. One observer noted, ‘Jesus taught his followers to do as he did: to welcome everyone but also to teach about sin, since love demands warning people about what can hurt them.’”

-D. Todd Christofferson 2017 A:108 “The Voice of Warning”

Some desire to do good all the time, still it seems that almost every act they perform results in evil; look upon such persons as they are, through eyes of mercy, and not measure them with your measure. “Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” **If you are endowed with wisdom and understanding, if you escape the evil and do the good, thank God that you have knowledge, and do not condemn your brethren and sisters who are weaker than you are for falling into evil when they know no better.** This is the teaching of the Spirit of the Lord all the day long.

This is a righteous judgment we can practice as we seek to maximize our feelings of love towards our brothers and sisters. If we recognise someone doing wrong in ignorance, we can exercise wisdom in not condemning them with a carnal hatred, but an understanding to serve them and if the spirit directs, we can serve them with directing them to where they can work on the betterment of their works. We’ve been blessed with the knowledge of the gospel and we have a responsibility to help spread this gospel of redeeming love.

When the books are opened, out of which the human family are to be judged, (Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”) how disappointed the professedly sanctified, longfaced hypocrites and smooth-toned Pharisees will be, when the publicans and harlots enter into the kingdom of heaven before them; people that appeared to be full of evil, but the Lord says they never designed to do wrong; the Devil had power over them, and they suffered in their mortal state a thousand times more than you poor, miserable, canting, cheating, sniveling, hypocritical Pharisees; you were dressed in purple and fine linen, and bound burdens upon your weaker brethren that you would not so much as help to lift with your little fingers. Did you ever go without food, suffer with toothache, sore eyes, rheumatism (disease), or the chills and fever? You have fared sumptuously (quite extravagantly) all your days and you condemned to an everlasting hell these poor harlots and publicans who never designed an evil. Are you not

guilty of committing an evil with that poor harlot? Yes, and you will be damned while she will be saved.

Here is Brigham Young using that chastening language for the prideful hypocrites of this world. Will they take his words to anger and “stone him” or take it with love and understanding that it is for their good? There are many in this world that do not know our savior and are born into places where there is no good taught to them. I know that every soul will be given a chance to hear the gospel and the good news of our Savior’s sacrifice. We must follow our prophet’s and what our loving God commands, so he may bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of our souls. And I know the power of prayer can keep the spirit with us as we navigate the stormy waters during these latter-days, that we may overcome all and become worthy to accept all the Lord wants to offer us. D&C 18:15 "And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!" In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Micah’s Thoughts:** President Young starts off this section with a perfect understanding and teaching of chastisement- if we love people we will warn them of danger, even if we know that might hurt their feelings or drive them further away. They might even use your love as a way to justify their false righteous anger against you- an anger which is nothing more than the petty anger and tantrums of adult man-babies. The Lord loveth whom he chastens, and so must we “spare not the rod” if we love. Many modern Latter-day Saints who see themselves as “educated in the church” are quick to bastardize the true meaning of “sharpness” found in Doctrine and Covenants 121, but I ask, who better understand what the original meaning and intent of the words better than the original Apostles and Prophets who surrounded Joseph Smith when the revelation was put ink to paper? Who better to understand the original meaning than Joseph Smith himself who taught these early Apostles and Prophets? If you want to understand what those words actually mean, stop listening to “self-proclaimed educated Saints” online and start reading the Journal of Discourses. Period.

The next thing he says here I absolutely love- if you expect me, a person in the spotlight, to behave a certain way, why do you justify yourself to be the same evil you won’t accept those in the spotlight to be? You too are under the same obligation! You think President Young, your Bishop, Micah, etc. to behave a certain way and then you justify yourself in being the same evil you have accepted into yourself the greater evil, for now you are the worst of sinner- a hypocrite sinner in open rebellion. Hold yourself to the same standards you hold others to... Man, has that been a problem with those Satan has riled up against me and how simple the solution- don’t hold me to a standard that you clearly are not living yourself and then crucify me for it... So simple a solution, once again, and yet “they looked beyond the mark”...

President Young then proceeds to give a correct understanding and teaching on hypocrisy and sin as though he had witnessed the last two years of my life... “To say that inward evil must outwardly be made manifest in order to escape the opprobrium of hypocrisy is a trick of the Devil to cheat men out of the blessings that are in store for them.”- how many times have I been accused of being hypocrite because of motivations I have never said and things I have never done but which they believe I should have voiced... If I am angry with my brother and I don’t voice that frustration, anger, and poison to him or anyone else I am not a hypocrite in the slightest- I am overcoming and subduing evil within myself. If however, I have openly

proclaimed to be just and fair with my brother and to hold no ill will towards him while secretly I am tearing him down in secret combinations and gossip chambers then yes, I have become de facto a hypocrite... If the Devil says you cannot pray when you are angry, that it is better to voice your bitter anger, tell him it is none of his business, and pray until that species of insanity is dispelled and serenity is restored to your mind. This group, Zion or Bust!, will understand in due time through their faithfulness of the truth of things, they have learned to rejoice even in the midst of afflictions, and I can testify that in proportion to that which we have been reduced so we will be exalted.

This topic feeds into a huge theme being taught for the rest of this entire section, which is “sins of rebellion vs sins of weakness”, or in other words “sins of intent vs sins of non-intent”, would to my Father above that I could get into the heads of Saints this crucial bit of doctrine, for I know it would save a generation. The worst sin someone can commit, is a sin of rebellion, a “sin of intent”... Looking at a fellow Saint one can, and does often, misjudge their actions and put motives onto their actions- this is done frequently so as to justify the individuals own sins and the spirit of the devil taking power in their being in “hating their brother”... If one is in a secret combination and/or gossip chamber and is spewing poison- that individual is in the act of a “sin of rebellion” or “sin of intent”, for their words are spoken with the intent to hurt someone, ergo individuals who unrighteously project motives onto others and then proceed to spew poison in secret combinations and/or gossip chamber have in fact entered into some of the most egregious sins one can commit in this life (sins of rebellion, sins of bearing false witness, sins of secret combinations) while the individual they are judging, who had no “intent to do evil”, will enter into heaven. How people will be shocked when these people enter into Zion without them, enter into the Kingdom of God without them... Most sins are not “sins of intent” as President Brigham Young taught, and so when you are clearly practicing “sins of intent” you should awake to the awfulness of your situation quickly, for if you don’t repent, “how disappointed you will be, when the publicans and harlots enter into the kingdom of heaven before you”...

This generation is full of people justifying outright sins of rebellion/intent, while tearing down people to the dust of the earth over sins of weakness such as pornography... Woe, woe, woe be unto us... May we view sins of weakness as the Lord does, always with mercy, compassion, etc. and may we view sins of rebellion/intent with contempt- may we shut down such gross sins when we see them, may we stand up for truth and defend the family, may we defend the sanctity of life... This is why “honesty/covenants” is the first topic we cover in The School of Joseph’s Boys (founded on Zion or Bust! Discord), for the “Why this topic is covered and covered first?” we have written:

*I can't stress this enough, that every time, every single time, in Branches, Wards, this group, everywhere, the pattern of contention and destruction of Zion communities from within happens exactly the same... this is true all the way back to Cain and Abel... Cain (people) have issues, and instead of going directly to Abel (or their "problem") and talking it out, they are DISHONEST and let things FESTER and then they start talking in dark rooms to Satan (and/or others in the room) about the people until finally they have been whipped into enough frenzy to go and do something really stupid, like kill Abel... it is the exact same pattern played out all over the place...*

*Which is why it is so important this topic is the first to cover and the first to pledge to... If we can't agree on this, this group, and EVERY OTHER "Zion group" will be destroyed from within by within... Only those so honest with themselves and others will be in The New Jerusalem, so let us learn to be and pledge to be so here!*

The secret combinations that damn the most of us are not the ones in power way above us, but the ones we enter into with "our friends", the ones where we swear oaths of secrecy in, the ones where if someone breaks that oath anger and threats follow, the ones where we are "intemperate and irreverent" in, the ones in which we seek only to "tear things down with no intent to build or replace what we are tearing down", the ones we simply call "gossip with friends"...

It is from such groups that every apostate LDS group springs and from which all those that sought to kill the prophets (including Joseph Smith) came from... It is silk around the neck, it is damning, they become chains...

## **2 Nephi 26:**

22 And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the founder of all these things; yea, the founder of murder, and works of darkness; yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever.

## **Section IV**

Let us look at our neighbors as they are, and not as we want them to be; let us learn enough to know what we are ourselves and what our brethren and sisters are, and learn the true designs of their hearts, and then judge them as God judges them and not according to outward appearance; then every contention will cease, every heart will beat high to build up Zion, and the follies and weaknesses of our neighbors we shall not think of.

We all know that we need material for clothing; then let us look out for it and not neglect the matter until we are found in a state of nudity, without the power to clothe ourselves. These are the mysteries of the kingdom of God upon the earth, to know how to purify and sanctify our affections, the earth upon which we stand, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the houses in which we dwell, and the cities which we build, that when strangers come into our country they may feel a hallowed influence and acknowledge a power to which they are strangers, "For all is dedicated to the Lord and consecrated to him, and the Spirit and power of God reigns there and the power of the enemy can find no place." When the people of the Saints have attained to this happy state, then will they say, "Give us more room to dwell," and they will never be driven from such ground. All hell may then give up the chase, for they never can drive the Saints from a spot that is hallowed by the faith of the Saints, through the medium of Jesus Christ by the power of the Father, for that place is dedicated and sanctified to him.

We are in possession of the valleys in the mountains, and the Lord has led us here. We have tried to be admitted into the family of States, but we are scarcely permitted to be a Territory. We are here, and they can do nothing against us. **They are not capable of afflicting this people, if we live our religion. Let every man and woman sanctify themselves and their possessions, dedicating all unto the Lord, then will we be driven? No, neither will our possessions be given to the kingdom of the Devil; they belong to God, and he will hold them for himself, and they will**



remain uncontaminated and we with them, *until we go back to build up the Center Stake of Zion.*

This season we called for five hundred teams to send for the poor; some of those teams came some four hundred miles and then started on the journey over the plains to bring in the poor. Suppose we should call for five thousand teams to go and build up the Center Stake of Zion and establish it that it shall never be thrown down, would they be forthcoming? They would, and when that time comes we shall leave a great many more in the mountains than are now here, and we shall see Zion rolling forth on the right and on the left, like the waves of the sea, which no earthly power can stem.

I will here mention the incident of two of our Elders, while on their way to the Sandwich Islands, being blown up and killed on a steamboat. It is all right. If you wish to know how I feel about them, I will say that the Lord took them while they were in the humor of trying to do good. I would not have given a red cent for all the good they would have done in the vineyard. It made me think of an anecdote I have already alluded to, concerning the Jew whom the Roman Catholic priest pushed under the ice while he professed belief in the Christian religion. God dictates all these matters, and will work out his designs in his own way. He will deal with the Latter-day Saints for their good and with our enemies for our good; and when a nation kills his Prophets he will deal with them accordingly: he will chasten them, as he is doing at this time.

I am for the kingdom of God. I like a good government, and then I like to have it wisely and justly administered. The government of heaven, if wickedly administered, would become one of the worst governments upon the face of the earth. No matter how good a government is, unless it is administered by righteous men, an evil government will be made of it. The Lord has his eye upon all the kingdoms and nations of men, with their kings, governors and rulers, and he will sink the wicked to misery and woe, and we cannot help it.

Let us be just, merciful, faithful and true, and let us live our religion, and *we shall be taught all things pertaining to the building up of Zion.* Let us train our minds until we delight in that which is good, lovely and holy, *seeking continually after that intelligence which will enable us effectually to build up Zion,* which consists in building houses, tabernacles, temples, streets, and every convenience necessary to embellish and beautify, seeking to do the will of the Lord all the days of our lives, *improving our minds in all scientific and mechanical knowledge, seeking diligently to understand the great design and plan of all created things, that we may know what to do with our lives and how to improve upon the facilities placed within our reach.*

This is as good an earth as need be, if we will make it so. The Lord has redeemed it, and it is his wish that his Saints should beautify and sanctify it and bring it back to the presence of the Father and Son yet more pure, more holy and more excellent than it was in its original state, with ourselves upon it.

It pleased me very much, when I returned home, to see a good many little boys learning to cut rock, thus doing good to their parents, themselves and the kingdom of God. Send on some more boys and put them in the joiner shops, or learn them to make shoes, harness and everything that will be useful and profitable. *Every Elder should have at least one trade, and if possible more than one, and still continue to learn and improve in a knowledge of the world and all things pertaining to it, learning how to better the condition of everything that exists—in particular of ourselves and those around us. Let the husband make an improvement upon his kitchen and*

pantry and upon his bedrooms for the benefit of his family, and improve his gardens, walks, &c., beautifying your habitations and their surroundings, making pavements and planting shade trees.

Cease lying, cease taking the name of God in vain, cease being dishonest with your employers, with one another and with your God, and the Lord will love and bless us. Let us learn our duties one toward another, the husband to the wife, the parents to their children, and the children to their parents, and let us all learn and practice our duties to God and his kingdom. God bless you: Amen.

**Micah's Thoughts:** I constantly get asked "where do you get the idea that Zion has to be there before certain events?" i.e. "by 2030 you'll own nothing and be happy" (which BTW, they now have said they are accelerating it pre 2030), well, here is one such quote in which Brigham Young tells us the church and its faithful members will have their homes and properties etc. until they Redeem Zion and start building the New Jerusalem. Once you understand the doctrine, once you understand "points of reference", you will begin to see points of reference and such quotes *everywhere*. Here is another such example dealing with the same subject:

### **Helaman 13**

18 And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord of Hosts, yea, our great and true God, that whoso shall hide up treasures in the earth shall find them again no more, because of the great curse of the land, save he be a righteous man and shall hide it up unto the Lord.

19 For I will, saith the Lord, that they shall hide up their treasures unto me; and cursed be they who hide not up their treasures unto me; for none hideth up their treasures unto me save it be the righteous; and he that hideth not up his treasures unto me, cursed is he, and also the treasure, and none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land.

20 And the day shall come that they shall hide up their treasures, because they have set their hearts upon riches; and because they have set their hearts upon their riches, and will hide up their treasures when they shall flee before their enemies; because they will not hide them up unto me, cursed be they and also their treasures; and in that day shall they be smitten, saith the Lord.

taken in conjunction with

### **Doctrine and Covenants 45:**

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

58 And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

59 For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.

63 Ye hear of wars in foreign lands; but, behold, I say unto you, they are nigh, even at your doors, and not many years hence ye shall hear of wars in your own lands.

65 ...with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you.

66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;

67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

68 And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.

69 And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.

Paint a clear macro last-day timeline for those with eyes to see and ears to hear!

Brothers and Sisters, let us be just, merciful, faithful and true, and let us live our religion; cease lying, cease taking the name of God in vain, cease being dishonest with your employers, with one another and with your God... As we do these things I know that we shall be taught all things pertaining to the building up of Zion. Let us train our minds until we delight in that which is good, lovely and holy, seeking continually after that intelligence which will enable us effectually to build up Zion and causes us to seek to do the will of the Lord all the days of our lives. May we continue improving our minds in all knowledge, seeking diligently to understand the great design and plan of all created things, that we may know what to do with our lives and how to improve upon the facilities placed within our reach, so as to qualify for the Redemption of Zion and the building of the New Jerusalem of our God is my prayer in Jesus' name, amen!