

# March 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 Fireside

**Topic:** *“And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done?”*

**1. Following satan, or satan’s tools/tactics are often subtle, referred to as ‘flaxen’, why? What are some tools or common tactics that satan will use when luring people carefully down to hell? How does “acting vs being acted upon” connect to this?**

## **1 Nephi 26: 20-22**

“And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; nevertheless, they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning, that they may *get gain and grind upon the face of the poor*. And there are many churches built up which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice. 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.”

## **2 Nephi 26:22. “He Leadeth Them by the Neck with a Flaxen Cord”**

- While serving in the Seventy, Elder Carlos E. Asay (1926–99) explained how a flaxen cord is made and becomes a yoke of unbreakable oppression: “The first wrongdoing is like a single strand of flaxen thread; it is easily broken and thrown aside. But each time the wrong is repeated another strand is intertwined around the first, and on and on it goes until an almost unbreakable cord of multi-strands is woven. ‘The chains of *habit*,’ said Samuel Johnson, ‘are too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken’” (*The Road to Somewhere: A Guide for Young Men and Women* [1994], 88).

## **1 Nephi 28: 20-21**

“For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good. And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.”

Satan’s tactic is that of telling people what they want to hear, soft gentle fluffy words that have

no teeth, or “call to repentance”, and which mimic, for they are counterfeit versions and not the authentic Light of Christ- these individuals never reach the Holy Ghost. Once satan gets people to do this enough a habit is formed which becomes harder and harder to break.

It becomes ironic and sad how good satan is in this regard and what he can get members to do. For example I heard the other day an individual in one breath teach correctly that “satan gets the members to teach things they want to hear vs the truth” and then apparently unaware of his own situation, this individual then proceeded to immediately turn around and teach a watered down, diluted, and false definition of priestcraft because it was not only what he wanted to hear, but also what those who listened to him wanted to hear. Satan carefully led him down to hell, so much so the individual knew the “how” of satan but failed to recognize the application of it on himself. Satan has power over “his own” and Christ has power over “His own” and the three biggest tactics satan will use to gain people, to steal their souls, to lead them carefully down to hell, have been, due to the grace of a loving Heavenly Father identified for us: Idolatry, Priestcraft, and Secret Combinations. Nephi in 2 Nephi 26 and 28 was not, I repeat, was not talking to anyone else, ANYONE else other than the saints- he identified by name “the saints” or “saints” multiple times. These three are and were to be the biggest three used against Saints in our day, the last days, the last dispensation, and “many would say in that day, eat drink and be merry, so what if we turn out to be wrong and what we were doing was actually priestcraft, so what, the Lord is forgiving, He is a merciful God, who will forgive us of our ignorance, sure he might beat us with a few strips but we will still be saved in the Kingdom of God!” Nephi warned these Saints, “Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines ... And the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.” I ask the question, which saints blood? Do we know what point in time, what point of reference Nephi is at in the timeline at this point? These are the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Saints that died on the plains, were tarred and feathered, martyred, these are the Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who taught seminary in Canada, and Brazil, and Europe, early morning totally for free in the few spare hours in the day that they had. In 1 Nephi 26 Nephi continues “they preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning, that they may get gain and *grind* upon the face of the poor.” This is the blood of the Saints that as Nephi described, have had their faces grinded upon by priestcraft. The blood of the early Saints that gave up their own china, their own possessions to build the temple of God, and then turned around and donated another 10% of all their time to build it up. Do you not know the situation you are in? Do you not know that the blood of these Saints does cry from the ground against us? We must break these flaxen cords else we will be satan’s property, we must act and not be acted upon.

**2. Why/how is being a hearer of the word only and not a doer, an act of deceiving oneself (James 1: 22)? How does it relate directly back to satan’s tactics?**

For an idea of just how prophetic, just how important the words of James, the half-brother of Jesus, the servant of the Lord were, I want to read to you the LDS New Testament Student Manual “Outline” or “Summary” of the entire book of James. Those who have read *Understanding Isaiah*, *Priestcraft*, etc. should have their ears perk up and go “wow”.

## Outline

### James 1–2

James greeted his readers and introduced some major themes of his epistle, including enduring trials, seeking wisdom, and living consistent with one’s professed faith. Hearers of God’s word are also to be doers of the word. James defined “pure religion” as caring for the fatherless and widows and seeking to live free from sin (see James 1:27). Saints are to love their neighbors and to manifest their faith through their works.

### James 3–4

James illustrated the destructive nature of uncontrolled speech and contrasted it with the fruit of righteousness of those who make peace. He cautioned his readers not to become friends with the world but to resist the devil and draw close to God.

### James 5

James warned the wanton rich. He concluded his epistle with brief items of counsel about the Saints’ responsibilities toward other members of the Church. They are to patiently endure until the coming of the Lord and refrain from oaths. James encouraged the sick to call on the elders to anoint them with oil.

### **James 1:22–25. “Be Ye Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only”**

In his oft-quoted passage “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” ([James 1:22](#)), James taught readers that it is not sufficient to hear the word of God; the Lord expects us to act upon gospel truths (see [Matthew 7:21–23](#); [Mosiah 4:10](#); [D&C 78:7](#)). The Epistle of James focuses largely on helping readers to become doers of the word. **President Dallin H. Oaks** of the First Presidency explained: “It is not enough to know that God lives, that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and that the gospel is true. We must take the high road by acting upon that knowledge” (“[Be Not Deceived.](#)” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2004, 46).

### **James 1:23. “A Man Beholding His Natural Face in a Glass”**

In [James 1:23](#) the word “glass” refers to a polished metal surface that was used as a mirror (see [commentary for 1 Corinthians 13:9–13](#)). James compared those who deceive themselves by hearing God’s word but neglecting to act in righteousness to those who see their own reflection in a mirror and then forget how they looked. **Elder Bruce R. McConkie** added this insight: “To hear and not do—to seek salvation solely through the good works of Christ, without personal conformity to his laws—is to see a glimpse of what salvation is in a mirror without ever receiving the real thing” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3:252).

So, satan shows you what you want to see in a mirror and then you forget about actually being it in the world; it's all about your perceived image of yourself versus being and doing and becoming like the Savior. President George Albert Smith said "We will attain our exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom only on the condition that we share with our Father's other children the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and observe the commandments that will enrich our lives here and hereafter" (Sharing the Gospel with Others, 190). It doesn't get any simpler than that, if one only hears and they never do, then exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom will not be a reality for them. If they believe or have convinced themselves that actions aren't required, the Lord's atonement eliminates all personal responsibility, etc. then like James describes in James chapter 1, "they have deceived themselves... they have seen what they should become in a mirror and have walked away believing it was not up to them in this life to attempt to become it"

### **3. Once we decide to follow Christ and get on the 'good path' satan changes his tactics against us, why and how? What should people expect when choosing to follow Christ vs backsliding into Babylon?**

Joseph said something that was very prophetic. He said, "Brother Behunin, you do not know what you will do. When you join the Church of Jesus Christ, you leave neutral ground forever behind."

When one joins The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and thus the Kingdom of God, the middle ground is removed from such an individual when it comes to the Light of Christ. We learn that when such an individual leaves the church, "that which they had will be taken from them", that is they are left in a darker position than that of before they joined the church. Bishop Glenn L. Pace in his general conference talk called "Follow the Prophet" summed this up:

"It seems that history continues to teach us: You can leave the Church, but you can't leave it alone. (Elder Packer) The basic reason for this is simple. Once someone has received a witness of the Spirit and accepted it, he leaves neutral ground. One loses his testimony only by listening to the promptings of the evil one, and Satan's goal is not complete when a person leaves the Church, but when he comes out in open rebellion against it."

I dare say that when someone joins the Kingdom of God, the tactics of satan change, and when someone in the Kingdom of God attempts to leave Babylon, attempts a second birth in Christ, accepts the Holy Ghost- as we know, when we are given the gift of the Holy Ghost we are told "receive the gift", and many, possibly even most do not.- when we accept that Holy Ghost and accept the calling of Zion, when we raise our arm to the square and say "Yes!" in some of the most sacred places on this planet, more neutral ground is removed and satan's tactics change once again. With each choice and with each step forward the blessings expand as well as the

consequences attached to it. We know for example the pinnacle of faithfulness in this life is the reward of The Second Comforter who is Jesus Christ in the flesh; we also know that the pinnacle of failure in this life is to be a son of perdition, which only applies to those who have received The Second Comforter. Because satan knows the blessings you are receiving and the steps you are at the response is matched in kind, and God allows that to take place at this time for an opposition in all things. We know, once again for an example, that as miracles begin to be poured out in our day surrounding the redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem etc. that God will allow satan to provide equal in scope and power counterfeits. We should expect tougher and tougher resistance as we press forward, with less and less of a crowd willing to come with us- remember that the great and spacious building was just that, great and spacious, the grand majority, the crowds, the massive subscriptions, the massive followings, etc. is not where the Lord is found. You will find less and less support the more you leave Babylon, which is why it is also crucial and a commandment from the Lord that those leaving Babylon find each other, lift each other, meet together often, fast and pray together, etc. The groups will be smaller, which means the members need to work 2x, 4x, 10x as hard, and speak 2x, 4x, 10x as loud, etc.

But what if we just coast? What if that opposition isn't desired...? Does the Lord require us to act, or can we simply tap into the Lord's atonement for our inaction or unwillingness to act? The simple answer is no. I've already gone over above what Nephi had to say about this and these people who believe this, as well as James clearly teaching that such have deceived themselves- but here are a few more examples:

The Lord in Doctrine and Covenants 58: 29-33

“But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned. Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments? Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled? I command and men obey not; I revoke and they receive not the blessing. Then they say in their hearts: This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But wo unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.”

The Lord again, this time in Doctrine and Covenants 84: 42- 44 warned those who learned of the Oath and the Covenant of the priesthood and choose after learning of it to not accept it:

“And wo unto all those who come not unto this priesthood which ye have received, which I now confirm upon you who are present this day, by mine own voice out of the heavens; and even I have given the heavenly hosts and mine angels charge concerning you. And I now give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life. For you shall *live* by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.”

The Lord again warns about women not accepting the new and everlasting covenant of marriage after being taught it in its fullness in Doctrine and Covenants 132:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory. For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and

few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me. But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also. This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law. Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law... if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which he made unto Abraham.... And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, if any man have a wife, who holds the keys of this power, and he teaches unto her the law of my priesthood, as pertaining to these things, then shall she believe and administer unto him, or she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord your God; for I will destroy her; for I will magnify my name upon all those who receive and abide in my law. Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor...”

So in summary, blessings become more pronounced the closer we get to Celestial Law and the presence of the Father but so do the consequences and opposition. Simply refusing to accept these things in a hope it will be easier to live and accept them in the next life or that the Savior’s atonement covers our inaction however is an act of deceiving oneself, we have to be a covenant making and *keeping* people here in this life, knowing full well the opposition in store, and we do this by the spirit of prophesy, which is the testimony of Jesus Christ- we know that the blessings promised to us are real, for “eye hath not seen nor the mind comprehended the things with the Lord has prepared for those that love Him”.

#### **4. What are some thing we can do to prepare for/against this? What does the Lord give as the defense against these? How does memorizing scriptures relate back to this?**

1 Nephi 15: 23-

“And they said unto me: What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree? And I said unto them that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction. Wherefore, I, Nephi, did exhort them to give heed unto the word of the Lord; yea, I did exhort them with all the energies of my soul, and with all the faculty which I possessed, that they would give heed to the word of God and remember to keep his commandments always in all things.”

#### **1 Nephi 15:24. The Word of God and Fiery Darts**

- President Ezra Taft Benson spoke of the blessing of having the word of God in our possession. It will not only lead us to great blessings, but gives us the strength to stand

firm in the face of temptation: “In his dream, Lehi saw an iron rod which led through the mists of darkness. He saw that if people would hold fast to that rod, they could avoid the rivers of filthiness, stay away from the forbidden paths, stop from wandering in the strange roads that lead to destruction. Later his son Nephi clearly explained the symbolism of the iron rod. When Laman and Lemuel asked, ‘What meaneth the rod of iron?’ Nephi answered, ‘It was the word of God; and [note this promise] *whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.*’ ([1 Ne. 15:23–24](#); italics added.) Not only will the word of God lead us to the fruit which is desirable above all others, but in the word of God and through it we can find the power to resist temptation, the power to thwart the work of Satan and his emissaries” ([“The Power of the Word,” \*Ensign\*, May 1986, 80](#)).

It should be fascinating to note that Nephi was not “the prophet” at this time period, his father was, yet his brothers were coming to Nephi to explain the symbolism of Lehi’s dream and Nephi did not say “go ask the Lord” or “go talk to father”, he answered them. It is also important to note that Nephi had received the interpretations himself, they were not given to him by his father Lehi. It should be triply fascinating to note that before and after explaining the interpretations of the symbolism of Lehi’s dream Nephi did not say “in my opinion” or “I will give you my interpretation” or “I do not speak for the church or Lehi but...” etc. etc. He gave his brothers the interpretation, he told them how he got the interpretation and told them to go and do likewise. A perfect example of how we as members should be living and acting today- and looking at the example of Nephi vs his older brothers it should be clear which was the “way to prepare against and for tribulation to as to be able to endure to the end” and which was not.

In Doctrine and Covenants chapter 101:21-23 we read:

“Until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains or the strength of Zion. Behold, it is my will, that all they who call on my name, and worship me according to mine everlasting gospel, should gather together, and stand in holy places; And prepare for the revelation which is to come, when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth, shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together.”

#### **[Doctrine and Covenants 101:17–21](#). Zion and her stakes will be established**

Despite the Saints’ expulsion from Jackson County, Missouri, the Lord reaffirmed that “Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered” ([D&C 101:17](#)). Although the stakes of Zion have spread over the face of the earth, “the center place,” Jackson County, continues to be designated by the Lord as the location for the city of New Jerusalem (see [D&C 57:1–3](#); [101:17, 20–21](#)).

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie** (1915–1985) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught: “There is no occasion for uncertainty or anxiety about the building up of Zion—meaning the New Jerusalem—in the last days. The Lord once offered his people the chance to build that Zion from

which the law shall go forth to all the world. They failed. Why? Because they were unprepared and unworthy, as is yet the case with those of us who now comprise the kingdom. When we as a people are prepared and worthy, the Lord will again command us and the work will go forward—on schedule, before the Second Coming, and at the direction of the President of the Church. Until then, none of us need take any personal steps toward gathering to Missouri or preparing for a landed-inheritance there. Let us, rather, learn the great concepts involved and make ourselves worthy for any work the Lord may lay upon us in our day and time. Some things must yet precede the building up of Jackson County” (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith* [1985], 586).

President Nelson recently taught this again when he counseled all members that their first line of defense is their home, and like Captain Moroni of old, one must never stop preparing. Safety is to come with “the tower”, it is to come from the center stake of Zion, the New Jerusalem, and we cannot have that until we are worthy. The way we can prepare is the same, live right to be ready and willing to live Celestial Law, and we start with our own homes and with our own families as we wait for enough of us to be ready so such a redemption can occur and such a city can be built. President Brigham Young taught us how we should start going about this process as well (Journal of Discourses 283-284):

“When we conclude to make a Zion we will make it, and this work commences in the heart of each person. When the father of a family wishes to make a Zion in his own house, he must take the lead in this good work, which it is impossible for him to do unless he himself possesses the Spirit of Zion. Before he can produce the work of sanctification in his family, he must sanctify himself, and by this means God can help him to sanctify his family. There are many families in this community that have constantly with them the Spirit of Zion. Visit them when you will, and you find them dwelling in peace; a heavenly influence constantly broods over them and over everything they possess. But are they perfect? ***No. It would not do for them to be perfect because we have still to associate more or less with that which is evil.***

We have all the material we need to build up Zion, and I wish the Spirit of Zion to extend from heart to heart, and from house to house. This good work must commence in each person; there must be instituted a watchful care over the passions to bring them under control, that an angry feeling may not arise, that an evil passion may not gain the mastery to the overthrow of wisdom and good, sound judgment, until the power of the enemy that is sown within us is entirely subdued to the will of Christ, for the purpose of the enemy of all righteousness is to destroy the human family, and make them what they were not intended to be.”

Memorizing scriptures, the Words of God, is irreplaceable when it comes to writing the Lord in our heart, when it comes to bringing the Spirit of Zion into our hearts, and will act as a defense against the temptations of the world.



## **5. What about for offense? What about overcoming the natural man and weaknesses, what does/should that process look like? How does making and keeping goals keep us strong on the covenant path and tie into this? How about making and keeping schedules? Rituals? Traditions? Etc?**

I went over the process, the actual steps we take, in the cycle we go through for conversion/learning in a lot of detail yesterday with the missionaries. The way we learn, the way we move forward and progress, the way we repent and get better, the spirit of conversion, etc. are different ways of explaining or defining the same exact process.

Steps of Learning/conversion/repentance/etc.

1. Seek to understand (desire)- typically comes in the form of a question, determines the direction in your life 1 Nephi 10:17-19, 2 Nephi 4:15-16, Alma 32:27 18:17-18, D&C 58:29
2. Deepening knowledge- source/correct principles, determines the quality and rate of knowledge learned James 1:5-6, 1 Nephi 10:17-19, 2 Nephi 4:15-16, Alma 32:27, D&C 58:29, D&C 88:118
3. Live what you learn (do)- personal adaptation, determines the rate of obtaining desire James 1:22-25, James 2:14-26, Alma 32:27, D&C 58:26-28, 29
4. Judging the fruit (evaluate)- affects/impacts all of the above (your desire, source and the state of obtaining) This is the step that repentance kicks in. John 7:17, 1 Thes 5:21, 1 John 4: 1-6, Alma 32:28-43, D&C 58:30-33 (proper evaluate)

When we understand this and when we know the source of all truth, we can replicate and reproduce a series of offensive tactics in our own lives. We can identify a problem, ask a question, go to the right sources for information, implement the required actions in our lives, and then judge the fruits or results of those actions. We ask the Lord for forgiveness for the things we screwed up or didn't do and re-evaluate and repeat. For a more indepth breakdown of this process you can check out that video I did with the missionaries or wait for a video/paper I plan on putting out on it. Simply put though this is how the process should look like and play out like.

But how do we maintain focus? How do we not backslide? How do we make sure we are not just taking one step forward and two back? Well earlier I read how satan uses negative patterns of habit to create strong cords that bind us forever- if that principle is true, which I testify that it is- the reverse or inverse of the principle must also be true. If negative habits enforced overtime make it seemingly impossible to escape from satan- positive habits enforced overtime make it seemingly impossible for backsliding. Making and keeping schedules, setting goals, creating positive rituals and habits is key for those who wish to reverse the one step forward and two

steps backwards into two steps forward and one step backwards- for we will continue to screw up and need the atonement throughout this process, we won't immediately become perfect, and as President Brigham Young taught above, so long as we have to deal and live with such evil around us we will make mistakes. That being said however, we can and will limit the errors and maximize the successes only when we fully implement goals, schedules, diets, etc. into our lives. In Preach My Gospel, Chapter 8 we read (Likened unto us):

### **How to Set Goals**

Goals reflect the desires of our hearts and our vision of what we can accomplish. Through goals and plans, our hopes are transformed into action. Goal setting and planning are acts of faith. Prayerfully set goals that are in harmony with the Savior's commands...

Set goals for each key [area of your life]. You may also set goals for your personal development. Do everything within your power to achieve your goals while respecting the agency of others. The ultimate measure of success is not in achieving goals alone but in [your personal progress]. Goals are a means of helping you bring about much good, [including] among Heavenly Father's children. They are not to be used to receive recognition.

—President M. Russell Ballard said in a Talk given to Salt Lake Area young adults, Oct. 18, 1981

“I am so thoroughly convinced that if we don't set goals in our life and learn how to master the techniques of living to reach our goals, we can reach a ripe old age and look back on our life only to see that we reached but a small part of our full potential. When one learns to master the principles of setting a goal, he will then be able to make a great difference in the results he attains in this life.”

Carefully considered goals will give you clear direction and will help you fill your days with activities that help [yourself and others] strengthen their faith in the Savior and progress toward [Celestial Law]. Challenging goals will help you work effectively and lead you to stretch and grow. Follow the guidelines below as you set goals:

- Follow the Spirit.
- [Focus goals on the key areas of your life]
- Be specific and realistic, but set goals that will make you stretch.
- Set daily, weekly, and monthly goals [pertaining to the key areas of your life]
- Set [personal, marriage, and family goals]
- Measure your progress each day, each week, and each month. When you fall short of a goal, evaluate your efforts and seek for ways to accomplish the goal. If needed, adjust your expectations.

Over time [those who have keys over you] may establish standards of excellence or goals intended to raise your vision and increase your faith. [These goals] will help you stretch, work effectively, and reach higher levels of performance. They are not to be used as quotas that

impose specific goals on you, [your spouse or your family].

END QUOTE

I would suggest if you haven't already, check out my Agency in Progression series.

**6. How do those you surround yourself with effect your desire to remain steadfast in your exodus from Babylon? What are some traits/attributes/etc. one should look for in others when choosing whom to surround ourselves with?**

My hope with this question is that it will be answered, talked about, and thought about more in the chat than in my actual response. President Brigham Young said that there are those who have the Spirit of Zion, who possess that Spirit, and he told the members to find those members, see what they are doing, and get that Spirit of Zion into their own hearts. He also said however that these member obviously aren't perfect, but he poignantly pointed out that the reason for these members imperfections might be due primarily to having to deal with, live with and around, those who don't have the Spirit of Zion in their hearts. The Savior taught that it would be better a man cut off his hand than lose his soul; and it is explained that the hand, the eyes, etc. deal primarily with family members, friends, etc. If you want to be great, surround yourself with greatness; if you want to be Celestial, if you want to ready yourself to live Celestial Law, surround yourself with those who want the same. If these people truly do possess the Spirit of Zion they want nothing more than to reach down and help lift you up to the same level, they want nothing more than to serve you and bare you up on their shoulders. Brothers and Sisters I testify before Gods and Angels that I am ready and willing to bare the Kingdom of God away in whatever way the Lord wants me to. I will go where the Lord wants me to go, be what he needs me to be, do what he wants me to do and say what he wants me to say. Whatever the keys of God tell me to do, that is what myself and my family will do. There are those in the church everywhere who are willing and able to bare you up, find them if you are hurting or struggling, find them if you want to live a higher standard, find them and surround yourself with them. It will, I testify, increase your desire, and in doing increase your application and thus your conversion and perfection. I know the church is true. I share this with you, and say God bless, God speed, keep the faith, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.