

Still there are and have been times when men, and women too, have felt downcast, and have wondered if God had forgotten them; but I say to all such, Fear not, the clouds will pass away, the light will shine, and your joy and courage will return. If you preserve your integrity and wait for the salvation of your God, it will surely come and seek you out. He always has delivered and comforted His people, and he will not forsake us now; His arm is not shortened, He is not asleep nor gone on a journey. He will succor us in the deepest distress, and deliver us in the direst extremities, if we will live so that we may have the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, which is the minister of God, and whose presence is the presence of God.

Without that blessed communion, we are blind and helpless; and if we do not live so as to enjoy it, we fail to rise to our privileges as Saints.

It is indeed our right and privilege to have the companionship of the Holy Spirit of the Lord, and we need it.

Even children may have it if they will, and need not be left to walk alone on earth. Every woman should win and keep it for herself, and never try to walk by another's light. If she puts her whole trust in another, even if he be her husband and a good man, he will surely some time fail her. Let her learn to stand alone so far as human aid is concerned, depending only on God and the Holy Ghost.

Do not, brethren, put your trust in man though he be a bishop; an apostle, or a president; if you do, they will fail you at some time or place, they will do wrong or seem to, and your support be gone; but if we lean on God, He never will fail us. When men and women depend on God alone, and trust in Him alone, their faith will not be shaken if the highest in the Church should step

aside. They could still see that He is just and true, that truth is lovely in His sight, and the pure in heart are dear to Him.

Perhaps it is His own design that faults and weaknesses should appear in high places in order that His Saints may learn to trust in Him and not in any man or men.

Therefore, my brethren and sisters, seek after the Holy Spirit and His unfailing testimony of God and His work upon the earth. Rest not until you know for yourselves that God has set His hand to redeem Israel, and prepare a people for His coming.

If any present have it not, let me advise you to begin seeking for it this very night. Pray, fast, study, and open the doors of your hearts that wisdom may enter; and you shall know when you have received the Holy Ghost by a great increase of faith, courage, strength, understanding, and all good gifts. This is indeed a precious gift, the source and fountain of all other gifts. Ask for it, therefore, until you receive it, because we should have it.

We sometimes ask for things which are not best for us, and often feel grieved and disappointed because we have not received that which we asked, or not in the way and manner which we desired; but let us consider, in such cases, that the thing for which we asked was unsuitable to our needs or condition and strength, and was withheld in love and kindness. Think of our own children who ask us so often for things which we dare not give them, and trust that our Father will answer us according to His wisdom and tender mercy.

He is sure to give us all the blessings we are able to bear, and we should not dare ask for more. Men sometimes receive more. Think of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon. They who saw angels, who heard them

speak and bear witness to that book and the divine mission of Joseph the Prophet, turned away from the faith, said Joseph was a fallen prophet, and the Church which he organized gone astray.

But well for them, they never did fail to bear their especial witness faithfully. No pressure from any source was ever strong enough to shake that great testimony; and because they were true to that trust, there was mercy for them. Two afterward returned to their former faith, humble and penitent. It seems to me they received greater blessings and glories than they had strength to bear.

Oliver Cowdery was ordained by the same angels, to the same Priesthood as Joseph Smith, but that did not save him from falling away from the truth. Then pray for blessings, and always remember to ask for the strength to bear them, and the wisdom to honor them.

I will give you a rule by which to judge if you have received the Holy Ghost. It gives strength, it gives hope, it gives wisdom, it gives joy, it gives love of God and man, and if you follow its guidance, it will lead you into the presence of God because it is the spirit of God and the power of God. All that His servants know of His will comes to them by that spirit, because it is the spirit of revelation, and the only

source whence such knowledge can come.

It dwells in the hearts of men and does not mask a man outwardly, nor change his appearance so that he may be known in that way to possess it, and this we may know from the fact that even the Savior was with difficulty recognized as the Son of God, even by His own disciples.

Brother Lyman promised to pray for me if I would speak first, and even then I fear I have spoken too long; but Brethren and Sisters, we who have come here to visit you have a great desire for your welfare, both spiritual and temporal.

I believe I never enjoyed a Conference better than this of the last two days. I rejoice to feel that the Lord is with His people and that His people are trying to be with Him. If you will accept the counsel you have received during this Conference, you will be united, true to each other, to your faith, and to your God.

You will feel humble and hopeful, willing to forgive each other and to ask to be forgiven. We should always come to the Lord's supper full of forgiveness for all who have aggrieved us, and desiring to be forgiven our trespasses.

I pray the Lord to bless you abundantly and keep you full of His Spirit that you may walk in His ways and not deviate therefrom. Amen.





# COLLECTED DISCOURSES

DELIVERED BY

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
HIS TWO COUNSELORS,  
THE TWELVE APOSTLES,  
AND OTHERS.

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