

was that we must be loyal and true to this work. We must go forth in courage and in faith because of that shooting, the discharge from these weapons. Out of this confusion came a beautiful temple, and I saw many coming towards the temple. Some I looked upon as people I had known, and I had the assurance that they would enter in at the gates, while some were prevented by a mystery, and others—some of the humblest kind, were permitted to enter in, and this has justified this purpose in my life in undertaking to change the hearts of the people to God and toward man. All is left with God, and it is for me to do my duty towards presenting the message of life and all will be well. Now here is the thought. I was not true to that which I had promised God. I did not take up the work allotted me; and I remember one time when I was in Saint Louis, and Brother I. N. White arose and prophesied to me and made the statement that it was in harmony with a certain relation given to me at a certain time, that I was called to work in the vineyard; and he gave me to understand that I should soon take up the work allotted to me. I still disregarded it, until here in Kansas City about eighteen years ago, Brother David Winn, who is before me—and I shall never forget that day when he arose and called attention to the field, white unto the harvest, and that I should take up the work; that I had been untrue to it; and now the call again came, that unless I was obedient to it that affliction would speedily follow. I remember that I was ordained a week hence, on Sunday night, and commenced to preach Monday, and I have continued to preach until now, and I want to tell you the same testimony that I bore then, when I began to preach this gospel, I bear now, and I desire, with the others, that my testimony may go on record that this work is true.

No longer ago than last week, when I felt weighed down with correspondence, some of them discouraging letters, the Spirit came unto me that has ever supported me, and gave me to understand that the evil influence that had for its purpose our overthrow, if we were faithful to that which God had committed unto us, this influence would be overcome, and we would be able to do good. And so we are glad to come before you to-day, bearing witness that God will operate upon those things that serve to discourage us; and I want to say to you that I never was more confident of our ultimate triumph; that I am rooted and grounded in this work; this I know, and I thank God that I have this knowledge; and like our brother who has spoken, I thank God that I live in a day when good and great men are still leading this church, as the good old veterans who have passed away were placed on the earth to do their work, and many others who have stood valiant for this cause, and I thank God for this; and as I thought this afternoon when we sat here surrounded by great men of our time—I felt to thank God that I lived now, and my testimony is that this work is true and will finally triumph as intended by almighty God. May the Lord bless you, in my prayer.

#### FRANCIS M. SHEEHY.

There was a time on this earth when the testimony of God was confined to one personality in the person of Jesus Christ who stood alone as said by John, 3:32. Then following this single personal testimony, "few men receive his testimony," they set their seal that the testimony of Jesus was true. To-day that testimony is enlarged from one individuality to the aggregated testimony expressed in the church, "The body of Christ," meaning that a greater work can be done because "I go to the Father."

I feel appreciative this morning of the blessing that has come into my life, awakening my consciousness to this inestimable value of being a member of this body of Christ;

expressing the mind of God in this more extensive form, "the church of the living God, ground and pillar of truth, the habitation of God through the Spirit."

#### I. N. WHITE.

Your speaker once belonged to the Methodist Church. I was quite an exemplary member for many years—until I was twenty-six years old. After being a superintendent in the Sunday school and devoting myself to the reading of the New Testament quite closely, I became dissatisfied with my surroundings, not knowing I could find any other people that were better than they were, because they were a divided people I was with, but I came to find out by fair investigation that there was something else besides what I was with.

I got an opportunity to hear this latter-day work—just one sermon. It stirred me up in such a way that I became more dissatisfied than I ever had been, and I was determined to know whether this was the truth or not, and I was reading the New Testament one night about ten o'clock, and by seemingly no chance or accident, (not knowing that Joseph had received the same light,) I opened to the first chapter of James, and I read to the fifth verse, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." Now of course I did not know that glow and that full influence of God's Holy Spirit as I learned at other times, but there was something came to me that I had never experienced before. I closed the Bible, stepped out of doors, went to the little barn, kneeled down as innocent as ever a child stepped up to its mother's knees to ask for nourishment. I quoted this scripture here, after I was on my knees, and asked the Master that he would reveal to me what is the truth. I will lay my popularity at your feet; I will give my life to the work that you reveal to me, whether it is recognized or not. I want to know.

I heard an audible voice speaking to me, calm, different from anything I had ever heard before in my life: "These are my people. That which they preach is my gospel." That is all there was to it. It stirred my life as never before, and nothing could eradicate it from my heart. It was just like an inspiration to my mind; in my soul. Afterwards I met the persecution (as I was in the schoolroom teaching school at the time) and I became dissatisfied, and would to God I had never heard it. Yet the time came when I had to obey, and I obeyed it, and in three days after I received the gospel such a wonderful witness and testimony came unto me that every doubt was taken from my mind in regard to this being the work of God.

Now that is my testimony back there. I have had many since that time, and I have got one that I just received a few days ago. I took an extract from my diary just before I left because I thought I might need it. You remember when we were on the lawn last Sunday night here, and while the choir was singing the last song before our dismissal, "The angel message"—let me just give you the experience. When the power of God came unto me that my soul was lifted up by that wonderful Spirit, I looked around about me. I felt the glowing influence of the Spirit coming upon me at that time. I did not care to make a show of myself there, but as they sang, "I have found the glorious gospel that was taught in former years, with its gifts and blessings all so full and free; and my soul is thrilled with gladness, and banished are my fears, since the precious angel message came to me." Then when the chorus was sung, "Then praise the Lord, oh, my soul! Abundant mercy, oh, how free! In joyful song Thy Spirit doth accord, since the precious Angel Message came to me." Then I felt that influence, just like a funnel, fall over me as I sat beside my wife, and heard a

voice speak to me and these were the words, as the Spirit rested upon me: "This church will triumph. Though some will fall away, yet the church will move forward to victory." And when the dismissal was had I went off the lawn by the way of the Order of Enoch, and felt that glow and influence of the Spirit until I got to my home.

That is my last and living testimony—that this Church of Jesus Christ that you people are in will live against all opposition, and trials and difficulties brought to bear against it. It is the church of the living God, the truth, the angel message for the benefit and salvation of the honest in heart, and it will reap its thousands and tens of thousands, and this work will stand in days when the difficulties are to be encountered. For we are living in the sifting time and when people are being sifted out. You have not seen the end of the sifting yet. There will be some sad experiences; but remember that this work is a marvelous and wonderful work. My testimony is my living testimony, and this may be the last opportunity that I will ever have with these, my brethren, to bear my testimony; but let it go down in the archives of this church that Brother White bore witness and testimony that God, only a few days ago, bore witness that this church is the church of God, and it will triumph against all odds, and victory will crown it as one of the truths of the angel message to the world.

—o—  
A. E. WARR.

I am glad to be among that number spoken of as the simple ones, whom the testimony of the Lord has made sufficiently wise to be able to say that they know that this work is true.

Nearly eight years ago, under the ministry of J. W. Peterson, the work was brought to my attention. I had been in the church but a few weeks when the matter of ordination was presented, and just in connection with this I desire to state that which to me is a very significant incident in my life, that has much to do with my being here to-day. I was in my teens, and the men in charge thought possibly it would be well to mention to my mother the matter of my ordination, to see what she thought of it. And in her good old Southern way she said, "That's what I raised him for." And I learned after my ordination, for the first time in my life, that even before my birth I had been dedicated, like the little boy Samuel, to the service of God. To my mind that is one of the experiences, testimonies, that I have to-day, and I do not know just how much of my life, whether it be success or failure, that I shall owe to these prenatal influences.

I will say that in my life there has been such a chain of circumstances and experiences that causes my faith to be made stronger than it was yesterday, or the day before, and I feel like the Apostle Paul in his statement, "For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"; not nearer in the sense that time has brought it nearer, but simply in the sense that we have made development, and are not in a spiritual condition the same as when we entered the waters of baptism. As the wise man said, "The truth is as a shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day." So must be the experiences of a Latter Day Saint. I believe that by our experiences is the best way for us to learn, but not necessarily our own experiences. I believe we can learn by the experiences of others.

I remember reading in Grecian mythology wherein Perseus was sent to destroy the Medusa and was given the protective shield of Minerva, that he might view the monster without looking directly at her, as that would have turned him into stone, illustrating that it is not necessary for us to go through personal experiences in order to achieve results, as was so carefully pointed out this morning by the speaker, that we

could learn by the experience of others, and profit by the assistance of our forefathers in this work,—that we can thus take advantage, and profit by the mistakes that others have made, as well as what they have done that has brought about success.

As we sang, "My times are in Thy hands"—I feel that that is a very good guide to have. I believe it is for us as a church; that it is constructive for us to think upon, that our times are in His hands. Why should we doubt or fear? Certainly there is nothing in my mind that would cause me to doubt or fear as to the final triumph of this work. I have faith in its final triumph, and my life's ambition is to serve my fellow man.

—o—  
HUGH W. GOOLD.

I cannot say, as some of the brothers can say, that I was cradled in this church. At the age of thirty-three I accepted the gospel, or rather seven years before that I accepted it, but would not obey it. That has been thirteen years ago. In this short space of time I have tried to do what little I could with the talents given me to assist in the progress of this work, because, listen! I know it is true. I can take a retrospective view of my life, of my past, and see the guiding hand of God since childhood.

When a youth I left Omaha, Nebraska, and went to Mount Ayr, Iowa, twenty miles from Lamoni. I knew not why at the time. I was there two or three months, and conditions arose that I was unable to obtain employment there, and I wrote to Lamoni and found employment there. I had heard of these Mormons, but let me say I had never embraced any doctrine. I was not a member of any church. My parents were not members of any church. In this condition I had been raised, and you may well expect I possessed a skeptical mind. I heard of these Mormons and had a great desire to see them. This opportunity was offered, and I grasped it readily for the purpose of seeing these peculiar people. I met my wife there, and in the course of a few months we were married, and I remained there for several years. I presume I could count the number of sermons upon the fingers of one hand that I ever heard preached in Lamoni, Iowa, before I joined the church. Yet I argued religion until I found myself arguing that white was black, and black was white, and I finally made up my mind that I would have to discontinue.

In the course of events I was laid up with rheumatism, unable to leave my home. Let me say that my wife was born and raised in the church and we had the church books in the house, and while laid up in this condition I got hold of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Life of Joseph Smith. I read these books, and the Spirit of God came over me, and I sat and wept. The tears would trickle down my cheeks and I was confirmed then that this was the work of God; but in my youth I had contracted habits that were anything but Christlike. I realized this. I wanted to overcome them, and I battled for seven years, trying to overcome these conditions with the knowledge I had, before joining the church. I knew it was true, and finally, after removing to Kansas City, thirteen years ago my wife was stricken with pneumonia, and we asked for an elder to come in, and she was instantly healed. He asked for the privilege of preaching in my home, and in a short time I was baptized.

Now I want to tell you here, I know this is the work of God. Why these special manifestations of God have come to me I cannot say, viewing my past life, and the labors performed in the church. It seemed unnecessary unless it was for the saving of my own soul, being then in the skeptical condition that I was. As I went down in the waters of baptism I did so with a desire to serve God, and come up as Paul