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The Testimony of the Truth

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the gift does not grow. Faith does not increase, neither does it blossom into knowledge, and gradually the Spirit of the Lord is withdrawn."

This was President George Q. Cannon's view as he expressed it to me. In conclusion I would most warmly urge our girls to cherish and place a high value on the gift of the Holy Ghost which they have received. Do they need a testimony? Let them look around and see the condition of those who have once had the Spirit of God and lost it. See the darkness, the blindness of mind, the hardness of heart which they exhibit. Ought this not to be a testimony to every soul that this is the work of God and that He has bestowed the Holy Ghost upon those who have submitted to the ordinances of the gospel and who

keep His commandments? Also, that He withdraws the Holy Ghost from those who do wrong? Is not this plain to every child in this Church who is capable of reflection? Then, if there are those who think they do not have a testimony, is not this a testimony? Do they want the Spirit of God, with the peace, the light and the happiness which it brings, withdraw from them to prove this to them? Do they want the darkness, the unhappiness, the uncertainty which Satan stands ready to give, to take possession of them, in order that they may see the contrast? God forbid that any of our girls should be so dissatisfied with that which God has given her as to let it slip from her and the darkness of the adversary take its place.

THEOLOGICAL.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE TRUTH.

To some people the writings of this lesson may seem superfluous; but I have found so many little points in which only time and experience have helped me to make them plain before the young people under my care, that I am inclined to think there are others who may have some difficulties in dealing with this subject.

In talking with Pres. George Q. Cannon on this subject, he said he never had obtained a testimony, but the reason was that he was born with one. I

have thought a great deal about that since, and I have wondered if the great majority of our young people have not been born with a testimony. He said a good way to make sure of the fact that one has a testimony, if there is any doubt in the mind, is to ask the Lord to withdraw His Spirit and testimony for a short space of time, and the results would convince the most doubtful of the light and testimony they had previously been in possession of.

In the first place, it must be most clearly understood that

every son and daughter of Adam must, if they would obtain eternal happiness, get and keep a testimony of the truth. No matter if your son or daughter has been raised in the best influences of a Mormon home, he or she must know, not think nor suppose, that this gospel is true, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. There are several injunctions and pieces of advice given in scripture as to the manner of proceeding in order to get this testimony, but each one is after all the one and same way. Jesus told Peter that upon the rock of revelation would be built the Church of God. The Savior says in another place, that if any one will do the works of God, he or she shall know for himself or herself that Jesus is the Christ. One saying to the same effect that only by revelation can a person obtain the testimony of the gospel, and the other one says that by following out the commandments of God, that revelation shall follow. These are two precious keys.

There are many ways of obtaining this desired revelation; some of our saints have received dreams, some have had peculiar manifestations, some have just accepted the sound of the truth and have joyfully given it place in their hearts without delay or questioning. Some have even received visions, and again others have never had any special manifestations, except the daily and hourly testimonies that come to every one who lives a reasonably

proper life in this Church. The Doctrine and Covenants says that to some it is given to know that Jesus is the Christ, and to others by the same gift it is given to believe on such a man's word. So you see we do not all have the same gift nor do we realize the same degree of power as others do. But each must have some measure and degree of light, and the greater it is the better for us.

Let me say one word to the hesitating soul who thinks she believes Mormonism is true, but because no glorious manifestation has been given, she is afraid to speak or to bear what little testimony she has: if you believe this to be true, let that belief persuade you that it is good to comply with the laws of this church, and if you will follow them faithfully, your testimony will grow brighter and brighter day by day. Some day, God will give you, if you desire it, an overwhelming testimony of the truth of this gospel, and that day will come as sure as you live. He may not give it to you just at the time you ask for it; or when you think you ought to have it but if you are faithful in your desires He will, when the proper time comes, pour that blessing out upon you in such power and glory as shall fill your soul with light and life.

Be patient, don't worry if your desires are not granted this week, this month, or this year. Wait, for you don't know what good reason the Lord has for delaying the answer to your prayer, but be

assured of one thing, it is the best of good reasons. To her who has only the calm belief and feeling that "it surely must be true," I would say, be thou also patient. I heard a man tell in fast meeting that the people he had converted who were of the sort that needed a vision or sign to convince them, were all the time needing a sign or vision to keep them firm in the truth. While those who were peacefully content with the happiness that the truth always brings to every soul, asking for no special manifestation but contented to work out their salvation in fear and trembling, such patient souls needed but the faint whisper from the right source and their ears were always open to receive the still small voice. And so you and I that have our daily testimonies can go smoothly and calmly along, knowing that all is well with us, and God will care for us in time and eternity.

After you have received your testimony, guard it and cherish it as something too sacred and holy to be lightly spoken of. If you feel inclined to bear your testimony in any kind of a meeting, do

so without fear or excitement. Remember that the Spirit of the Lord does not make us feel nervous and excited. It is a Spirit of infinite peace; and although the strangeness of speaking in public may make us feel a little unnerved, yet if we have the right spirit, there will be a feeling of calmness and peace flow over us like a soft flowing river. Do not throw your gifts and testimonies where they would be laughed at, unless you are called upon to defend your sacred religion, and then do so in all quiet dignity, without anger or excitement. The moment you get angry, you may be sure you are not actuated with the right kind of spirit. The angry one in a debate is he who is on the wrong side.

The president should encourage her girls, first, last and all the time to get this blessed testimony. Do not preach prosy sermons upon the subject, but give occasionally stories of those who have received their testimonies of the truth, as stories are always listened to eagerly, and they teach truths in the most interesting manner.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH.

In giving this lesson to the girls, one of the best ways to proceed is to give to as many of them as possible some item of history to hunt up and bring to the next

meeting. For instance ask one to bring the number of revelations given in the Doctrine and Covenants before the one on Church Government. Another could tell the date and place of organization,