

Zion's Ensign

OUR CREED "ALL TRUTH"

VOL. 31

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, JANUARY 22, 1920

NO. 4

President Frederick M. Smith's Views on Revelation

It is of first importance to the church that communion with God be maintained at all times. The ideals of the church in this matter are clearly set forth in the following words of President Smith at the Independence Stake Conference, October 6, 1918

At a certain time of my life it became necessary for me, especially since I was asked to accept a position that is unique among all the organizations of the world, to give considerable thought to this question of how God shall reveal himself to his people. There was a disposition at one time on my part to limit God as to how he should reveal his will. But I passed this point and have been able to say, If thou, oh God, art desirous of revealing thy will to us, or to me, be it far from me to say how. If it be that thou desirest to write across the arch of thy heaven those words that thou shalt see fit to transmit to thy people, then give me the wisdom to read. Or if thou dost choose to manifest thy power in the thunderous tones that thou art capable of giving, so that they will ring through all the arch of heaven, let my ears be open. Or if, in the still, small voice that comes from within, thou shalt choose to reveal thy will to me, then let thy Spirit attune my spiritual ear to the reception of thy word. Or if thou dost choose to utilize those powers with which thou hast by nature endowed me, quickened by thine own processes of development, to transmit through them the message that thou hast to give to thy people, then my pen shall be ready. Or if thou dost choose to bathe my soul in thy Spirit until my spiritual vision shall behold what thou dost desire thy people to, accomplish, even then shall I endeavor as thy instrument to transmit the message to thy people.

And strange to say, at times the very last of the ones that I would have believed probable, in trying to express

his will through me to this people is the one he has chosen to use; for I have felt that quickening of spiritual vision until my spiritual eyes were enabled to see almost as a panoramic vision extending over the years yet to come, not in detail, but in one grand, general ensemble, the work to be accomplished by this people. And when I have thus seen the work yet to be done spread out before me, I have been at times suddenly turned from contemplation of these splendid things, and with my own natural eyes and powers have looked upon the work already done, I could not but exclaim, "How long, oh Lord, how long!"

And so, when there arise persons claiming that they have had the will of the Lord revealed to them, that such and such is wrong in the church, and that such and such would be right, the safeguard that God himself has placed before you is always available for your protection, and you have the right, and not only the right, but the duty to weigh that which shall come, and be alert to the fact that God will reveal himself in the way that pleaseth him best; but always and at all times shall that will be in harmony and consistent with his revelations in the past, however they may have come.

And so we still stand for one of the fundamental ideals of the church, and that is not only belief in God, but a sure and secure belief that God will reveal his will to us, and speak to us in our own language and in his own way.