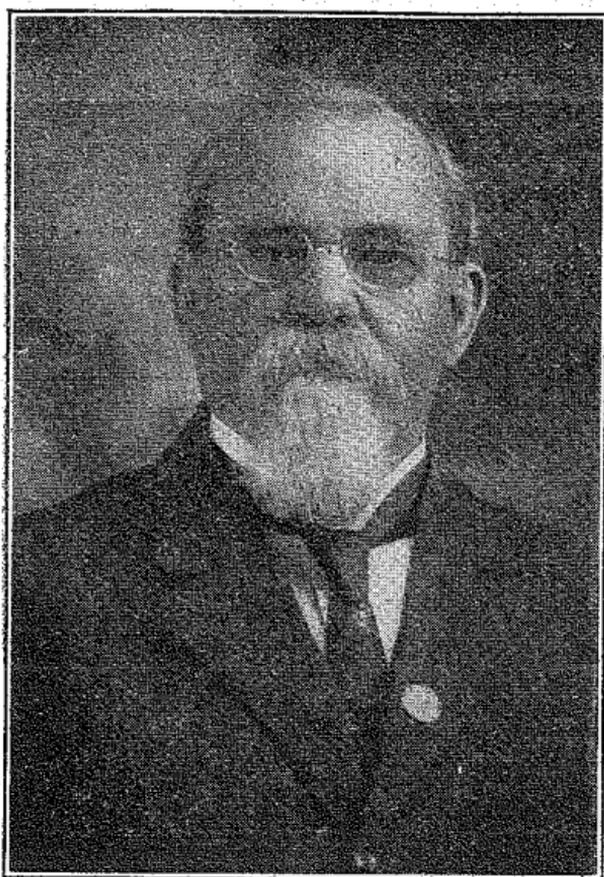


The  
Testimony  
of  
Gomer T. Griffiths  
Concerning the  
Calling and Ordination  
of  
President  
Frederick M. Smith

Reorganized  
Church of Jesus Christ  
of  
Latter Day Saints

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



GOMER T. GRIFFITHS

Gomer T. Griffiths hardly needs an introduction. For thirty-five years he occupied in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, being at the time of his call to the Order of Evangelists, president of the Quorum of Twelve. He has traveled in his office and calling in many parts of the world, America, Canada, Australia, the British Isles, and the Holy Land. He is loved and respected throughout the entire church. His testimony should strengthen the Saints.

# Testimony of Gomer T. Griffiths

I. Testimony of Gomer T. Griffiths concerning the calling and ordination of President Frederick M. Smith. Reprinted from the *Saints' Herald*.

II. The ordination prayer and statement by Gomer T. Griffiths. Reprinted from the *Saints' Herald*.

## Gomer T. Griffiths

### Writes of Calling of President Smith

I have felt impressed for some weeks that I should write to the *Herald* and give my experience in regard to the calling of Frederick M. Smith to the presidency of the Melchisedec priesthood and of the church.

While en route home from Australia to America in the fore part of November, 1914, between the cities of Honolulu and San Francisco, I had the following dream, which at the time made a very great impression upon my mind:

## A Spiritual Dream

I thought I was in the Stone Church in Independence, and was standing on the floor in front of the platform. On the platform in the rear of the pulpit were two large chairs; sitting in these chairs were the late Joseph Smith and his son, Frederick M. To my great amazement I saw myself standing with my hands upon Brother Joseph's head, and a white cloud came down over the three and enveloped us. I was praying, and when the white cloud had passed away, I had my hands upon Frederick M.'s head, Brother Joseph having vanished. This was repeated. As I stood on the floor Brother R. S. Salyards appeared by my side, and again the two chairs appeared on the platform, the two brothers mentioned occupying them, and I again stood back of them with my hands on Joseph's head, and I called Brother Salyards' attention to it. Then I awoke.

This dream puzzled me very much at times, and I wondered how it was that I could see myself standing below the platform on the main floor, and at the same time see myself on the platform with my hands on the brethren's heads. Again, I could not see why Brother Salyards would be present and I calling his attention to what was going on. However, I could interpret the principal part of the dream, that portion that referred to the transferring of the authority which rested in Joseph to his son, Frederick M., but the question in my mind was as to whether or not I would be the instrument through whom this transfer would be made. I was also impressed that the time of Joseph's departure was near at hand.

# The Death of Joseph

About two weeks after my arrival home, I received a telegram from Frederick M., announcing the death of his father and requesting me to come to Independence, which I did. I was one of the pallbearers that bore his mortal remains to the silent tomb, which, to me, was a very sad and sorrowful event, as I had always held him in such high esteem and looked upon him as a real father, and in fact, he had been a father to me for many years. I was not the only one who was made sad over his departure, as the ministry as a whole loved him dearly and mourned his passing away.

The question naturally arose as to who would succeed Brother Joseph as president of the Melchisedec priesthood and of the church. Personally, I knew from the dream I had had on board ship that his oldest son, Frederick M. Smith, would succeed him in that high and honorable position. However, this all-important question was to be decided by the General Conference which was to convene at Lamoni, Iowa, April 6, 1915. But to the disappointment of all the people who gathered at said conference, Brother Frederick M. was detained at Worcester, Massachusetts, on account of sickness and could not be present. Nevertheless, the conference decided by unanimous vote that Frederick M. was to succeed his father as president of the church and provided for his ordination.

## Chosen to Ordain

In the month of May, 1915, the Quorum of Twelve assembled at Independence to arrange for his ordination. We were in session morning and afternoon. It was decided by the council in the afternoon session, just before adjourning, that if agreeable to Brother Smith the ordination should be attended to that evening in the Stone Church, and it was unanimously decided by the Quorum of Twelve that I should have charge of the ordination meeting and be the mouthpiece. They also authorized me to select whom I desired to assist.

## Endowment of Spirit

On the way from Chicago to Independence, on the Santa Fe train, the Spirit of the Lord had descended upon me in great power and had made it known to me that I would be the instrument used in the hands of God in setting Frederick M. Smith apart and ordaining him President of the church. The Spirit was upon me so forcibly that tears of joy ran down my cheeks. At this time part of the ordination prayer was also given to me. The Spirit rested upon me for some time; hence, I was positive that I would be the channel through which the authority of the office of the president would be transferred from the father to the son, as made known to me in my dream while on board the ship, as before related. Yet I could not positively know that such would be the case, as Frederick M. had the privilege of choosing the mouthpiece from the Quorum of Twelve, and the Quorum of Twelve would have to take action thereon. However, I was not at all surprised when the quorum did direct that I should be the mouthpiece and have charge of the ordination service. But there was one part of that dream that did bother me, for the party was not in Independence; namely, Brother R. S. Salyards, who, in my dream, I had called upon to witness that which occurred upon the platform. He not being there, how could that part come true? The ordination was taking place in the Stone Church, as had been indicated in my dream, but where was Brother Salyards?

At the appointed time a large concourse of people had assembled; the Stone Church was crowded, and everything was in readiness to start the meeting. I looked in the direction of the front entrance of the church, and to my happy surprise, who was walking down the aisle toward the front but Brother Salyards! This was another testimony to me, and more than that, it was more forcibly confirmed when Brother Elbert Smith requested him to take a record of the ordination. He sat down in front of us and made a note of all that occurred. Thus all that the Lord had shown me on board ship had come to pass literally.

## Directed in the Ordination

How could I question or doubt the calling of Brother Frederick M. Smith to occupy in the high and holy office which his father and grandfather had held, in view of all that I have written above? What is more, I certify that as my hands were laid upon his head, the Holy Spirit rested upon me in great and mighty power, and practically all that was spoken while officiating in that holy and sacred ordinance was indited by the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, I know our Father in heaven called this brother to the presidency of the Melchisedec priesthood and of the Church of Jesus Christ over which he now presides.

Many of the predictions that were made at that time in the ordination prayer under the influence of the Spirit have already had their fulfillment, and the rest will surely come to pass in God's own due time.

I am confident from my extensive association with the great body of the Lord's church, that the great bulk of them do not realize the stupendous responsibility that the Lord has placed upon the President of the church and his counselors. I shall herewith give a few quotations from God's Holy Writ which outline the duties of the President and his counselors, as well as our duty toward them.

In Doctrine and Covenants, section 122: 2, we are told: "The burden of the care of the church is laid on him who is called to preside over the high priesthood of the church, and those who are called to be his counselors; and they shall teach according to the spirit of wisdom and understanding, as they shall be directed by revelation, from time to time."

Query: Why should so many of us worry about the burden and care of the church when the Lord has placed it upon other shoulders? Why not let them carry it, as the Lord has directed that they should?

The Lord directs that it is their duty to teach according to the spirit of wisdom and understanding as they shall be directed by revelation from time to time, but if we shall continually protest against the

revelations that come through these men and virtually turn them down, how can the Lord continue to teach us through this medium?

In Doctrine and Covenants 19:2, the Lord says of the church, "Thou shalt give heed unto all his words, and commandments, which he shall give unto you, as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me; for his word ye shall receive as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith." Does it not stand to reason, brethren, that we should give some heed to the words that come from the mouth of him whom the Lord says is his mouthpiece? for he emphasizes as follows: *"For his word ye shall receive as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith."*

Are we guilty or not guilty in complying with this latter statement of God? Has there not been much impatience and lack of faith displayed on the part of many of his people in receiving all the words that have come from the prophet during the last two or three years? Is it not possible that we can hamper the Lord's work by rejecting the counsel of God that comes to us through his legal authoritative mouthpiece? Is it not running a great risk to undertake to put forth our hand to stay the ark of God. Some of us might meet the same fate as did Uzzah, who, through the reverence and faith he had in the contents of the ark, put forth his hand to keep it from falling to the ground and met his death. This should be a lesson to us not to interfere with things that God has placed in the hands of others to care for. We should leave the responsibility with God and the men whom he has made responsible for them.

Does it not stand to reason that the God of our fathers is as intensely interested in the progress of his church upon earth as we finite beings are? Did Jesus Christ not purchase the church by his intense suffering and the shedding of his blood upon the cross? Is he going to suffer Satan, the enemy of our souls, to destroy his church, for which he paid such a great price? My answer is, "No."

## A Warning

During the past few months there have been revelations in circulation, coming through some of the prominent men of the church, that will not stand careful inspection, as their contents are not in harmony with previous revelations coming to the church through the proper channel, namely the prophet. These so-called revelations, if believed in and carried out, would prove very disastrous to the church. We had better give heed to the word of the Lord as found in Doctrine and Covenants 27: 2 and 42: 1.

Perhaps it would be well for us to refresh our minds with the incident that happened in Moses' time, when the people turned him down because he had married a woman and thereby offended them. They sent Aaron and Miriam to the Lord for information, but he would not recognize them as his mouthpieces to the church, and told them that if they had a prophet among them, he would speak to them through him. It is not wise for us to get on our dignity and turn down God's appointed servants.

In times past I have not always seen eye to eye with some of the policies of the President, but I willingly submitted to them and worked accordingly, as I believed that if any mistakes were made on his part he would be responsible to God and not I.

It is a very poor policy for a man to fall down on his job and go out among the people and use his influence to tear down the confidence of the people in God's anointed. In this we should feel as did the Psalmist David who would not do King Saul any harm because he was God's anointed.

## An Invitation

Therefore, brethren, my confidence is that God will keep men at the head of the church to direct its destiny whom he wants there; and until he directs otherwise I am going to stand by those who occupy in these responsible positions and support their every effort with what little talent I possess, with the aid of God's Spirit, and I admonish all others to do likewise.

Hence, let us quit our squabbling and cease to contend with one another, but let us work together in harmony and love and by the help of God bring into existence a real tangible Zion, about which we have been singing for so many years, and let the vision we have had of the future become a reality. If we do this, our Father in heaven will crown our efforts with success.

Your brother in gospel bonds,

GOMER T. GRIFFITHS.

# Ordination of President Frederick M. Smith

## Ordination Statement and Prayer

By Apostle Gomer T. Griffiths

Almighty God, who dwells in the heavens above, we thy servants entreat thee in the name of thine only begotten Son, to breathe upon us the spirit of our office and calling as we officiate in this holy ordinance of ordination, that we may give utterance to those things that will please thee, O God.

Brother Frederick Madison Smith, the Lord, our God, has designated through the late prophet, thy father, that when he should be overtaken by the hand of death, thou shouldst succeed him in the presidency of the holy priesthood and the church of God here on earth. The late General Conference has approved and indorsed the selection that has been made by our heavenly Father and directed this ordination. Therefore we, thy fellow servants and authorized ministers of Jesus Christ, impose our hands upon thy head and through this holy ordinance of laying on of hands we separate thee and ordain thee president of the high priesthood which is after the order of Melchisedec, and we ordain thee President of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We ask God, our eternal Father, to confer upon thee through this sacred ordinance the special gifts that God bestows upon the one who is president of this Melchisedec priesthood, even that of a translator, revelator, seer, and prophet, and all the gifts, blessings, and powers that God bestows upon the head of the church; because that through this ordination you are now called to be the presiding elder over all the church of God on earth.

And we ask God, the eternal Father, that inasmuch as this responsibility is great that is now placed upon thee, thou mayest have power given

unto thee to perform the functions and the duties thereof with an eye single to the glory of the great God, in the interests of the church over which thou art called upon to preside.

It will be thy duty to receive revelations and commandments for the church, for its government on the earth; and it will be thy duty in connection with thy brethren who shall be associated with thee in the First Presidency, to preside over the deliberations of the High Council. And O God, our eternal Father, do thou bless our brother with the spirit of discernment and wisdom that he may become a mighty and a wise counselor in his day; and when called upon to pass upon transgressors to make decisions, that they may be just and inspired of God and rendered in righteousness, to the glory of God and the honor of thy name and the good of those upon whom he shall pass judgment.

And O dear brother, it is now thy privilege because of this position unto which thou hast been called and set apart, to commune with God the Father, with Jesus Christ his Son, and with the assembly and church of the first born and with angels; and we feel to say unto thee by constraint of the Spirit: As God has blessed those who have occupied this high and holy calling in ages past, the same God will be with thee, and thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, and angels shall come and talk with thee as one man talketh with another, if thou wilt place thyself in that condition to receive these communications. The Lord will direct thee in dreams by night and heavenly visions, and he will make known unto thee in mind and will *in relation to the affairs of his church and kingdom*, and thou wilt have the watchcare and the jurisdiction of all the ministry of God.

O thou Father above, do thou bless our brother! Make him strong in body; make him strong in mind and in spirit. And I say unto thee in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that the God of thy fathers will be with thee, and he will enlighten thy mind, and will quicken thine understanding and increase and develop thy intellectual powers and forces; and

he will give unto thee special gifts, even that of eloquence, and thou shalt be a leader, a mighty leader in Israel; for thou shalt have power in the church with thy brethren. But remember, brother, thou shalt have trial; thy heart will be made sad and sorrowful because of false brethren; thou wilt have enemies within and foes without, but the God that has watched over those who have occupied in this holy office in ages past, will be with thee. And brother, be humble in thy heart; be meek and lowly, and put thy trust in God who has called thee to this holy position, because he has watched over thee since thou wast born into this world, and he has raised thee up for a wise purpose, and he will be with thee, and thou shalt feel his power resting upon thee, and he will comfort thy heart in the hour of trouble and the time of distress.

Thy mind will often be perplexed. Many things will arise in days to come that will *try thee sorely*, but our Father in heaven will be with thee and will strengthen thee in the inner man. And we ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, to make thee well, every whit, from the crown of thy head to the soles of thy feet, that thou mayest be made strong and qualified and fitted in every respect for these duties and great obligations that are now placed upon thee.

And I feel to say unto thee, dear brother, that thy companion shall be a comfort to thee, and in the hour of distress and sorrow, she, by the power of God operating upon her mind, will speak words of comfort to thy heart and cheer to thy drooping spirits; and therefore thou shalt give heed to her when she shall come to thee under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

Mine angels will be around about thee and they will protect thee, and the hand that is raised against thee shall not prosper. Therefore be of good cheer. Remember that God has now placed upon thee a great honor; but few men in the ages past have been honored as thou art honored to-night, to receive this high and holy office, to be president of the holy priesthood of the church of the first born on the

earth. Rejoice exceedingly in thy heart, because God has been mindful of thee.

And thou shalt be great in his sight, a mighty prince in Israel, and thy brethren will have confidence in thee and they will support thee, and those who are called and associated with thee in this great work of redemption, they shall with thee carry on this great work; therefore, when thou art tried and even tempted by the Evil One—for he will seek to mar thy peace and to weaken thy confidence in thy brethren—I say unto thee, in that hour thou shalt go into thy secret chamber and upon thy bended knees thou shalt go to God, unto him who knows thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart, and thou shalt pray for them—thou shalt be as thy Savior was, meek and lowly in heart and spirit. Be humble, my brother, and look with pity upon thy weak and erring brethren. Many of them desire in their hearts to do good, but permit themselves to be overcome in their environments and the evils that are in the world.

Remember, thou art a leader in Israel; thou art a father unto the flock of God; and he who has watched over thee in days past will be with thee in days to come. And I feel to say unto thee in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that as long as thou art humble in thy heart and wilt trust God and seek to do his will, to carry out the trust that is reposed in thee, he will be with thee and stand by thee; and though thou shalt have *many trials* and shalt wade through deep troubles and afflictions, and he who knows how to try men will *try thee to the uttermost*—I say unto thee, that in the hour of trial, God will come to thy rescue; he *will not permit thee to be overcome*. Thou shalt stand as a mighty man in the world, and even those outside of the church will look upon thee as a great man in the world; if thou art humble God will operate upon thy mind and heart, and thou shalt speak as one honored of God. And as the Lord said unto Joshua who succeeded Moses as a leader over Israel, so I say unto thee: Be strong and of good courage; keep thy hand in the hand of God and he will lead thee safely on.

We feel to commend thee to him. We cannot leave thee in better hands than in his; in the hands that have been over thee in the past, even in thy late illness; for God watched over thee and heard the prayers of thy brethren and recognized their fasting; and he did bless thee and has brought thee to this place that thou shouldst be set apart and placed in this position, to set the work in order, with those whom God has called to be thy colaborers.

And may the love of God abound in thy heart, and that peace of God that no man can give be with thee, that at last it may be said unto thee, "Come unto me and I will give thee that reward that I give to those who have been faithful to their trust." And thou shalt stand with those who have gone before—the patriarchs, apostles, and prophets who have been faithful in their trust. Thou shalt stand with them in the world to come. Amen.—*Saints' Herald*, vol. 62, No. 31, pp. 737-739, August 4, 1915.

