

An Inspired Message  
Given by Elder V.D. Ruch  
At the Communion Service of the Council Bluffs Branch  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1949

Verily, thus saith the Spirit unto you my people; Your gathering together this day to renew your covenant with me which you made in the waters of baptism is pleasing in my sight. My unlimited love and compassion is extended toward you as I discern the righteous desires of your hearts and the longing that many of you have to live closer to me and to become more perfect in my sight. Conditions in the world coupled with your human weaknesses make it difficult for some of you to consecrate your lives more fully to me. But, my children, I say unto you this morning, that if you will humble yourselves before me, repent of your sins, and seek me in earnest prayer I will give you strength to overcome and you will be blessed with great spiritual power.

Oh, my people, you have many lessons yet to learn. It is the little things in your lives, things of little value to you, that you allow to hinder your spiritual development and rob you of many spiritual experiences and blessings. Most all of you must learn to love one another and live together in peace. The spirit of criticism is hurting the branch as a whole and the members individually, preventing the operation of my spirit among you. In the various departments of my church there must be greater unity if you would be instruments in my hands for the building of my kingdom. The world needs my kingdom today as never before. The forces of evil and the weapons of war have become so powerful in the world that civilization could be almost wiped out in a brief period of time, and such will happen unless more people are touched by and respond to my spirit. I am depending upon you, my people, to assist in the building of my kingdom. Be kind and helpful to each other and give this community a demonstration of real Christian living. As your nonmember friends gaze upon you may they be constrained to say, "Truly, those people have been with Jesus."

For this to happen you must make Jesus your Lord and Master. May he have his way in your lives. This community has played a very important part in the history of my church, and shall continue to do so. Many rich experiences have been enjoyed by my people here, but that which you have enjoyed in the past will become insignificant in comparison with the manifestation of my power among you in the future as you reach greater spiritual heights. This, my church, shall increasingly become a force for good here as more room and adequate quarters are provided for the carrying on of my work. Many, many souls will turn their faces toward my church seeking comfort and counsel and divine guidance in the solving of their problems and in the working out of their soul's salvation.

In order that you might be ready to take advantage of these opportunities and to be instruments in my hands to bring blessings to mankind, the Priesthood is admonished to study, learn my holy will, get experience by ministering to my people now, and to develop into true shepherds of the sheep, able to give them counsel, comfort, and instruction as they have need. Unless you prepare yourselves by doing the little things which your hands find to do, you will not be ready to do the big things when they come.

To men of my church, who are not of the Priesthood, are called to assist in this work according to the gifts of God unto them. There is much work to be done outside of the Priesthood as well as in it. Do not hesitate to talk with people about the church. Share your spiritual experiences with them and endeavor to win them for Christ. You are admonished to visit my people to encourage and strengthen those who are sick and shut-in, and those who have grown old. Many people get lonesome and feel that they are forgotten. Seek out such and give them attention and affection. Bring them to church in your car and perform other little kindnesses for them. O, there is so much service to be rendered and so much ministry to be given. Can I depend upon the men of my church to do these things?

I admonish my handmaidens to also enter in and occupy. Some of you have done much hitherto in performing many types of ministry. I commend you for it. This you should continue to do. Do not become weary of well doing. Do not allow outside activities to so fill your lives to the extent that you have no time or strength left to serve me. You are serving me as you minister in the various departments and organizations of my church as one of old has said, "It is far greater to be a doorkeeper of the House of the Lord, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Do you consider it a little thing that I have called you out of the world into the fold of my church? If you will not acknowledge me before men I will not acknowledge you in the courts of glory. There is a place for all of you to serve. Enter in and occupy.

My young people are again admonished to be faithful to me and my church. As you pass through the critical adolescent period of your lives be careful that you do not lose interest in worthwhile things. Do not sell your birthright in my kingdom for that which perishes with the using. Keep your lives clean and pure before me so that, in future years, you may not have cause to regret foolish mistakes made today. Never under any circumstances, be ashamed to tell anyone the name of the church of which you are members. You are called to serve in my church today. Believe I not bestowed many rich blessings upon you? In appreciation for these blessings is it too much to expect you to consecrate your lives to me, attending as many of the services as possible, yea, even the prayer meetings, and there bear testimony of my goodness to you? My only purpose concerning you is to save you from the power of the devil who seeks to destroy your souls. I desire to spare you much suffering and disappointment in this life as well as the world to come. Do not compromise with sin. Keep your ideals and standards high and other young people will look up to you and call you blessed.

Oh, my people, what must I do to prove my love for you? I have brought you into my church. I have blessed you in numerous ways, yea, many blessings of which you were not aware. I have placed at your disposal my gospel and my church by which you may obtain celestial glory, if you are faithful. Yet, many of my people in this place have become indifferent toward me and my church. My heart is heavy with sadness because of this condition. Unless they repent and return unto me they cannot receive celestial glory. What a mistake they are making! They are selling their soul. No matter what may be the cause of this indifference it isn't important enough for them to allow it to bring damnation to their souls. To all such lukewarm members, to whom this message may come, I call upon you to return unto me and my church, renew your covenant, and become an active member in good standing, worshipping me in spirit and in truth. Make a desperate effort to remove every obstacle that stands in your way. Beware of the whisperings of Satan who seeks to deceive you and damn your soul. Humble yourselves, repent of your sins and come unto me.

These are important days in which you live. These are days to proclaim my gospel. The salvation of some people is in the balance. If they are not won for me now they will never be. It is well that arrangements have been made for a series of meetings to be held here in the near future. I admonish you, my people, to support these meetings by your presence and your prayers. Bring your friends that they may have an opportunity to hear my gospel. If you will stand by and support my servant, Harold I. Velt, in these meetings, I will also stand by him and bless his efforts in this place.

Satan is not pleased with the progress that my church is making in this place. I warn you to watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. He will take advantage of every opening to come into your personal lives or into the branch and divide it. He will seek to separate you, my people, in regard to the interpretation of my scriptures or points of doctrine. As in days of old, he will seek to raise up men to deceive and lead people away after them. My power is greater than his. Put your faith and trust in me and I will lead you triumphantly forward in the accomplishment of my righteous purpose.

Thus Saith the Spirit.