

**THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN ARE INTENDED FOR ALL THE  
SAINTS—THE LATTER-DAY WORK AN INDIVIDUAL  
WORK—MEN AND WOMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR  
OWN ACTS—OBEDIENCE IS ESSENTIAL TO  
SALVATION—THE PRESENT SINFUL CONDITION OF THE  
WORLD THE RESULT OF DISOBEDIENCE—COUNSEL TO  
THE SAINTS ON THE NECESSITY OF LIVING  
EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH, DELIVERED IN THE NEW TABERNACLE, SALT  
LAKE CITY, AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 7, 1873.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

To say I have been very much interested in the instructions that we have had at this Conference is but faintly to express my feelings. We have had much very excellent teaching, which we will do well to give heed to. I cannot believe that the congregations that have attended this Conference will cast lightly aside these teachings. Certain it is that all the preaching that can be done by those who are most competent, and most richly endowed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, will not benefit the people in the least, unless they will receive it, and will realize that the counsels which are given are designed expressly for themselves. It is not for us to say, "that does not mean me," and "that applies to my neighbor;" or "that has reference to the doings of so and so." We should each feel that the instructions given have direct reference to ourselves individually; that counsel or that commandment is for me, and it is for me, as a individual, to put it into practice. This is the only course that will benefit, and fit us for the responsibilities that will de-

volve upon us in the future. It will not do for us to say—"If brother so and so, or sister so and so, will observe and carry out that counsel, I shall be satisfied to remain as I am." We cannot obtain blessings from God by taking this course; the only way to secure them is by diligence on our own part. When we are prepared, by our own works and diligence, to receive the blessings that God has in store for the faithful; then, and not till then, shall we receive them. It will not do for us to be satisfied for our brother to prepare himself to receive the blessings God has promised to his children, and to rest content with seeing him receive the light of truth, the blessings of the Gospel, and manifest a willingness to work righteousness in the earth. That will not reach us, only so far as we adopt his course and follow his example.

This is how I look at the requirements which God has made upon his people collectively and individually, and I do believe that I have no claim upon God or upon my brethren for blessing, favor, confi-