

**WHY THE SAINTS MEET TOGETHER—THEIR
PRETENSIONS—WHAT THEIR PROFESSION IMPLIES—NO
RIGHT TO SIT IN JUDGMENT ON THE WORLD—ALL
CHILDREN OF A COMMON FATHER—MANY GOOD MEN
INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO DID NOT POSSESS
THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST—HOW JOSEPH SMITH
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FAITHFUL—WHAT HAVE RELIGIONISTS OF THE WORLD
TO OFFER?—CHARACTER OF THE WOULD-BE
REFORMERS—RIGHTS TO BE CONTENDED
FOR—CORRUPT PRACTICES CONDEMNED.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL, SALT
LAKE CITY, SUNDAY, FEB. 11, 1883.

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We meet together from time to time, to speak and to hear, to meditate and reflect, to sing and to pray, to attend to our Sacraments, and to seek to obtain a knowledge of the duties and responsibilities which devolve upon us to attend to. And then we are desirous to worship the Lord our God and conform to his laws; to seek an acquaintance with him and with his purposes, and to understand the position we occupy in relation to our Heavenly Father and the world in which we live. These are some of the ideas and thoughts that flow more or less through the minds of the Latter-day Saints; and we are desirous generally to know the mind and will of God, and then to do it; at least, these are the pretensions of the Latter-day Saints. We do not always come up to that standard, however; but the great majority of the people, I am happy to say, are seeking to conform to the mind, and will, and word, and law of God.

It has given me great pleasure lately, in traveling among the Saints to witness a spirit and feeling of this kind, which has been abundantly developed in the different parts of the Territory that we have had the pleasure of visiting. And it is a matter of considerable importance to us, as a people, that we comprehend the position that we occupy in the world, and the various duties and responsibilities that devolve upon us. There are various theories, notions and ideas abroad in the world pertaining to the future. We, ourselves, have been gathered from the nations of the earth under the influence of the new and everlasting Gospel, and under the guidance and dictation of God, our heavenly Father; and we call this Zion, and we call ourselves the people of Zion, or in other words, the Saints of the Most High God. We really make very great pretensions. To be a Saint signifies to be holy, to be pure, to be upright, to be virtuous.