

STORY



Elder Joseph Fielding Smith

A LOVING PROPHET: TWO STORIES

“The Man I Know”

The following tribute was given of President Smith in 1932 by his wife Ethel G. Reynolds Smith who bore nine children and was step-mother to two others.

You ask me to tell you of the man I know. I have often thought when he is gone people will say, “He is a very good man, sincere, orthodox, etc.” They will speak of him as the public knows him; but the man they have in mind is very different from the man I know. The man I know is a kind, loving husband and father whose greatest ambition in life is to make his family happy, entirely forgetful of self in his efforts to do this. He is the man that lulls to sleep the fretful child, who tells bedtime stories to the little ones, who is never too tired or too busy to sit up late at night or to get up early in the morning to help the older children solve perplexing school problems. When illness comes, the man I know watches tenderly over the afflicted one and waits upon him. It is their father for whom they cry, feeling his presence a panacea for all ills. It is his hands that bind up the wounds, his arms that give courage to the sufferer, his voice that remonstrates with them gently when they err, until it becomes their happiness to do the thing that will make him happy.

The man I know is most gentle, and if he feels that he has been unjust to anyone the distance is never too far for him to go and, with loving words or kind deeds, erase the hurt. He welcomes gladly the young people to his home and is never happier than when discussing with them topics of the day—sports or whatever interests them most. He enjoys a good story and is quick to see the humor of a situation, to laugh and to be laughed at, always willing to join in any wholesome activity.

The man I know is unselfish, uncomplaining, considerate, thoughtful, sympathetic, doing everything within his power to make life a supreme joy for his loved ones. That is the man I know.

Bryant S. Hinckley, “Joseph Fielding Smith,” *Improvement Era*, 35 (June 1932): 459.

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ADDRESS 1

Opening address given by President Joseph Fielding Smith at the 140th Annual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened Friday, April 4, 1970, in the Tabernacle, Temple Square, Salt Lake City.

1. My beloved brethren and sisters: I am grateful beyond any measure of expression for the blessings the Lord has given to me, and to the faithful members of His church in the various nations of the earth, and to all His children everywhere.

2. I thank Him every day of my life that He has restored in these last days His everlasting gospel for the salvation of all who will believe and obey its laws.

3. I thank Him for the life and ministry of each of the good and great men whom He has called to govern and direct the affairs of His latter-day kingdom.

4. May I say in particular how much we miss President David O. McKay. As we all know, he was a man of great spiritual strength, a natural-born leader of men, and a man beloved by his people and honored by the world. For all time to come men shall rise up and call his name blessed.

5. President McKay reminded us often that our mission is to all the world—for the peace, and hope, and happiness, and temporal and eternal salvation of all of our Father's children.

6. He extended educational opportunities to many peoples in many countries—to Hawaii, the South Pacific, Latin America, and widely among the American Indians. In his remarkable and wide-ranging administration, he sought to bless the people of all the world, so far as possible.

7. And I say to you, my beloved brethren and sisters, that I know the Lord was pleased with the broad, far-seeing administration of President McKay, and with all my powers of persuasion I urge this people to continue to reach out and bless the lives of all our Father's children everywhere.

8. May I say how pleased we are as a people for the increased understanding and for the kindly relationship which we enjoy with other faiths, and I trust and pray that this wholesome relationship of goodwill and Christian fellowship will increase and will bless the lives of all who are touched by it.

9. I think if all men knew and understood who they are, and were aware of the divine source from whence they came, and of the infinite potential that is part of their inheritance, they would have feelings of kindness and kinship for each other that would change their whole way of living and bring peace on earth.

10. We believe in the dignity and divine origin of man. Our faith is founded on the fact that God is our Father, and that we are His children, and that all men are brothers and sisters in the same eternal family.

11. As members of His family, we dwell with Him before the foundations of this earth were laid, and He ordained and established the plan of salvation whereby we gained the privilege of advancing and progressing as we are endeavoring to do.

12. The God we worship is a glorified Being in whom all power and perfection dwell, and He has created man in His own image and likeness, with those characteristics and attributes which He himself possesses.

13. And so our belief in the dignity and destiny of man is an essential part both of our theology and of our way of life. It is the very basis of our Lord's teaching that "the first and great commandment" is: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy

STORY



Elder Harold B. Lee

PROTECTION AND PRIESTHOOD POWER

“I Definitely Heard a Voice”

I have a believing heart that started with a simple testimony that came when I was a child—I think maybe I was around ten or eleven years of age. I was with my father out on a farm away from our home, trying to spend the day busying myself until my father was ready to go home. Over the fence from our place were some tumbledown sheds that would attract a curious boy, and I was adventurous. I started to climb through the fence, and I heard a voice as clearly as you are hearing mine, calling me by name and saying, “Don’t go over there!” I turned to look at my father to see if he were talking to me, but he was way up at the other end of the field. There was no person in sight. I realized then, as a child, that there were persons beyond my sight, for I had definitely heard a voice. Since then, when I hear or read stories of the Prophet Joseph Smith, I too have known what it means to hear a voice, because I’ve had the experience.

Stand Ye in Holy Places (Deseret Book Co., 1974), p. 139.

“A Power had Taken Away the Pain”

There is a power beyond the sight of man that heals not only sick bodies but sick souls. I met a young man in Tokyo, where we were holding a servicemen’s conference. He had his right arm in a sling, and as he was introduced, he put out his left hand to acknowledge the introduction. “I am not a member of the Church,” he said, “but I understand you are going to be in Manila in a few weeks. We will be there with the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and I hope to be able to tell you when you get there that I have become a member of the Church.”

The weeks went by and I had almost forgotten the incident until, as we held a conference at Clark Field in Manila, I spotted the same man whom I had met in Tokyo. In an interview we had with him later he said, “You noticed when we met in Tokyo that I had my arm in a sling. It was hurting me terribly all through that service, but after we had shaken hands on the stand, suddenly the throbbing pain seemed to stop. I took my arm out of the sling and began to flex it, and there was no more pain. When I went back to the ship, I didn’t need any treatment; the in-

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ADDRESS 1

Opening address delivered by President Harold B. Lee in the Solemn Assembly Session of 142nd Semiannual general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened Friday morning, October 6, 1972, in the Tabernacle, Temple Square, Salt Lake City. President Joseph Fielding Smith at age 95 had passed away July 2 and The First Presidency had been reorganized in the Salt Lake Temple five days latter.

1. Today, at the greatest moment of my life, I find myself without words to express my deep and innermost feelings. What I may say, therefore, must be actuated by the Spirit of the Lord, that you, my beloved Saints of the Most High God, may feel the depths of my soul-searching on this momentous and historic occasion.

2. As I have participated with you in this moving experience of a solemn assembly, there has been brought more forcibly than ever to my mind the significance of the great revelation of the Lord given to the Church in 1835. In this revelation the Lord gave specific instructions setting forth the order of the priesthood in the government of the church and kingdom of God.

3. In this revelation the Lord specified four requisites in the establishment of the First Presidency, or the presidency of the Melchizedek, or High, Priesthood of the Church, as the Lord speaks of it. (D&C 107:22.)

4. First, it was requisite that there be three presiding high priests.

5. Second, they were to be chosen by the body (which has been construed to be the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles).

6. Third, they must be appointed and ordained by the same body--the Quorum of the Twelve.

7. Fourth, they must be upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayers of the Church.

8. All of these steps were taken in order that the quorum of the First Presidency could be formed to preside over the Church.

9. Those first steps were taken by action of the Twelve and they were attended to in a sacred meeting convened in the temple on July 7, 1972, where the First Presidency were named.

10. Today, as never before, have I more fully realized the importance of that last requirement: that this presidency, in the Lord's language, must be upheld by the confidence, the faith, and the prayers of the Church--which means, of course, the entire membership of the Church.

11. We witnessed a short while ago the outpouring of love and fellowship that was in evidence in the great regional conference of our wonderful Lamanite Saints from Central America and Mexico, assembled in Mexico City in August. Over 16,000 Saints were gathered together in a great auditorium, where they sustained their General Authorities.

12. Again, in the mighty demonstration of this solemn assembly, I am moved with emotions beyond expression as I have felt the true love and bonds of brotherhood. There has been here an overwhelming spiritual endowment, attesting, no doubt, that in all likelihood we are in the presence of personages, seen and unseen, who are in attendance. Who knows but that even our Lord and Master would be near us on such an occasion as this, for we, and the world, must never forget that this is his church, and under his almighty direction we are to serve! Indeed, I would remind you what he declared in a similar conference of Saints in Fayette, New York, and undoubtedly would

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