

UNITY OF THE FAITH

TWO TEMPLE CLEANSINGS

“When Jesus began his public ministry, he cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of his ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. **So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches.** The second angel's message is, **“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”** And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, **“Come out of her, my people,** that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” The *Review & Herald*, December 6, 1892.

OCTOBER 22, 1844

“I saw the Father rise from the throne, [SEE PAGE 92.] and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, **“Wait here;** I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; **keep your garments spotless,** and in a little while I will **return from the wedding** and receive you to Myself.” Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was **a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate.** Those who **rose up** with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, **“My Father, give us Thy Spirit.”** Then **Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost.** In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.” *Early Writings*, 55.

“WAIT HERE”

Tarrying Time

“KEEP YOU GARMENTS SPOTLESS”

“Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a **continual looking unto Jesus.** Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. **This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God.**” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 360.

“ROSE UP”

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and **the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.** Isaiah 60:1

“MY FATHER, GIVE US THY SPIRIT”

Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. Zechariah 10:1

“JESUS WOULD BREATHE UPON THEM THE HOLY GHOST”

“The act of **Christ in breathing upon his disciples the Holy Ghost,** and in imparting his peace to them, was **as a few drops before the plentiful shower to be given on the day of Pentecost.**” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, 243.

CONFUSION AFTER 1844

“After the close of the prophetic period in 1844, until the light of the third angel's message was seen, there was **confusion among the believers**. This confusion, to some extent, existed until they saw the real ‘**present truth,**’ and **became settled in the belief of it**. The Lord was, meanwhile, manifesting the true gift of prophecy in connection with the **unfolding light of the third angel's message**. Those who were willing to accept his guidance, now had the privilege of coming into that ‘**unity of the faith**’ which the true gifts of the Spirit are designed to promote. Eph.4:11-16.

“**September 23d**, the Lord showed me that he had stretched out his hand the second time to **recover the remnant of his people**, and **that efforts must be redoubled in this gathering time**. In the scattering time Israel was smitten and torn; but **now in the gathering time God will heal and bind up his people**. **In the scattering, efforts made to spread the truth had but little effect, accomplished but little or nothing**; but in the gathering when God has set his hand to gather his people, **efforts to spread the truth will have their designed effect**. All should be united and zealous in the work. **I saw that it was a shame for any to refer to the scattering for examples to govern us now in the gathering**; for if God does no more for us now than he did then, Israel would never be gathered. It is as necessary that the truth should be published in a paper, as preached.

“The Lord showed me that **the 1843 chart** was directed by his hand, and that no part of it should be altered; that the figures were as he wanted them. That his hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none could see it, until his hand was removed.

“Then I saw in relation to the ‘**Daily,**’ that the word ‘sacrifice’ was supplied by man's wisdom, and does not belong to the text; and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the ‘Daily;’ but since 1844, in the confusion, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion has followed.

“The Lord showed me that **Time had not been a test since 1844**, and that time will never again be a test.

“Then I was pointed to some who are in the great error, **that the saints are yet to go to Old Jerusalem, &c., before the Lord comes**. Such a view is calculated to take the mind and interest from the present work of God, under the message of the third angel; for if we are to go to Jerusalem, then our minds will naturally be there, and our means will be withheld from other uses, to get the saints to Jerusalem. I saw that the reason why they were left to go into this great error, is because they have not confessed and forsaken their errors, that they have been in for a number of years past.” *The Review & Herald*, November 1, **1850**.

CONFUSION AT VOLNEY, N. Y., IN 1848

“To illustrate the difficulties to be overcome, brought about by **the confused ideas of those who had just accepted the Sabbath truth**, we refer to the first general gathering of our people in central New York. In **August, 1848**, they requested Elder and Mrs. White and Elder Joseph Bates to come from Massachusetts to give them instruction in the truths of the message. Concerning this meeting we read that ‘about thirty-five were present, - all that could be collected in that part of the State. But of this number hardly two were agreed. Some were holding serious errors, and each strenuously urged his own views, declaring that they were according to the Scriptures’ - ‘Testimonies for the Church,’ Vol. I, page 86. The Lord, through the gift of prophecy, instructed this people respecting the truth in contrast with their errors, and when that series of meetings closed they were a united company.

“As to the kind of instruction given at that time to correct prevailing errors and save the ranks from confusion, we read in ‘Experience and Views,’ pages 53, 54, published 1851: ‘Such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past advent movement and show what our present position is, establish

the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen were the principal subjects on which the messengers [ministers] should dwell.’

CAUSE OF THE CONFUSION

“We read in the same book of the necessity of harmony among the teachers: ‘Some who have formerly run deep into fanaticism would be the first now to run before God sends them, before they are purified from their past errors: having error mixed with the truth, they would feed the flock of God with it, and if they were suffered to go on, the flock would become sickly, and distraction and death would follow.’ - Ibid., page 53.

“This being the situation we can readily see that the very first thing **‘wanting’** in establishing **‘order’** among the Seventh-day Adventists was **some regulation by which the flock might know who were approved ministers**, who - not thus approved - were liable to teach them ‘pernicious errors.’ About the year 1852, the Lord gave the following instruction, which was first published in ‘Supplement to Experience and Views,’ in the summer of 1853:” *The Church: Its Organization, Order and Discipline*, JNL, 97, 98.

GOSPEL ORDER

“The Lord has shown me that gospel order has been too much neglected and feared. That formality should be shunned; but in so doing, order should not be neglected. **There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon earth;** and after his departure, **order was strictly observed among his apostles. And now in these last days, while God is bringing his children into the unity of the faith, there is more real need of order than ever before.** For as God is uniting his children, satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity, and to destroy it. Therefore men will be hurried into the field; men without wisdom, lacking judgment, **perhaps not ruling well their own house, and not having order or government over the very few that God has given them charge of at home [1 Timothy 3:3-7];** yet they feel capable of having charge of the flock. They make many wrong moves, and all the messengers are thought, by those unacquainted with our faith, to be like these **self-sent men;** and the cause of God is reproached, and the truth shunned by many unbelievers, who would otherwise be candid, and anxious to inquire, Are these things so?

“Men, I saw, whose lives are not holy, who are unqualified to teach the present truth, enter the field without being acknowledged by the church or brethren generally, and confusion and disunion is the result. Some have a theory of the truth and can dwell upon argument, but lack spirituality, judgment and experience, and they fail in many things which is very necessary for one to possess before they can teach the present truth to others. Others have not the argument; but because a few brethren hear them pray well, and give an exciting exhortation now and then, press them into the field, to engage in a work that God has not qualified them for, and when they have not sufficient experience and judgment for the work. Spiritual pride comes in, and they are lifted up, and act under the deception of thinking that they are laborers. They do not know themselves. They lack sound judgment and patient reasoning. Talk boastfully of themselves, and assert many things which they cannot prove from the Word. God knoweth this, therefore he does not call such to labor in these perilous times. And brethren should be careful and not push out those into the field whom God has not called.

“These men, who are not called of God, are **generally the very ones that are the most confident that they are so called, and that their labors are very important.** They go into the field, and do not exert a good influence generally, yet in some places they have a measure of success, which leads individuals to think that they are surely called of God. I saw that it was not a positive evidence that men are called of God, because they have some success; for now the angels of God are moving upon the hearts of his honest children to enlighten their understanding as to the present truth, that they may lay hold upon it and live. And even if **self-sent men** put themselves where God does not put them, and profess to be teachers, and souls receive the truth by hearing them talk it, this is no evidence that they are called of God. The souls who receive the truth from them, receive it to be brought into trial and bondage, as they afterwards find that these men were not standing in the counsel of God. Even if wicked men talk the truth,

some may receive it; but it does not bring those who talked it, into any more favor with God. Wicked men are wicked men still. And according to the deception they practised, and as they deceived those who were beloved of God, and brought confusion into the church, so will their punishment be greater, and their sins will not remain covered, but will be exposed in the day of God's fierce anger.

“These **self-sent messengers are a curse to the cause**. Honest souls put confidence in them, think that they are moving in the counsel of God, that they are in union with the church, and suffer them to administer the ordinances, to lead them down into the water and baptize them, as duty is made plain that they must do their first works; and then when light comes as it surely will, and they are aware that these men are not what they understood them to be, God's called and chosen messengers, they are thrown into trial and doubt as to the truth they have received, and feel that they must learn it all over again, and are troubled, and perplexed by the enemy, about all their experience, whether God has led them or not, and are not satisfied until they are again baptized, and begin anew. And it is much more laborious, and wearing to the spirits of God's messengers, to go into such places where those have been, who have exerted this wrong influence. God's servants have to deal plainly, and not cover up wrongs, but act openly; for they are standing between the living and the dead, and must render an account of the faithfulness of their mission, and the influence they exert over the flock of which the Lord has made them overseers.

“These jewels who received the truth and are brought into such trials, would have had the truth the same if these men (who lack the qualifications they must have to be the Lord's messengers) had stayed away, and filled the humble place God designed for them. God's eye was upon his jewels, and he would direct his called and chosen messengers to them; men that would move understandingly, and the light of truth would shine and discover to these souls their true position, and they would receive the truth understandingly, and be satisfied with its beauty and clearness. And as they feel the effects and power of the truth, will be strong and shed a holy influence.

“**Again:** the danger of those traveling, whom God has not called, was shown me. If they do have some success, the qualifications that are lacking will be felt. Injudicious moves will be made, and some precious jewels may be driven off by a lack of wisdom, where they never can be reached. I saw that the church should feel their responsibility, and should look carefully and attentively at the lives, qualifications, and general course of those who profess to be teachers. And if unmistakable evidence is not given that God has called them, and that the ‘woe’ is upon them if they heed not this call, **it is the duty of the church to act, and let it be known that they are not acknowledged teachers by the church. This is the only course the church can take in order to be clear in this matter; for the burden lays upon them.**

“I saw that this door that the enemy comes in at, to perplex and trouble the flock, **can be shut**. I inquired of the angel how this door could be closed. Said he, ‘**The church must flee to God's word, and become established upon gospel order which has been overlooked and neglected.**’ This is indispensably necessary to **bring the church into the unity of the faith**. I saw that they were in danger **in the apostles' days of being imposed upon and deceived by false teachers; and men were chosen by the brethren, or church, who had given good evidence that they were capable of ruling well their own house, and preserving order in their own families; men that could enlighten those who were in darkness.** Inquiry was made of God concerning them, and then, according to the mind of the church, and the Holy Ghost, **they were set apart by the laying on of hands**. Having received their commission from God, and having the approbation of the church, they go forth baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and to administer the ordinances of the Lord's house, often waiting upon the saints by presenting them the emblems of the broken body and spilt blood of the crucified Saviour, to keep fresh in the memory of God's beloved children, his sufferings and death.

“**I saw that we are no more secure from false teachers now than they were in the apostles' days;** and if we do no more, we should take as special measures as they did to secure the peace, **harmony and union of the flock. We have their example, and should follow it.** Brethren of experience, and of a sound mind, should assemble, and follow the word of God, and with fervent prayer, and by the sanction of the Spirit of God, should **lay hands upon those who have given full proof that they have received**

their commission of God, and set them apart to devote themselves entirely to the work. And by this act show the approving voice of the church, in their going forth as messengers to carry the most solemn message ever given to men.

“God will not intrust the care of his precious flock to men whose minds and judgment have been weakened by former errors that they have been in, such as so-called perfectionism and spiritualism, and by their course, while in these errors, have brought reproach upon the cause of truth and disgraced themselves. And although they may now feel free from error, and competent to go forth to teach this last message, God will not accept them. He will not intrust precious souls to their care; for their judgment has been perverted while in error, and is now weakened.

“The great and holy One is a jealous God, and he will have holy men to carry his truth. The holy law, spoken by God from Sinai, is a part of himself, and holy men, who are its strict observers, will alone honor him by teaching it to others.

“I saw that the servants of God who teach the truth should be men of judgment. They should be men that can bear opposition, and not get excited; for those who oppose the truth will pick those who teach it, and every objection that can be produced, in its worst form, will be brought to bear against the truth. And the servants of God, who bear the message, must be prepared, with calmness and meekness, to remove these objections by the light of truth. I saw that the opposers would often talk to ministers of God in a provoking manner, to call out something from them of the same nature, that they can make as much of as possible, and declare to others that the teachers of the commandments have a bitter spirit, and are harsh, as has been reported. I saw that we must be prepared for objections, and with patience, judgment and meekness let them have the weight they deserve, and not throw them away, and dispose of them by positive assertions, and bear down upon the objector, and manifest a hard spirit towards him, but give the objections their weight, then bring forth the light and the power of the truth, and let it outweigh, and remove the errors; and then a good impression will be left, and they will acknowledge that they have been deceived, and that the commandment-keepers are not what they have been represented to be.

“Those who profess to be servants of the living God, **must be willing to be servants of all, instead of being exalted above the brethren, and they must possess a kind courteous spirit.** If they err, they should be ready to confess thoroughly. Honesty of intention cannot stand as an excuse for not confessing errors. Confession would not lessen the confidence of the church in the messenger, and he would set a good example, a spirit of confession would be encouraged in the church, and sweet union would be the result. I have seen that those who profess to be teachers, should be patterns of piety, meekness, and of great humility, possessing a kind spirit, to win souls to Jesus, and the truth of the Bible. A minister of Christ should be pure in conversation and in actions. He should ever bear in mind that he is handling words of inspiration, words of a holy God. He must bear in mind that the flock is entrusted to his care, and he is to bear their cases to Jesus, and plead for them as Jesus pleads for us to the Father. I was pointed back to the children of Israel anciently, and **saw how pure and holy the ministers of the Sanctuary had to be, because they were brought by their work into a close connection with God.** They that should minister, must be holy, pure and without blemish, or God would destroy them. I saw that God had not changed. He was just as holy and pure, just as particular as ever he was. He changeth not! Those who profess to be the ministers of Jesus, should be men of experience and deep piety, and then at all times, and in all places they can shed a holy influence.

“I have seen that it was now time for the messengers to move out wherever there was an opening, and God would go before them and would open the hearts of some to hear. New places must be entered, and when new places are visited it would be well to go two and two, so as to hold up each others hands, wherever they can consistently, and not neglect other places. It was shown me like this. It would be well for two brethren to start together, and travel in company together to the darkest places, where there is much opposition, and where they need the most labor, and with united efforts and strong faith set the truth before those in darkness. And then if they could accomplish more, by visiting many places, to go separately, but often meet while on the tour to encourage each other by their faith, and thereby strengthen and hold up each others hands. Also, consult upon the places opened for them, and decide which of their gifts will be the most needed, and in what way they can have the most success, and reach the heart. And

then as they separate again their courage and energy will be renewed to meet the opposition and darkness, and to labor with feeling hearts to save perishing souls.

“I saw that the servants of God should not go over and over the same field of labor, but should be searching out souls in new places. Those who are already established in the truth should not demand so much of their labor; for they ought to be able to stand alone, and strengthen others about them while the messengers of God are in the dark and lonely places setting the truth before those who are not now enlightened as to the present truth.” *Supplement to the Christian Experience and Views*, 15-22.

THE APOSTLE PAUL

“**As an important factor in the spiritual growth of the new converts** the apostles were careful to surround them with **the safeguards of gospel order. Churches were duly organized in all places** in Lycaonia and Pisidia where there were believers. **Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system were established for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers.**

This was in harmony with the gospel plan of uniting in one body all believers in Christ, and this plan Paul was careful to follow throughout his ministry. Those who in any place were by his labor led to accept Christ as the Saviour were **at the proper time organized into a church. Even when the believers were but few in number, this was done.** The Christians were thus taught to help one another, remembering the promise, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.’ Matthew 18:20.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 185.

IS ORGANIZATION EVIL?

“**Evil does not result because of organization**, but because of making organization everything, and vital godliness of little moment. When form and machinery take the pre-eminence, and a laborious task is made of carrying on the work that should be done with simplicity, evil will result, and little will be accomplished in proportion to the effort put forth. **The object of organization is just the reverse of this; and should we disorganize, it would be like tearing down that which we have built up.**” *Christian Education*, 134.

“**God is leading out a people to stand in perfect unity upon the platform of eternal truth.** Christ gave himself to the world "that he might purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." **This refining process is designed to purge the church from the spirit of discord and contention, and from all unrighteousness, that they may build up instead of tear down, and may concentrate their energies on the great work before them.** God designs that his people should all be **joined together in unity of faith.** The prayer of Christ just before his crucifixion was, that his disciples might be one, even as he was one with the Father, that the world might believe that the Father had sent him. This most touching and wonderful prayer reaches down the ages, even to our day; for his words were, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." How earnestly should the professed followers of Christ seek to answer this prayer in their lives! **Many do not realize the sacredness of the church relation, and are loth to submit to restraint and discipline.** Their course of action shows that they **exalt their own judgment above that of the united church;** and they are not careful to guard themselves lest they encourage a spirit of opposition to its voice.” *Review & Herald*, January 25, 1887.

FINAL CRISIS

As we **near the final crisis**, instead of feeling that there is less need of order and harmony of action, **we should be more systematic than heretofore**. All our work should be conducted according to well-defined plans. *Selected Messages*, book 3, 26.

“Oh, how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people and disorganize the work at a time **when thorough organization is essential and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God!** We want to hold the lines evenly, that there shall be no breaking down of the system of organization and order that has been built up by wise, careful labor. License must not be given to disorderly elements that desire to control the work at this time.

“Some have advanced the thought that, as we near the close of time, **every child of God will act independently of any religious organization**. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent. The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord's work may advance healthfully and solidly, **His people must draw together.**” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, 257, 258.

THE VOICE OF GOD

Therefore thus saith the LORD, **If** thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and **if** thou take forth the precious from the vile, **thou shalt be as my mouth**: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them. Jeremiah 15:19

“You are constantly inclined to individual independence. You do not realize that independence is a poor thing when it leads you to have too much confidence in yourself and to trust to your own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly estimate the judgment of your brethren, **especially of those in the offices which God has appointed** for the saving of His people. **God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising**, for in so doing he despises **the voice of God.**” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3, 417.

“Christ gives power to **the voice of the church**. "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." No such thing is countenanced as one man's starting out upon his own individual responsibility and **advocating what views he chooses, irrespective of the judgment of the church. God has bestowed the highest power under heaven upon His church. It is the voice of God** in His **united people in church capacity** which is to be respected....

“I saw that he would **question the men upon whom God has seen fit to lay the responsibility of His work**. He would exalt his own opinions and views above the light which God had given through them, and would boast of his knowledge; and he would be an accuser of his brethren, not excepting the ambassadors of Christ. All this overbearing influence to belittle the judgment of the servants of God and to accuse them of weaknesses and errors, exalting his own opinions above theirs, if not repented of, will be found written against him in the books, which he will see with shame in the day of God.” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3, 450, 451.

AARON'S ROD

And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the **rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds**. Numbers 17:8

AN ENSIGN

And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, **lifted up as an ensign** upon his land. Zechariah 9:16

PROPHET

The LORD thy God **will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee**, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. **I will raise them up a Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **will put my words in his mouth**; and **he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him**. And it shall come to pass, **that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him**. Deuteronomy 18:15-19

GOD & PROPHET

And the LORD said unto Moses, See, **I have made thee a god to Pharaoh**: and **Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet**. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land. Exodus 7:1-2

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. I have said, **Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High**. But **ye shall die like men**, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations. Psalms 82:5-8

WHAT IS THE ORGANIZED CHURCH?

“The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was **organized for service**, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. **The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ**; and **through the church will eventually be made manifest**, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," **the final and full display of the love of God**. Ephesians 3:10.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 9.

THOMAS – TRUST ME

“During this time he repeatedly declared, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." **He would not see through the eyes of his brethren, or exercise faith which was dependent upon their testimony**. He ardently loved his Lord, but he had allowed jealousy and unbelief to take possession of his mind and heart.” *Desire of Ages*, 807.

“I have been shown that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But **when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered**. Your error was in persistently maintaining your private judgment of your duty against the voice of the highest authority the Lord has upon the earth. After you had taken your own time, and after the work had been much hindered by your delay, you came to Battle Creek in answer to the repeated and urgent calls of the General Conference. You firmly maintained that you had done right in following your own convictions of duty. You considered it a virtue in you to persistently maintain your position of independence. **You did not seem to have a true sense of the power that God has given to His church in the voice of the General Conference**. You thought that in responding to **the call made to you by the General Conference you were submitting to the judgment and mind of one man**. You accordingly manifested an independence, a set, willful spirit, which was all wrong.” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3, 492.