suffering a little? Why, the Almighty God will chasten His people from time to
time, because He loves them, and He will
purge out the sinners from among them,
and some will repent and become righ-
teous, and a great many who promise
themselves that they are going to repent
and become first-rate Saints, but do not
begin, need not flatter themselves, for
they never will do so in that manner.

When you see men that are not ready
to repent, to bring forth fruits meet for
repentance, but say, I want to indulge
in sin a little longer, and then I am go-
ing to turn round and be a first-rate good
Saint, I will tell you they are deceiving
themselves, for they will not do it, for ev-
ery time they think of doing it they will
love sin as much as they did before, and
they will continue to love sin, and why?
Because, when He (the Lord) spoke they
would not hear; when He sent His ser-
vants they would not listen, and they
would none of His reproof, and because
of this He will laugh at their calami-
ties and mock when their fear cometh,
and when they call He will not hear, and
when they seek Him earnestly they will
not find Him.

A man cannot be righteous of his own
will and without the Spirit of the Lord;
there is no assurance for men, they can-
not have the Spirit unless they deter-
mine to walk in the light as fast as they
see it. Those who promise to repent, but
want to indulge in sin a little longer, do
not repent, and their hearts are not fit
for the kingdom of God.

That man is on the right track who
always loved the truth, and lived up
to it, as far as he could, with all
his exertions, and walked in the light
thereof every day, and every time he
saw a little more truth obeyed it, and
if he did anything at all it was his
purpose continually to avoid error and
walk in the truth. If he failed at any
time it was his weakness, his error of
judgment, his mistake, his temptation;
it was not because he did not want to
do right, or to put it off purposely and
choose sin; but it was through his weak-
ness and temptation.

I tell you there is a poor prospect of a
man that makes no progress; there is a
more promising prospect of a man that
has no light, yet lives in the practical
duties of his religion, that man or that
woman must be happy. Why, bless your
souls, there is hope with such a man,
and though he may err in judgment and
make mistakes, and though he may tresp-
sass, and though he may sin many sins
that are not unto death, make many mis-
takes through weakness, and have to be
borne with a long time, yet I tell you
there is hope of such a man, because if
he lives he learns to see his duties, and if
he stumbles and falls down, what of all
that?—he will get up again and start on
his journey, and when he starts the next
time he will start well.

Brethren, don’t seek to discourage or
crush such a man; it will not do to de-
stroy a man because he makes one or
two blunders; it will never do to cry for
spilt milk, but try again; and if you can-
not overcome at first, try again, and keep
trying until you overcome.

But when a man is not trying, but
loves to live in sin, but still says every
day, 'I am going to be a good 'Mormon,'”
I have but little hope of such a man, and
I generally say to him, you will not do it,
for the Lord will not give you His Spirit
when you please to get ready to repent.

But the honest man says, "I have
been brought to see the truth, and
I will do the best I know, though I
have a thousand traditions, and though
I make a thousand mistakes, and my
brethren have to bear with me, yet
I will do the best I can, and will
be willing to try again; and if I find