are depending upon them for support
and strength, so the members of this
Church are amenable or subject to the
President of the Church, and, being sub-
ject, should administer to him. The tree
cannot administer to the branches un-
less they administer to the roots.

According to the philosophy of the
day, my blood passes through the heart,
where it is refined or purified, and from
thence it is sent back into the body
by means of the veins and arteries, so
that every portion of it partakes of the
nourishment which the blood affords and
is impregnated with the principles sent
forth from the head and stomach. After
the refined blood has penetrated every
part, it returns again to headquarters to
receive a fresh supply of nutritious prin-
ciples. So it is with the sap that circu-
lates through the limbs and branches of
a tree: every branch and leaf becomes
impregnated with the principle that is
in the root. And so it ought to be with
the kingdom of God: every member of it
should partake of the principles of virtue
and truth that are in the leader of that
kingdom, and be as perfectly one with
him.

Why do we see dead limbs on a tree?
Because they refuse to receive the nour-
ishment which the root affords. Why do
people become dead to their own inter-
ests and the interests of the kingdom of
God? Because they refuse to obey the
will of God through their leaders: the
gate of communication is shut down be-
tween them and the source of their life
and strength in the way of life and sal-
vation.

Can a child enjoy the Spirit of God
who refuses to obey his father, who
is a man of God? No. He par-
takes of the spirit of apostasy, which
is the spirit of death. I will ask
you women of good understanding, Did
you ever disobey your husband and
live in rebellion to him, but what
you felt like the Devil? I have heard you
say you never did. My wives acknowl-
edge they cannot enjoy the enlivening
Spirit of God when they rebel against my
counsel; but their minds are as dark as
Egypt. Why? Because I design to rule in
righteousness.

The spirit of disobedience is the Spirit
of apostasy; and if you do not look out,
it will upset you, and you will go over-
board before you are aware of it. Every
branch should be interested for the root
from whence it springs; for if the root
perishes, the branch must perish also.

I hope you understand my meaning
in the figures I have used. But there are
many people here more ignorant than
our little boys of five and six years of age.
If they were not ignorant, they would not
take the course they do. Do I allow my
little boys to touch a thing that is not
their own? No. Have they a right to
touch a thing that belongs to me? Not
without my sanction. Have you a right
to interfere with the things of God? No—
not without the consent of the man that
presides over you. Has my wife a right
to meddle with anything that belongs to
me? Not without my consent; and over
that which I have committed unto her
she is a stewardess. Have I a right to
call her to an account for what I have
committed to her, to see whether she has
taken good care of it? I have. There is not
a thing on this earth that is given to us
of God that is to be ours independently
of him, and never will be, until we prove
ourselves worthy.

There is a comparison in the Bible
where it speaks of committing talents to
men and of calling them to account. "I
visited," said the Lord, "one this year and
another next year, until I visited the last
one, and I reckoned with them and called
them to an account of that which I had