who are sprinkled; but we have no ac-

count of the gifts following this admin-

istration among the members of that

church such as the gift of tongues, heal-

ing and the various gifts of the Spirit.

They are withheld. We differ, then, from

the outside religious world in this one

ordinance. No person comes into this

Church and is acknowledged to be in full

fellowship as a member of the Church,

unless one or more of the servants of God

have administered the sacred ordinance

of the laying on of hands expressly for

the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost.

I do not know why it was that the Lord

established this ordinance. He seems

to have, in all ages, bestowed blessings

upon the children of men through simple

ordinances, and he seldom gave bless-

ings, unless those ordinances were com-

plied with. When the angel came to Cor-

nelius and told him that his prayers and

his alms had ascended up before God

as a memorial, he did not see proper

on that occasion to tell exactly what he

should do in order to be saved; but he
told him to send for Peter, and he would
tell him words whereby he and his house

should be saved. Cornelius had faith

enough in that angel to actually send

for Peter. There was something required

on the part of Cornelius to manifest his

faith before God. There was something

required of the children of Israel when

they were to take the City of Jericho. It

would have been an easy matter for God
to have thrown down the walls of Jeri-

cho in an instant without making any re-

quirement of the children of Israel; but

he determined to try their faith, so they

were commanded to pass round the walls

of the city once a day for seven days, and

on each day when they encompassed the

walls they were to blow rams’ horns. On

the seventh day they were to go round

the walls of the city seven times, and

when they had completed their last cir-

cuit on the seventh day they were to give

a certain blast with the horns, and all

the people were to give a shout, then

the walls were to fall down. Now, could

not the Lord have done it without going

through all that process? O, yes, but he

did not see proper to do so, he wanted
to try the faith of that people, to see

whether they would be obedient to that

which he required of them. When they

had shown their faith by their works,

then the power of God was made mani-

fest.

It is so in relation to baptism. When

we have shown that we have faith in God

and in the ordinances and institutions

of his kingdom; when we prove our be-

lief in the principle of baptism by ren-

dering obedience thereto, we then ob-
tain the remission of our sins. When

we have faith enough to have hands laid

upon us for the reception of the Holy

Ghost, after being baptized, the Lord

sees that we are complying with the in-

stitutions of his kingdom, and he is will-
ing to bestow the blessing of the Holy

Ghost. When we have faith enough to
go to the house of worship on the first
day of the week and offer up our sacra-
ment before the Lord, according to his
commands, we witness before him that
we are willing to keep his command-
ments; but when, without excuse, we
neglect this week after week, we show
that we are careless and indifferent, and
the influence of the Holy Spirit, which
we would otherwise enjoy as Latter-day
Saints, is withheld from us.

Let none experiment on this, let

no Latter-day Saints neglect to come
to meeting, when it is their privilege
to do so, and also neglect this divine
ordinance which the Lord has insti-
tuted in commemoration of the death