your edification, but that depends upon
the Holy Spirit, without which no one
can instruct and edify the Saints. I trust
the Spirit of the Lord will be with us this
afternoon, that I may, peradventure, be
a means of blessing and building you up
in the principles of the Gospel. I will
read, for your instruction, from the Book
of Doctrine and Covenants, and will give
you some keys by which you may unlock
the treasures of the Gospel. Page 424,
new edition: "Mine house is a house of or-
der, and not of confusion," etc. Page 421:
"All blessings are predicated on law," etc.
I have read these passages because to
me they are important, and they are im-
portant to you also. We learn from the
revelations we have just read, that it
was ordained before the foundation of
the world how the blessings of the Gospel
were to be obtained, and why some peo-
ple could not attain to certain blessings.
We are told they could not obtain these
blessings because they did not abide by
the law. As Latter-day Saints, it is im-
portant that we understand the princi-
pies of salvation, that we may be en-
able to comprehend and obtain all the
keys, principles, and blessings pertaining
thereto. It was a long time after the
Prophet Joseph Smith had received the
keys of the kingdom of God, and after
Hyrum and others had received many
blessings, that the Lord gave Joseph a
revelation, to show him and others how
they could ask for and receive certain
blessings. We read in the revelations
of St. John, that the Saints are to re-
cieve a white stone, "and in the stone a
new name, which no man knoweth save
him that receiveth it." Joseph tells us
that this new name is a key word, which
can only be obtained through the en-
dowments. This is one of the keys and
blessings that will be bestowed upon the
Saints in these last days, for which we
should be very thankful.

In the first instructions we received
from the Elders, we were told we must
repent of our sins and be baptized, in or-
der to receive the Holy Spirit, and that
we had no claims upon the Lord for his
Spirit, until we had complied with the
requirements made of us. I remember
very well my feelings upon this subject
before I obeyed the Gospel. I studied
carefully, anxiously, and prayerfully, that
I might know if it were the Church of Je-
sus Christ. I did not want to run any
risk in the matter, and remain in un-
certainty. I was willing to do anything
that would give me a knowledge of the
truth. I was willing to receive it through
the ministration of an angel, through
direct revelation, or by any other way,
but I did not want to be deceived. Ev-
every time I reflected carefully upon the
subject, I came to this point—the condi-
tions upon which the promises have been
made are, repentance, baptism, and im-
position of hands. The spirit would then
whisper, you have not been baptized, you
have not obeyed the Gospel; but when I
had complied with the law, then I had
a perfect claim to the blessings and the
promises, and did receive them, and ob-
tained a perfect knowledge of the truth,
and could then bear a testimony of it to
all the world. I mention these things
to show you the principles we have to
act upon in order to obtain the bless-
ings of salvation and eternal life. And I
can testify that the Lord has fulfilled his
promises, and has poured out his Spirit
upon the people, through baptism and
the laying on of hands. So we see that