congregation unprofitably; but I realize
that without the aid of the Spirit of the
Lord I am not capable of imparting to
this congregation the word of life.

I am thankful for the opportunity
that we enjoy of meeting together un-
der such favorable circumstances. I am
pleased to see the vast numbers that are
in attendance at this conference, and I
trust that we may be amply repaid by
the instructions which we receive, for the
time and trouble which it has cost to at-
tend. In order, however, that we may
receive the blessing which we need, it
is necessary, in my judgment, for all to
come with the Spirit of the Lord in their
hearts, in the spirit of prayer, and the
love of truth, having a desire for the up-
building of the kingdom of God, and for
the accomplishment of all the purposes
and designs which have been made man-
ifest concerning this great work.

Jesus taught the doctrine that we
should pray for those that despitefully
use us; that we should love our enemies;
that we should do good to them that do
evil to us; that we should not return
evil for evil, but good for evil. There
is no particular credit due to any per-
son who returns good for good. Even
the publicans and sinners did this, but
it is somewhat difficult to return good
for evil. Nevertheless to do so was en-
joined by the commandments of the Lord
Jesus. We are to love our enemies; do
good to them that hate and persecute
us; and when we are persecuted, per-
secute not again; when we are derided,
deride not in return; if we are injured,
seek not to injure those who injure us;
that which is required at our hands is
to establish peace on earth and good
will to man. Hence, when we forget
the object of our calling and step out of
the path of duty to return blow for blow,
to inflict evil for evil, to persecute be-
cause we may be persecuted, we for-
get the injunction of the Lord and the
covenants we have made with God, to
keep His commandments. It is a diffi-
cult matter, I am aware, for human na-
ture to become subject to these scrip-
tural injunctions. It is difficult for men
to curb their passions, to restrain their
feelings, and to resist the temptation to
rebel and administer measure for mea-
sure, but it is enjoined upon us. We have
been actually commanded in the revela-
tions given to us in this dispensation to
forgive our enemies, without their ask-
ing forgiveness. It is laid down that if
your enemies come up against you to de-
sroy you, the first time, if the Lord de-
livers you out of their hands, you shall
forgive them; and if they come the sec-
ond time, you shall forgive them; and
if they come the third time against you,
the Lord has said they are then in your
hands to do with them whatsoever you
will; but it will redound to your honor,
credit and glory if you forgive them the
third time, even if they have not re-
pented and have not asked forgiveness.
Now this may seem to be rather a dif-
cult requirement; nevertheless it is so
written and is so required of the Latter-
day Saints. But how often shall we for-
give them if they repent of their sins and
ask forgiveness? Jesus has laid down the
law that we should forgive them as often
as they will repent and ask forgiveness.
I am speaking now of individual tres-
passes; of people who offend me or you
or trespass against us; I am not speak-
ing of those who trespass against the im-
mutable, the righteous and the holy laws
of God; they come under another law,
and God and His servants will reckon