

**DELUSIVE SPIRITS—PROPER CHANNEL FOR
REVELATIONS TO COME THROUGH—THE CALLING OF
JOSEPH SMITH—INDICATION OF AN
IMPOSTOR—PRIVATE ANTI-PATHY TO BE CURBED AND
THE PRIESTHOOD TO BE SUSTAINED—ONLY ONE MAN
APPOINTED TO HOLD THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM AT A
TIME—MEN NOT TO JUDGE THOSE WHO PRESIDE OVER
THEM—HOW TO SECURE JUSTICE.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH, DELIVERED AT OGDEN, SUNDAY MORNING,
JUNE 21ST, 1883.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

There has, perhaps, never been a period in the history of the Church when the delusive spirits that are abroad in the world, deceiving the children of men, were more active than they are and have been for the last few years. I have never in my recollection heard of so many pretended prophets and revelations, special messages, missions and manifestations to various individuals, as have come to my notice within the last few months or perhaps years. Some claim that they are in constant communication with angels, others that they have received a direct command from God to accomplish a certain mission, others claim to be Christ, and therefore assume the right to dictate and direct the labors of the Presidency and Twelve, and undertake to correct and set them right and to show them wherein they lack inspiration, etc., and wherein it is necessary that a strong arm should be raised up in order to steady the ark of Zion. There has been a great deal of this kind of spirit manifested of late among men who are and have been in the

Church for years; and not only such, but by men who never have been members and who have no knowledge of the character of this latter-day work. Messages from the spirit world, communications from the departed through mediums, people that permit themselves to be used for this purpose by lying and delusive spirits.

It has sometimes been sorrowful to see respected members of the Church, men who should know better, allow themselves to become the tools of seductive spirits. Such men seem, for the time at least, to lose sight of the fact that the Lord has established on earth the Priesthood in its fullness; and that by direct revelation and commandment from heaven; that He has instituted an order or government that is beyond the capacity, and that is superior to the wisdom and learning and understanding of man, so far, indeed, that it seems impossible for the human mind, unaided by the Spirit of God, to comprehend the beauties, powers, and character of the Holy Priesthood. It seems difficult for men to