DATE: 09 April 1844  
            Nauvoo, Illinois  
  
SOURCE:     Addresses/BY  
            HC 6:321-322  
  
  
  
General Conference, am  (AL, BY, HS, HCK)  
      What has been given is correct; the speech and conduct of Elders one towards another is frequently wrong; one Elder will speak evil of another; and while you trample others you will sink yourself.  A man has sinking principles; but if his feelings are elevated, he will build up others and build up himself.  Just as sure as one Elder tries to build himself upon the destruction of another, he will surely sink himself.

      I would like to sit and hear the brethren teach for a week; but as business is pressing, we must hurry through.  Preach repentance to this generation. Faith must go before repentance, and of course all men must follow the course and obey the laws and ordinances for the remission of sins, so as to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and then your mission is done. Let a man who goes into the vineyard build up all he can.  If a man preaches anything in error, pray to God that no man may remember it any more. No Elder will correct another in public before unbelievers unless he has the sinking principle.  I call all the Elders together to witness that I always use charity, for it covers a multitude of sins.

      Let us obey the proclamation of Joseph Smith concerning the Elders going forth into the vineyard to build up the Temple, get their endowments, and be prepared to go forth and preach the Gospel.  You may build up Zion, and learn to be men, and not children.  It was a perfect sweepstakes when the Prophet called North and South America Zion.  Let us go and build the Temple with all our might, that we may build up the kingdom when established and her cords lengthened.  It is a perfect knock-down to the devil's kingdom.  There is not a faithful Elder who cannot, if he is humble and diligent, build up the Church.  There are many men who will give you large sums to build a Stake of Zion where they live-- It proves the words of the Prophet of the last days.

      The Priesthood is fitted to every capacity in the world.  There are blessings and conditions in that Priesthood that suit every man.  This will suit the condition of thousands, because it is as broad as the heavens, deep as hell, and wide as eternity.

      I am asked all sorts of questions about making gods and devils, and organizing the eternal worlds; but we could not get it precisely into our understandings so as to make them.  The God we serve is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.  There is no need of breaking the law of the land if you keep the law of the Lord.  I want a wife that can take care of my children when I am away, who can pray, lay on hands, anoint with oil, and baffle the enemy; and this is a spiritual wife.

      The sweepstakes is a perfect knock-down to the devil.  We will build up churches and establish Zion and her stakes.  This is a fire which, cannot be put out:  it has spread far faster than ever it did before.  If you kick us and cuff us, we will turn the world upside down, and make the cart draw the horse.  We want to build the Temple and have the roof on this fall, in the name of Israel's God.  There are hundreds of Elders who will sell their property to build up the Temple.  Let us pay up our tithing.  If there are any men who have not paid their tithing, they will not get in there. Let the branches send teams with provisions to work all the year.

      We are acquainted with the views of Gen. Smith, the Democrats and Whigs and all factions. It is how time to have a President of the United States. Elders will be sent to preach the Gospel and electioneer.  The government belongs to God.  No man can draw the dividing line between the government of God and the government of the children of men.  You can't touch the Gospel without infringing upon the common avocations of men. They may have helps and governments in the Church, but it is all one at last.