

## Spencer W. Kimball - See His Face

Excerpts from a talk given by Elder Spencer W. Kimball at a Santa Monica Stake fireside on November 18, 1973.

Here's a quotation from the 93rd section of the D & C. The Lord speaking says this: 'Verily, thus saith the Lord' It shall come to pass...' That phrase we get tired of reading sometimes, but it is powerful. It means very, simply this: "What I'm going to tell you is true. It's true. It's basic. You can depend upon it. It will never fail." That's what He means when He says: "Verily, verily I say unto you..." I'm going to tell you something. Listen, and don't let it slip out of your minds." Then He says, "It shall come to pass that every soul" -- Now that means you, and you, and you, and me -- "every soul" who is born in this earth is destined to have this great privilege -- every soul. And then I go to the end of that verse: "...shall see my face and know that I am." Every soul! There isn't anyone in this room who cannot see God and walk with God and know God and be close to Him and know His purposes, and become one. It's possible to every soul who does five things and they're enumerated in the scripture.

Let me start again at the beginning of this verse: "And it shall come to pass, thus saith the Lord." The Lord never deals in games. He never tells falsehoods. He never exaggerates. He tells only the total truth. You know that the Lord isn't fooling. And so He says: "It shall come to pass ... every soul! ..." First, let's start here -- first -- "... who forsaketh his sins..." That isn't easy and yet no man will ever see God by just wishing it, wanting it, asking for it -- nobody with just ordinary interest or curiosity. The Lord doesn't go around just showing Himself -- like you go to a show and see something you pay for. The Lord doesn't. But every soul may see Him and know that He is, if that soul will do the things the Lord will require of him.

The first of those five things is: "... who forsaketh his sins..." That means the little sins as well as the big sins. That means he's got to become perfect, hasn't he? Oh, not today or tomorrow or next week. But perfection must be his aim. And he must not fail. No, of course. That's a process. It is hardly a destination.

And second: "... who cometh unto me..." No person can go around here, there, and everywhere, fooling around, playing and wasting his time doing things that are obnoxious, that are ugly. You just can't do that. You can't go around calling the name of God in vain. Sometimes I wonder how a woman or a man who has seen what we saw tonight -- the handiwork of God, just the tiniest part of it -- how he could take the name of the Lord in vain. I can't understand it. "... who cometh unto me ..." What does that mean: "...who cometh unto

me . . .?" That doesn't mean read a story about Him -- that means you know the Savior.

It says in the Book of Revelations: "I stand at the door and knock. Any man who cometh and who opens the door ..." let me read it to be sure I have it exactly right because it is so powerful, and so unfailing. "Behold." This is Jesus Christ speaking. This isn't some nondescript person speaking from a box, a soapbox orator, someone speaking on the street, or somebody trying to sell something. This is the Lord, Jesus Christ, who is speaking. He says: "Behold, I (Jesus Christ) stand at the door and knock. If any man ... " You see, that takes it away from just the hierarchy or from the people in high position. "... Any man who will hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him and he with me." Oh, those three or four lines have tremendous power, great meaning.

And third: "... calls upon my name ..." We mentioned this morning briefly about two children here, about their calling upon His name, upon getting on their knees every, night and every morning, never failing. The father and mother and each one of their children, all together on their knees, never failing.' And calling "upon my name", He says. The name of Jesus Christ and all the blessings we ask for and all the gratitude expressed is in the name of Jesus Christ .... We always address our prayers to Heavenly Father, His Father and our Father, but in the name of Jesus Christ.

So, "... he that forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me; and calleth upon my name ..." Oh, how careless we get. Our cattle and sheep upon the hills become greater. Our stocks and bonds fill our bank boxes. Our salaries increase. We don't need any God. We don't need Jesus Christ. We don't need anything. We are so completely selfish and satisfied and sufficient in and of ourselves. As I mentioned today calamities come. Perhaps that's one reason we have hurricanes and floods and fires and recessions and depressions, and a lot of them come to us perhaps for the principle reasons to humble us -- to get us back to where we can understand.

And then we come to number four: "... and obeyeth my voice ..." Let's read down to there again. 'Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins, who cometh unto me and who calleth on my name, who obeyeth my voice ... shall see my face and know that I am.' The Lord doesn't need to lock any doors and say, "Well, I'm going to see these that are the stake presidents, and these that are in the bishoprics, and these that are in the high places. He doesn't say that. He says, "every soul" of every nation, of every race -- every soul, without exception. "I'll

come to see him. I'll talk to him. I'll give him these blessings." Every soul who doeth these five things, only four of which we've mentioned so far. This last one was: "who obeyeth my voice ..." What is His voice? Here is His voice -- the four standard works -- the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price. Is there any one here tonight that hasn't read those four books? I hope there's not a soul here that hasn't read them, all those books.

Let's go on to the fifth one: "And it shall come to pass that every soul ..." who does these things -- A, B, C, and D -- and who "... keepeth my commandments ..." How do you know what the commandments are if you don't read the scriptures? If you don't read Exodus where it says, "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. "Now that wasn't something of bygone days. That was true in 1973 and it will be true in 1975. "Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain. Honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work and the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." And in it "... thou shalt not do any work. Thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, thy maidservant, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and sea and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day. Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Oh, He must get discouraged when He sees everybody having fun on Sunday. Everybody selling goods -- the servants, the employees. Yet He says, "Thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, thy maidservant." These are employees. Sometimes we kid ourselves by saying, "Well, I'll go ahead and take care of my duties at the church but I'll hire people to tend babies. I'll hire people to wait on tables. I'll hire someone to sell the fruit on the way stand." The Lord said, "... thy servant, thy manservant, thy maidservant ..." Still we don't know ... we don't know the scriptures. We don't know the commandments of God.

Now let me put it all together again, and listen to the power of this one thing. Did you realize that the Lord may have stopped for a few minutes to think of just what He wanted to say that would be comprehensive? And can you think of any scripture of eight lines in all literature that is so comprehensive as this? "... Every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am."

Who has seen the Christ and knows that He is? In our time you may have known people who have. They don't go around boasting about it. They don't write it in pamphlets and hand them out as they go along. Anybody who would do that isn't worthy of the

blessing. This isn't a spectacular thing that should be announced and made cheap and weak.

Now I remind you again, it isn't going to come ... it isn't going to come through wishing -- wishful thinking. It'll come only by performance. It can't come by, oh, a few days, or weeks, or months of service. Here is a Relief Society sister who's just near perfect during this short period she's president of Relief Society. Then when she's released, she gets a little careless. She doesn't pray all the time. She doesn't do the things she should. She misses some of her meetings. Here's a man, who while he was a great leader, while everyone was watching -- he lives righteously. But when he is released, he slips into the paths that are casual and that many people find.

This is perfection: remember the Beatitudes where the Lord says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect"? Now He was talking to you again. To every soul again. To every man, woman, youth and child. "Be ye perfect." That's how we become "still, still with thee." (in reference to the song of that title which was sung at the meeting). Now if that doesn't mean anything to require working ... well just go ahead, headlong into disaster. But if it does have a meaning, then let it sink deep in our hearts and a realization of it. We don't need to become sober-faced to the point that we are pious without natural and proper living. The Lord has arranged so that we can live a very normal life with joy and laughter and peace and happiness and associations of family, fatherhood, motherhood, childhood -- family life. All these things are a part of this gaining perfection. The Lord has required it of us. Now we have to start by forsaking our sins -- forsaking the temptations. (Recounting of the story, of Joseph sold into Egypt)

Now let me read this once more and let you go home with this beautiful scripture. Remember, it's the 93rd section and it's the first verse, so you can't miss it. Read it over and over. Memorize it. Write it, you young girls, on a piece of paper and put it in your bedroom where you can see it. Paste it onto your mirror. You boys put it on your mirror where you shave. Remember, "Every soul who forsaketh his sins, who cometh unto me, who calleth upon my name, who obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am."

God bless you my brothers and sisters. Sometimes we just get so busy doing so many things, we forget to stop and think, to memorize, and to read, and to study the right things. God bless us all that we may live close to our Heavenly Father and receive the unbelievable blessings that await us, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.