

## Fighting “Manfully” for the Lord

D&C 35:14

**Manfully** [*Webster* 1828] - boldly, courageously, honorably

“In June 1835 Elders David W. Patten, Wilford Woodruff, and Warren Parrish were together preaching the gospel in Tennessee. A local sheriff arrested them on false pretenses at the urging of a Methodist priest. A mock trial was held in which the defendants were not allowed to say a word in their own behalf. They were pronounced guilty. “Brother Patten, being filled with the Holy Ghost, arose to his feet, and by the power of God bound them fast to their seats while he addressed them. He rebuked them sharply for their wicked and unjust proceedings. Bro. Parrish afterwards said, ‘My hair stood up straight on my head, for I expected to be killed.’ When Patten closed, the Judge addressed him, saying, ‘You must be armed with concealed weapons, or you would not treat an armed court as you have this.’ Patten replied, ‘I am armed with weapons you know not of, and my weapons are the Holy Priesthood and the power of God. God is my friend, and he permits you to exercise all the power you have, and he bestows on me all the power I have’. (Andrew Jenson, *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*, 1:78)”

Saints in the area paid the court costs, and the missionaries were set free. That evening a heavenly messenger appeared to Elder Patten and warned him that the mob at the courthouse was in a rage because their prisoners had been freed. These brethren escaped unharmed by heeding this angelic warning.