

# GOSPEL DOCTRINE LESSON 24: "Be Not Deceived, but Continue in Steadfastness" (D&C 26, 28, 43, 50, 52)

**LESSON GOAL:** To help us understand how we can avoid deception and apostasy.

The title of the lesson comes from D&C 49. The Lord is addressing a point of doctrine of the "Shakers," stating that the Second Coming has occurred, for the Spirit of Christ had come upon Ann Lee. The Lord comments on that doctrine:

**D&C 49:22-23:** "And again, verily I say unto you, that the Son of Man cometh not in the form of a woman, neither of a man traveling on the earth. Wherefore, **be not deceived, but continue in steadfastness.** . . ."

**Thomas S. Monson:** "Our Father provided the sun, the moon, the stars—heavenly galaxies to guide mariners who sail the lanes of the sea. To all who walk the pathways of life, He cautions: Beware the detours, the pitfalls, the traps. **Cunningly positioned are those clever pied pipers of sin beckoning here or there. Do not be deceived. Pause to pray. Listen to that still, small voice which speaks to the depths of our souls the Master's gentle invitation: "Come, follow me":** We turn from destruction, from death. We find happiness and life everlasting" (*Ensign*, July 1999, 2).

## 1. We should recognize the deceptions of Satan that can lead us into apostasy.

### The Seven Deadly Sins of a Relationship With Yourself, Your Fellowman, and God

- 1. Resentment.** This is a **poison** that starts as something small and builds up into something big. Resentment is dangerous because it often flies under our radar.
- 2. Jealousy.** It's hard to control jealousy. It seems to happen by itself, out of our control, unbidden and unwanted. It is important that you **examine and deal with the root issue, which is usually insecurity.**
- 3. Unrealistic expectations.** But sometimes, without realizing it ourselves, we have expectations that are too high to meet. High expectations lead to disappointment and frustration.
- 4. Self-centeredness.** A person appears superficially religious, but he is so impressed with his accomplishments that he starts doing his own thing and **ignores what God says.**
- 5. Lack of communication.** This sin affects all the others on this list. **Good communication is the cornerstone** of a good relationship. If there are any problems whatsoever, you must communicate them and work them out.
- 6. Not showing gratitude.** Sometimes there are no real problems in a relationship, such as resentment or jealousy or unrealistic expectations — but **there is also no expression of the good things.**
- 7. Stubbornness.** Perhaps we always want to be right. Perhaps we never want to admit that we made a mistake. Perhaps we **don't like to say we're sorry.** Perhaps we **don't like to compromise.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE TOOLS OF DECEPTION THAT SATAN USES TO BRING US DOWN, SO THAT WE MAY GUARD AGAINST THEM AND PREPARE OURSELVES TO STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY.**

a) The psychology here is **a person who appears superficially to be religious**, but he is so impressed with his accomplishments he starts following his own insights and ignores what God says.

**D&C 3:4:** For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he **boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires**, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.

b) Sometimes people **don't like what the Prophet says**, so **they invent excuses or rationalizations to ignore him.**

**D&C 28:6-7:** And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the church; For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead.

c) Some people accept the Gospel but are **persuaded and deceived** by family pressure, peer pressure, all kinds of social pressures **to conform and fit in.** The **desire for acceptance** drives people to do what everyone else is doing.

**D&C 40:2:** And he received the word with gladness, but straightway Satan tempted him; and the **fear of persecution and the cares of the world** caused him to reject the word.

d) Here, the Lord addresses **the human desire to control or influence others.** **Manipulating people** could be tempting in a position of Church authority.

**D&C 121:36-37:** That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness. That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to **cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness**, behold the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

**DON'TS – Behaviors to Avoid**

**a. Not recognizing the prophet as the source of revelation for the Church**

**Hiram Page:** Shortly after the organization of the Church in 1830, Hiram Page, one of the Eight Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, possessed a stone through which he claimed to receive revelations about the building of Zion and the order of the Church. Oliver Cowdery, the Whitmers, and others believed these claims. Concerned about this situation, Joseph Smith prayed and received a revelation wherein the Lord said, "no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jun." (D&C 28:2).

**b. Pride**

**Thomas B. Marsh:** 1838– president of Quorum of Twelve

Sister Marsh and Sister Harris agreed to send each other both the milk and the cream from their cows. But Sister Marsh saved a pint of cream from each cow and sent Sister Harris the milk without the cream. A quarrel arose, and the matter was referred to the bishop. When he determined that Sister Marsh had violated her agreement, she and her husband were upset and appealed the matter to the high council and then to the First Presidency. Each council approved the original decision that Sister Marsh had been in error. Thomas B. Marsh declared that he would sustain the character of his wife, even if he had to go to hell for it. He was excommunicated on 17 March 1839

After 19 years of darkness and bitterness, Thomas B. Marsh made his way to the Salt Lake Valley and asked Brigham Young to forgive him and permit his rebaptism into the Church. He then described the lesson he had learned: "The Lord could get along very well without me and He has lost nothing by my falling out of the ranks; But O what have I lost? Riches, greater riches than all this world or many planets like this could afford" (*Ensign*, May 1996, 7).

**Thomas Marsh:** "I have frequently wanted to know how my apostasy began. I became jealous of the Prophet, and then I saw double, and overlooked everything that was right, and spent all my time in looking for the evil; and then, when the Devil began to lead me, it was easy for the carnal mind to rise up, which is anger, jealousy, and wrath. I could feel it within me; I felt angry and wrathful; and the Spirit of the Lord being gone." (*Journal of Discourses*, 5:206–7)

**c. Being critical of leaders' imperfections**

**Simonds Ryder:** converted to the Church in 1831. Later he received a letter signed by the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, informing him that it was the Lord's will, made manifest by the Spirit, that he preach the gospel. Both in the letter he received and in the official commission to preach, his name was spelled Rider instead of Ryder. Simonds Ryder "thought if the 'Spirit' through which he had been called to preach could err in the matter of spelling his name, it might have erred in calling him to the ministry as well; or, in other words, he was led to doubt if he were called at all by the Spirit of God, because of the error in spelling his name!" (*History of the Church*, 1:261). Simonds Ryder later apostatized from the Church.

**d. Being offended**

**Frazier Eaton:** "When the Kirtland Temple was completed, many Saints gathered for the dedication. The seats in the temple filled quickly, and many people were allowed to stand, but still not everyone could be accommodated inside the building. Elder Frazier Eaton, who had given \$700 for the building of the temple, arrived after it had been filled, so he was not allowed inside for the dedication. The dedication was repeated the next day for those who could not be accommodated the first day, but this did not satisfy Frazier Eaton, and he apostatized" (George A. Smith, JD, 11:9).

**e. Rationalizing disobedience**

**William E. McLellin:** In 1835 he wrote a letter censuring the First Presidency and by 1836 had apostatized. He explained his actions in a letter ... 'I left the church in Aug. 1836 ... because the *Leading men* to a great extent left their religion and run into and after speculation, pride, and popularity! ... I quit because I could not uphold the Presidency as men of God.' On ... 11 May 1838, he appeared before a bishop's court in Far West. ... He explained that his apostasy centered on his lack of confidence in the Presidency of the Church. He volunteered that this lack had caused him to quit praying and keeping the commandments for a time and that he had indulged in sinful lusts. William was excommunicated in 1838 for 'unbelief and apostasy.' After his excommunication, he joined mobbers in robbing and driving the Saints from Missouri. He was part of break off LDS churches and still believed the Book of Mormon. (Black)

**Spencer W. Kimball:** "To avoid the unpleasant recognition of their sins, many rationalize. Some blame God or his laws for their downfall, and by eliminating God and his Church from their lives they seem to think they will get relief. But rationalizing and minimizing sin betrays disregard for or ignorance of the scriptures and the program of God . . . However much the lips may deny the sin it is difficult to escape the accusations of the conscience." (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, Chapter 11)

**f. Accepting the false teachings of the world**

**Presiding Bishop H. David Burton:** "One of [Satan's] insidious strategies is to progressively soften our senses regarding what is right and wrong. Satan would have us convinced that it is fashionable to lie and cheat. He encourages us to view pornography by suggesting that it prepares us for the real world. He would have us believe that immorality is an attractive way of life and that obedience to the commandments of our Father in Heaven is old-fashioned. Satan constantly bombards us with deceptive propaganda desirably packaged and carefully disguised" (CR, Apr. 1993, 60).

**Milton V. Backman, Jr.:** "D&C 50:23-24: And that which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness. That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day."

This counsel is very important in preventing apostasy, today as well as in the 1830s. It was prophesied that Satan would deceive the very elect if possible, and he did. Within two years after the marvelous spiritual manifestations occurred in relation to the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, **all of the Three Witnesses, three of the Eight Witnesses, and one-third of the General Authorities, including three Apostles, left the Church.** Interestingly, apostasy was more prevalent among the leadership than among the "average" members. As near as can be determined, 87 percent of the Kirtland Saints continued in the faith. (*Ensign*, April 1989, p. 30)

**Joseph Smith:** I love that man better who swears a stream as long as my arm yet deals justice to his neighbors and mercifully deals his substance to the poor than the long, smooth-faced **hypocrite**. (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 303).

**Stephen E. Robinson:** "The Greek word *hypocrites*, usually translated 'hypocrite,' actually means 'actor' or 'role-player.' A hypocrite in the classical sense is someone who pretends to beliefs and standards that he or she does not really hold or try to live. One may generally encounter more than one type of true hypocrisy in the Church; some of these are malicious and some are not. **At least two types of hypocrisy constitute a real hazard to the endurance of faithful Saints: the oxymormons and the role-players.**

**"Type 1: Oxymormons.** Most people know what an oxymoron is. It is a term whose component parts deny or contradict each other, like 'jumbo shrimp,' 'criminal innocence,' or 'true lies.' **Oxymormons are Church members whose theology does this same thing. Often their true feelings and their stated feelings are not the same,** so they end up maintaining mutually contradictory propositions... we have in the Church some who would become a 'new' kind of Latter-day Saint by denying the definitive tenets of the faith: that Jesus is the Christ, that the Church is true, that Joseph Smith is a prophet, that the Book of Mormon is a true account. **These are the oxymormons, and they don't want to leave the Church. They want to change it...**

**"Type 2: Role-players.** The other type of hypocrisy we encounter from time to time in the Church is the **more passive variety** I call 'role-playing.' **Most role-players are not malicious; they just want to stay in the Church even though they don't believe in it.** But even these casual hypocrites do more damage than they know. For example, several years ago, I bore strong witness to one of my classes that living the gospel could make anyone's home a little bit of heaven on earth. After class one student waited until all the others had gone and then asked me quietly, 'Are you lying to us, or are you telling the truth? Can a family really be that way, or is it all just a fairy tale? I need to know.' I asked her why she would ask such a question, and she responded, 'My family are all very active in the Church; we are the 'ideal LDS family.' All my life I have watched my parents create and maintain that appearance of faithfulness. Mom is the 'indispensable woman' in our ward, and Dad serves on the high council--but it is all a lie; it's just a role they play until they get home. My brother and I call it 'playing church.' We look like an 'ideal LDS family' on the outside, but on the inside there is nothing. We do not have family prayer or family home evening. My parents neither love nor respect each other, and our home is not heaven. I can't wait to leave and get away from all the contention and hypocrisy. For years I have believed that all LDS families were like mine and that 'living the gospel' meant to everyone else what it means to me--just 'playing church.' I have just assumed that everybody else was playing the same role and creating the same illusion and telling the same lie--and now you are telling me that for some people it's *not* an illusion and *not* a lie?' At that point she began to weep. **'I would give anything to have a family like the one you describe, but can it really be like that, or are you just feeding us the same old stuff?'** I took her hands in mine and looked her straight in the eye: 'I testify to you, on my honor, that I speak the truth. The gospel is true, and its blessings are real to those who will live it. It's not just a comforting fairy tale; it is true.'

**"This young woman had been greatly wounded by role-playing parents,** and her ability to believe the promises of the gospel had been impaired as a result. Unfortunately, there are many role-players in the Church, and they usually wound those around them in this same way, though they probably have no intention of doing so...

"If you have been injured or disillusioned by exposure to role-players in the Church, know that the vast majority of members are not such. Endurance requires that we maintain our conviction of the truth even if some others think of the Church as an inside joke. Do not let your testimony or your endurance be diminished by those about whom the Lord has said: **'Wo unto them that are deceivers and hypocrites, for, thus saith the Lord, I will bring them to judgment. Behold, verily I say unto you, there are hypocrites among you, who have deceived some, which has given the adversary power; but behold such shall be reclaimed; but the hypocrites shall be detected and shall be cut off, either in life or in death'** (D&C 50:6-8)." (*Following Christ: The Parable of the Divers and More Good News* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1995], 120-124.)

**Neal A. Maxwell:** For true believers, **the tugs and pulls of the world--including its pleasures, power, praise, money, and preeminence--have always been there.** . . the harmful things of the world are marketed by pervasive technology and hyped by a media barrage, potentially reaching almost every home and hamlet. All this when many are already tuned out of spiritual things. (Neal A. Maxwell, "The Tugs and Pulls of the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000).

## 2. We can remain valiant in our testimonies and avoid deception.

**Ether 12:27:** And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

a) **Praying frequently and consistently** keeps us thinking about God; it reminds us who we are, breaks us from secular routines, gets us talking to the Lord. The more our minds dwell on spiritual things, the less carnal our minds will be.

**D&C 20:32-33:** But there is a possibility that man may fall from grace and depart from the living God; Therefore let the church take heed and pray always, lest they fall into temptation.

b) The Lord plainly teaches that **the Church is not a democracy** or a popularity contest. It is to be governed by unanimous **common consent**. Individual members cannot steer the congregation with private ideas and appeal to popular notions.

**D&C 26:2:** And all things shall be done by **common consent** in the Church, by much prayer and faith, for all things you shall receive by faith. Amen.

c) Anyone who is doing, and not just talking about, what Jesus taught cannot be overthrown. If you **act on the knowledge that Jesus is the Christ**, then you develop a godly walk that keeps you out of the paths of sin.

**D&C 50:44:** Wherefore, I am in your midst, and I am the good shepherd and the stone of Israel. **He that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall.**

d) To be contrite in the theological sense means to sorrow over sin, to detest sin and be sickened by it, and to make amends for any sins committed. The **contrite person** will do what the Spirit tells them and **will be teachable**.

**D&C 52:14-19:** And again, I will give unto you a **pattern** in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations—Wherefore he that **prayeth, whose spirit is contrite**, the same is accepted of me **if he obey mine ordinances**. He that speaketh, **whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth**, the same is of God **if he obey mine ordinances**. And again, **he that trembleth under my power** shall be made strong, and shall bring forth fruits of praise and wisdom, according to the revelations and truths, which I have given you. And again, he that is overcome and bringeth not forth fruits, even according to this pattern, is not of me. Wherefore, by this pattern ye shall know the spirits in all cases under the whole heavens.

e) Those who consume the word of the Lord as much and as consistently as they consume physical food are the most spiritually healthy people. The psychological consequence of **consistently feeding yourself spiritually** opens your mind to spiritual places and reveals what is destructive when you see it.

**D&C 84:43-47:** And I now give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life. For **you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God**. For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ. And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit. And **every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God**, even the Father.

### **DO'S – Behaviors to Engage In**

#### a. Know clearly whom the Lord has called to lead the Church

**Ezra Taft Benson:** "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet" – BYU Devotional, Feb. 26, 1980

1. The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything.
2. The living prophet is more vital to us than the standard works.
3. The living prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet.
4. The prophet will never lead the Church astray.
5. The prophet is not required to have any particular earthly training or credentials to speak on any subject or act on any matter at any time.
6. The prophet does not have to say "Thus saith the Lord" to give us scripture.
7. The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know.
8. The prophet is not limited by men's reasoning.
9. The prophet can receive revelation on any matter—temporal or spiritual.
10. The prophet may be involved in civic matters.
11. The two groups having difficulty following the prophet: the proud who are learned or who are rich.
12. The prophet will not necessarily be popular with the world or the worldly.
13. The prophet and his counselors make up the First Presidency—the highest quorum in the Church.
14. The prophet and the presidency—the living prophet and the first presidency—follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer.

**If you want to know how well you stand with the Lord, then ask yourself how well you stand with His prophet.**

**Harold B. Lee:** "The story is told in the early days of the Church—particularly, I think, at Kirtland—where some of the leading brethren in the presiding councils of the Church met secretly and **tried to scheme as to how they could get rid of the Prophet Joseph's leadership.** They made the mistake of inviting Brigham Young to one of these secret meetings. He rebuked them, after he had heard the purpose of their meeting. **This is part of what he said: "You cannot destroy the appointment of a prophet of God, but you can cut the thread that binds you to the prophet of God and sink yourselves to hell"** (Conference Report, April 1963, 81).

**b. Study the scriptures and the doctrines of the Church**

**Bruce R. McConkie:** "I think that **people who study the scriptures get a dimension to their life that nobody else gets and that can't be gained in any way except by studying the scriptures.** There's an increase in faith and a desire to do what's right and a feeling of inspiration and understanding that comes to people who study the gospel—meaning particularly the Standard Works— and who ponder the principles, that can't come in any other way" (David Croft, "Spare Time's Rare to Apostle," *Church News*, 24 Jan. 1976, 4).

**Ezra Taft Benson:** "More than at any time in our history, brothers and sisters, **we have need for greater spirituality.** The way to develop greater spirituality is **to feast on the words of Christ as revealed in the scriptures**" (Conference Report, Apr. 1984, 7; or *Ensign*, May 1984, 7).

**Spencer W. Kimball:** "The years have taught me that if we will energetically pursue this worthy personal goal [of scripture study] in a determined and conscientious manner, we shall indeed **find answers to our problems and peace in our hearts.** We shall **experience the Holy Ghost broadening our understanding, find new insights, witness an unfolding pattern of all scripture; and the doctrines of the Lord shall come to have more meaning to us** than we ever thought possible. As a consequence, **we shall have greater wisdom** with which to guide ourselves and our families, so that **we may serve as a light and source of strength** to our nonmember friends with whom we have an obligation to share the gospel" (*Ensign*, Sept. 1975, 2–3).

**President Kimball:** "I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. **If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns. I find myself loving more intensely those whom I must love with all my heart and mind and strength, and loving them more, I find it easier to abide their counsel!**" (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, 135).

**c. Apply the Lord's pattern for protecting ourselves from being deceived**

**Marvin J. Ashton:** What a happy circumstance and strength in our day to have the Lord's promise, **"I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving."** (D&C 52:14.) I have always received courage, comfort, and direction from this powerful quotation.  
**The gospel of Jesus Christ is God's pattern for righteous living and eternal life.** It makes possible goal-setting and lofty priorities. Satan and his advocates will constantly try to deceive and entice us into following their patterns. **If we are to achieve daily safety, exaltation, and eternal happiness, we need to live by the light and truth of our Savior's plan. All salvation revolves around our Savior.**  
...Part of his pattern is to help us **use our gift of free agency,** but his pattern does not condone sin. When we abuse our agency to choose a life-style contrary to revealed patterns, we must live with the consequences. **Our unwillingness to follow the true and tested patterns given for our happiness causes the individual, family, and friends heartaches and ultimate disaster.** ("A Pattern in All Things," *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 20)

**3. Additional counsel about how to strengthen ourselves against apostasy**

**C. S. Lewis:** "It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that **their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light** and out into the Nothing. ... Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts" (*The Screwtape Letters*, 1962, 56).

**Elder Melvin J. Ballard:** **"No man goes away from this Church and becomes an apostate in a week, nor in a month. It is a slow process.** The one thing that would make for the safety of every man and woman would be to **appear at the sacrament table every Sabbath day.** If we should refrain from partaking of the sacrament, condemned by ourselves as unworthy to receive these emblems, we could not endure that long, and we would soon, I am sure, have the spirit of repentance. The road to the sacrament table is the path of safety for Latter-day Saints." (quoted in *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4:121)



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**James E. Faust:** "Satan has had great success with this gullible generation and has victimized hosts of people. There is, however, an ample shield against the power of Lucifer and his hosts. This protection lies in the spirit of discernment through the gift of the Holy Ghost. **This gift comes undeviatingly by personal revelation to those who strive to obey the commandments of the Lord and to follow the counsel of the living prophets.**

This personal revelation will surely come to all whose eyes are single to the glory of God, for it is promised that their bodies will be "filled with light, and there shall be no darkness" in them (D&C 88:67). **Satan's efforts can be thwarted by all who come unto Christ by obedience to the covenants and ordinances of the gospel.** The humble followers of the divine Master need not be deceived by the devil if they will **be honest and true** to their fellow men and women, **go to the house of the Lord, receive the sacrament worthily, observe the Sabbath day, pay their tithes** and offerings, offer **contrite prayers**, engage in the **Lord's work**, and **follow those who preside over them**" ("The Great Imitator," *Ensign*, 1987).

**President Spencer W. Kimball:** "In my experience, **few people have ever lost their peace**, their spirituality, their testimony **when they kept close to the Lord** in their prayers, to the Church in their activities, to the people of the Church in their fellowship. Seldom does one become seriously doubtful or faithless who continues to read the Holy Scriptures and keep his life clean. With divine influence and protection, we may be able to discern the adversary's deceptions in whatever appealing words and rationalizations and, having done all, to stand'." (F P the Miracle, p218)

**Brigham Young:** He [Thomas Marsh] has just said, "I will be faithful, and I will be true to you." He has not wisdom enough to see that he has betrayed us once, and don't know but what he will again. He has told me that he would be faithful, and that he would do this and the other; but he don't know what he will do next week or next year.

**I do not know what I shall do next year; I always speak for the present. But a man that will be once fooled by the Devil may be deceived again.**

**You never heard me say that I was going to be true to my God; for I know too much of human weakness: but I pray God to preserve me from falling away—to preserve me in the truth.** I depend not upon myself; for I know too much of human weakness and of myself, to indulge in such remarks. **I derive strength from a superior source.** I have been drinking from that source for many years; and, as I told you last Sabbath, **I have been trying to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.** And, if we are faithful, we will all be counted worthy to be his disciples. God bless you! Amen." (President Brigham Young's Remarks Delivered in the Bowery, Great Salt Lake City, on Sunday, September 6th, 1857. Reported by G. D. Watt, J. V. Long).

**Carlos E. Asay** of the Seventy specified the following things we can do to strengthen ourselves against apostasy:

1. Avoid those who would tear down your faith. ...
2. Keep the commandments. ...
3. Follow the living prophets. ...
4. Do not contend or debate over points of doctrine.
5. Search the scriptures. ...
6. Do not be swayed or diverted from the mission of the Church. ...
7. Pray for your enemies. ...
8. Practice 'pure religion. ...
9. Remember that there may be many questions for which we have no answers and that some things have to be accepted simply on faith" (Conference Report, Oct. 1981, 93-94; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 67-68).

**D&C 10:5: Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan.**

**BEWARE OF PERSONAL DECEPTION!**

