

John Taylor's Response to Parley P. Pratt

Read the following response by John Taylor, then a recent convert, to Parley P. Pratt, who had taught and baptized John a year earlier but was now speaking out against the Prophet Joseph Smith:



"I am surprised to hear you speak so, Brother Parley. Before you left Canada you bore a strong testimony to Joseph Smith being a Prophet of God, and to the truth of the work he has inaugurated; and you said you knew these things by revelation, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. You gave to me a strict charge to the effect that though you or an angel from heaven was to declare anything else I was not to believe it. Now Brother Parley, it is not man that I am following, but the Lord. The principles you taught me led me to Him, and I now have the same testimony that you then rejoiced in. If the work was true six months ago, it is true today; if Joseph Smith was then a prophet, he is now a prophet" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor* [2001], 77).

- Why was John Taylor's testimony of the restored gospel unaffected when Parley P. Pratt shared his doubts about the Prophet Joseph Smith?
- What principles can we learn from John Taylor's reply that would help those who may struggle with questions, doubts, or concerns?

