

### **Trust in the Lord**

(From: Madsen, Carol Cornwall, Journey to Zion; pp 190-195.

Quoting Sarah DeArmon Pea Rich)

(Original spelling maintained)

. . . One item of which I will make mention. The poor were coming to us all the time for help and this one circumstance I will mention showed the hand of the Lord so plain that I want to leave it for my children to read and think upon so that they may put their trust in the Lord in some future time when they may have the chance of learning for themselves, as we did at that time. Well, as I was going to relate, a poor woman, one of the wives of one of the men that had went with the mormon betalyon to Mexico, came to my husband who was still sick in bed and told him she had no bread for her children to eat I by this time was able to be up and see to my little babe. This Sister was crying and told us how destitute she was. My husband turned to me and said let this Sister have some flower. This was a puzzle to me knowing we did not have 20 pounds of flower in the house and none in the place to buy and not a cent of money to buy with. So I said we have not got 20 pounds of flower in the house and none in the place to git. He looked at me and smiled and said, Sarah let her have all there is in the house and trust in the Lord to provide for us. I arose and done as I was bid but knew not how our children was to get bread. When the Sister was gone Mr. Rich said I know the Lord will open the way for us to live so do not feel uneasy for there will be a way opened for us having a loaf of bread in the house. I too began to ask the Lord to open the way for us to live and along towards evening we saw some covered waggons coming down the hill towards the house, so the man in front drove up and came into the house; it proved to be the brother Sidwell that was with brother Benson that had called on us as they went east. Brother Sidwell said he wished to stop over night with us. My husband told him he could do so. He then turned to Mr. Rich and said to him, the Spirit tell[s] me you are out of money and tells me to help the[e], as he was a Quaker he used the word the[e], and handed Mr. Rich fifty dollars. Mr. Rich turned to me, handed me the money saying, now you see the Lord has opened the way for us to git flower, for he was quite overcome with thanks in his heart. Brother Sidwell after understanding our situation said we have bread in our waggons enough for tonight and in the morning and we passed a waggon load of flower a little way back that will reach here either tonight or in the morning. So you can be supplied with bread stuff. So we both burst into tears to think the Lord had so blessed us for blessing the poor Sister and her little children. So when the wagon of flower arrived Mr. Rich not only laid in a supply for our own family but got a lot to give out to others that were sick and poor and in want. Brother Sidwell also bought some flower and left with us to give to the poor of that place; he also let us have some groceries. He was a wealthy batchler, was on his way to winter quarters and there assisted others to start to the mountains. So I want my children and all that reads this when I am laid to rest in my grave to see how the Lord blessed his Saints while traveling from Nauvoo to the valleys of the mountains and how he has blessed them and sustained them after they reached this valley when our provision was short and we had to live on rations and very small at that for over two years.

. . . At that time we had brother James Leach and wife [Isabella Daniels Leach] with us to help us along on our journey as they had no children and could not have a fit out of their own. So it was not long before what we had in the house to eat had give out and when we went to bed at night we did not know where our breakfast was to come from. So when we got up in the morning I called on Brother Leach to attend family prayers; he did so. I then told Mr. Rich's other wives that

was with us to put on the tea kettle and set the table. I then said to brother Leach, come go with me. I put on my bonnet and shall and asked Sister Leach to see to the children and I and Brother Leach would go and get something for breakfast. Brother Leach looked at me with astonishment knowing I had no money to buy anything with but we started out on faith. I was directed to 2 of the brethren that I thought I could borrow 2 dollars of in order to get something for my family to eat but they both were hard up and were preparing to start west and could not spare the money as they expected to be on the move before Mr. Rich would be back. So I started on. Brother Leach by this time wondered how I could be able to get anything to take home but told me afterwards that he was praying in his heart all the time to the Lord to help Sister Rich to be able to supply her family with something for breakfast. I was by this time at the gate of Sister Esra T Benson. Said I to brother L, we will call in here. Sister [Pamelia] Benson was very glad to meet with me. After setting a few minutes she said Sister Rich have you been to breakfast? I said No. Then she called to her sister, Addaline: to make me a cup of tea. I by this time felt as though a cup of tea would do me good. Before I had time to tell her my business out she said have you anything at home to eat? I said no Sister Benson but I soon shall return home with something. She threw a silver dollar into my lap and said go to brother [Stephen] Winchesters and get some groceries for he just got in last night with some groceries to sell. He has been out to the settlements to work and get groceries. By this time tears could be seen both in my eyes and brother Leachs. I thanked Sister Benson, told her I would replace the dollar as soon as my husband got back. She said I should do nothing of the kind. So we drank a cup of tea and started for Brother Winchesters. We had not gone far before we met brother E[zra] T[hompson] Clark with a sack of flour and a bushel of potatoes in his wagon enquiring where I lived, said it was for me so I sent him on to my house with instructions for the girls to hurry up breakfast and we would soon be there with some groceries. We went and got a little sugar, a little coffee and tea. Of course a dollar would not get much but we were so proud to get a little. We then started for home, passed brother [James M.] Flakes whom I had never seen. He was just finishing dressing a calf. Some on[e] present observed to him that there went Sister Rich. He turned and called to me and said Sister Rich send that man here and get a quarter of this calf. I did so and reached home with plenty to eat, found the family ready to thank the Lord that they had prayed for me and that the Lord had blessed me in my efforts to get something to live on until Mr. Rich would return. So my friends I write this that you may see the result of trusting in the Lord in time of need. Pray unto Him with a humble heart and he will answer your prayers as he did ours at this time of need, and it is this same good father in heaven that sustained and helped His Saints to come to these valleys and provided means whereby we could live after we got here for our lot was then cast in great poverty and in all our trials the Lord has been near to answer the prayers of those who put their trust in Him.