

Obtaining Faith Wilford Woodruff

Pr'd/RS Manual, 2006, pp. 161–162.

In the ensuing days, Sister Woodruff's condition worsened, even though they had been able to pause on their journey and find places to rest. Brother Woodruff recalled: "December 3rd found my wife very low. I spent the day in taking care of her, and the following day I returned to Eaton [a nearby town] to get some things for her. She seemed to be gradually sinking, and in the evening her spirit apparently left her body, and she was dead.

"The sisters gathered around her body, weeping, while I stood looking at her in sorrow. **The Spirit and power of God began to rest upon me until, for the first time during her sickness, faith filled my soul,** although she lay before me as one dead."

Strengthened in his faith, Wilford Woodruff gave his wife a priesthood blessing. "I laid my hands upon her," he said, "and in the name of Jesus Christ I rebuked the power of death and the destroyer, and commanded the same to depart from her, and the spirit of life to enter her body.

"Her spirit returned to her body, and from that hour she was made whole; and we all felt to praise the name of God, and to trust in him and keep his commandments.

"While this operation was going on with me (as my wife related afterwards) her spirit left her body, and she saw her body lying upon the bed, and the sisters weeping. She looked at them and at me, and upon her babe, and, while gazing upon this scene, two personages came into the room. . . . One of these messengers informed her that she could have her choice: she might go to rest in the spirit world, or, on one condition she could have the privilege of returning to her tabernacle and continuing her labors upon the earth. The condition was, if she felt that she could stand by her husband, and with him pass through all the cares, trials, tribulations and afflictions of life which he would be called to pass through for the Gospel's sake unto the end. When she looked at the situation of her husband and child she said: 'Yes, I will do it!'

"**At the moment that decision was made the power of faith rested upon me,** and when I administered unto her, her spirit entered her tabernacle. . . ." ("Leaves from My Journal," *Millennial Star*, October 3, 1881, 638–39.)