

Samuel Gould's Comments at Fillmore, Utah to Russell Anderson

When the children came with their mothers and began to look up Jesus, their voices of innocence and awe was kind of disturbing the service, and the apostles tried to send them away. But Jesus brought them and he was welcoming them to receive the blessings promised and placed over their heads even before the world was, as Jesus dangled them on his lap and he blessed the little children. When I heard this testimony by the Elders of old, "Oh, how I wished I could be there on his lap in that day."

As children my brother Mike and I were out by one of the ponds on the farm and it was Sunday afternoon and we got to talking about grandpa's sermon (Apostle Leon Arthur Gould) and I told my brother Mike that I would like to figure out how to be baptized. That John the Baptist baptized Christ and they baptized others. I wanted to do that. Well, he and I got to talking about it. He didn't know how to be baptized. He 18 months older (11). So, we decided to go talk to my dad. My dad, Teacher Winfield Louis Gould, asked us some questions and he said, "Well go to the Pastor tonight after service and ask to be baptized. Because he's the one in charge of that, he's the Pastor of the local." We call congregations locals, not branches in the Church of Christ – Temple Lot.

My uncle, Elder Arlo Byron Gould, was a gentle giant. Although, he scared the bejeebers out of us many times. I mean he had false teeth and we were all watching him one time and he popped those teeth out at us in fun to see us scatter. But he was also our Pastor, so he had a sense of humor we all enjoyed.

He asked my brother Mike, "Why do you want to be baptized?" My brother Mike was talking about at the events of the day of Pentecost and those that were baptized, and he wanted to follow that same thing. And then the Pastor asked me if that's the reason I wanted to be baptized. I didn't know really what to say, so I said yes. And then he said, "There are a number that are able to baptize, who would you like to baptize you?" He gave us the choice. My brother Mike said, "Well you could baptize me. We need to be baptized and that would be just fine.

Then he asked me, "Who would you like to baptize you?" and I said, "My Uncle Harvey, I would like for him to baptize me." And that name just came into my heart. He had been there earlier that year. And my Uncle Arlo said, "No, no, I don't think we can do that." And I said, "Is he a servant of God?" and he said "Yes, but he lives a long way away." And I said, "Well, he's the one that needs to baptize me." And that's when he told me, "I'm going to give you boys two weeks to fast and pray about this decision here and prepare for baptism. But I'm not going to call and nobody's going to call Elder Harvey. And so, if he doesn't show up, do you want me to baptize you?" And I said, "Well, I expect him to be here, but if not, we can talk about that."

My uncle Harvey lived in White Sands, New Mexico. We lived in Turtle River, Minnesota. A long drive. Two weeks had gone by. My uncle was locking up the church so we could go to the lake and be baptized and I was inquiring of God. "You gave me that name, and where is your servant?" And I was trying to figure out the words, because being 10, I wasn't old enough to formulate what was really in my heart. My uncle was locking up the church and I was standing there by him and as we turned around my uncle drove up in a white station wagon and rolled down his window and said, "Brother Arlo, I'm not sure why I am here, but the Lord sent me."

And that big gentile giant, I thought he was going to shake his bones apart. He said, "Don't you know that you're here to baptize your nephew. We're going to the lake now. You came just in time."

I remember that night when we had confirmation service. They laid hands on my head and my uncle Harvey and the old Indian elder, Barney Wentworth, big old fisherman laid his hands on my head. And I can remember his prayer when he said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." And there was a great joy and comfort that leapt into my heart, which had that peace and consolation. With me that has been ages ago and that comfort has been with me ever since.

I found out the whole story from my uncle later listening to his testimony. I didn't care how he got there, that was not important to a little kid. He was talking about driving home Friday from White Sands Missile Range and the Lord spoke with an audible voice commanding him to go north. That's all it said, "go north." Well, he was heading south, his home was south. And he thought about that for a while. He said it wasn't a voice in his mind, it came to his ears, how could he deny this. So, he stopped, he was a physicist by training and occupation, he turned north. The first gas station he pulled off and called his wife to let her know that he didn't know where he was going but he was going north. He said he'd be driving and he would be tired and he would kind of not know which way to go. He'd just pull over and take a cat nap. When he woke up, he knew which way to go. He spent the whole weekend driving that way.

And then he and I spent a lot of time in the mission field in North Carolina together in our ministry. The Lord had selected him for a reason. When I was a teenager, I don't know if I was 14. We were at church camp and the Spirit of the Lord was there so strong. I mean we saw miracles taking place at that youth camp. It was not a youth camp actually; it was a camp for all ages. For those who were young and young at heart. And those gentle pillars of the church were there and they carried with them that power and that presence.

I can remember we were meeting in the loft of a barn, and kids were sitting on hay bales, and others had actual chairs, the adults. The mosquitos were just so voracious. I forget what little kid it was, said, "We believe in God. Couldn't we ask him to give us relief from these mosquitos?" And we had a season of prayer. And when we arose those mosquitos were above our head in a black cloud just buzzing away, but they weren't bothering us. There was a slap every once in a while. Seeing that, and I remember one year the presence of God was there in the greatest tenderness. Adults closed the prayer service at night. So, we as teenagers decided we'd do the lights out thing, go to our tents, and then when all lights were out then we were going to go back to the barn and finish our prayer and testimony service. There was a dozen of us teenagers. We were praying our hearts out and speaking about the things of God. The guy that had responsibility saw that the light was on in the barn. Somebody left the light on and you heard him grumbling as he was coming up the stairs to the loft. He got there and he saw what we were doing. He was a priest. He said, "I'm not sure what I should do here." I remember telling him, "You have two choices. One is to join with us and the other is to return to your bed." The third one of shutting us down was not an option. And he joined with us. So, we finished until our hearts were at peace with God. We still had burden that we couldn't solve. But anyway, that is kind of my Hedrekite background.

Russ: Can you tell me about the beginning of your mission to the Carolinas. So, what age and you said your uncle was your companion? How does that work? How do you get called on a mission and so forth?

I didn't get called on a mission. I went to college and I had this need for closeness to God. That whole summer I was staying at my uncle's farm. Because I was going to school in Missouri and he had a farm in Willow Springs, Missouri at the time. He wasn't in New Mexico anymore. He had retired. He was writing a book, "Priesthood through the ages" as Elder M. Harvey Seibel. He was writing while I was there. I came home from college (School of the Ozarks) for that two-week break between Summer and Fall sessions. He had a little guest cabin. I told my aunt and uncle, I said, "I don't need any food, I don't need any water, I don't need any care, I want to spend two weeks with the Lord." And I'm reading through all the scriptures and contemplating them for 2 weeks. "I've been in college and I've be starved for those things. And I've got to refill and refresh." I had a Bible study going at college, but that wasn't the fulfillment that I needed. So, I studied them. I did drink water, but I had nothing to eat during that two-week period. I was just feasting on the word of the Lord. After those two weeks, I was "an hungered." That's what is discovered at the end of the fast that's what Jesus said he was "an hungered." And that's when Satan offered the loaves to him, that breaks the fast. The Lord will sustain you for what you need. So, I broke the fast and of course I hadn't shaved or anything. The first thing I did was I shaved and I left a goatee. I was going to go to town with my uncle and aunt. They were arguing just around the corner of the house. I stopped and listened just around the corner. My uncle was saying that I looked like Satan himself. Aunt Lovetta said, "Why because he has a goatee and mustache? Papa had a mustache and a goatee. You say he looks like Satan himself with that? You leave him alone." So, I went back and shaved off the goatee and mustache.

So anyway, we were in the Semester and about Thanksgiving there's a church reunion in Phoenix, Arizona. So, my brother Bill was going and my cousin Lovetta was going, and there were other's going. So, I decided that I am going to leave off my studies here and I am going to go. It was going to take me a week or so because it was a long drive. I was at the Phoenix reunion, one night Apostle Don W. Houseneck was praying and it was if his heart was so burdened with things that he couldn't say it. That's how it seemed. We kneel when we pray. So, we weren't sitting, but there were some scoffer teenagers in the back who weren't going to bend the knee for this foolishness. But they are the ones that said they saw this cone of light descend upon him and he began to speak in an unknown tongue. To me it was an unknown tongue babbling away. It was the first time I had ever heard that when I was a kid. Now I had heard some stuff with Pentecostals, but I mean that penetrating Spirit of God being there. He spoke that way for a while and then it was if there was just a switch and I heard him in plain English. And he said, "and unto Samuel my servant, you have much learning to do and yet you shall be fashioned for my service." That's all it was. My brother Bill right next to me, all he heard was tongues. It turned out that two ministers were called. And they heard it in English. And they were called, their priesthood call, in tongues. But others didn't hear that. They had to take that on faith. But I knew it was true.

So, when I finished my college studies, another dream that I'd had as a teenager that I should go to work where I could help minister. And at that point Elder Harvey Seibel had gone to Cherokee, North Carolina. He had finished writing his book and the Lord had called him there.

When I was a teenager, during camp, I was laying there after a devotional in our tent. I was still praying and I heard this voice said, "Samuel," and I said "What." I thought it my buddy Floyd Murphy next to me, and then I heard that word again, "Samuel!" And I'm thinking, I think I've seen this pattern before. I didn't know what to think about it when it came the third time, "Samuel!!." And that was it. I mean, shouldn't I know something about that, shouldn't I be given some instructions? So, after that camp I talked to my father and we were putting up hay and things of that nature. And I told him about it at lunch. And he said, "Samuel, I don't want you to go to the hay field with us this afternoon. What I want you to do is I want you to read in Samuel that account of his experience (1 Samuel 3) and then I want you to go to sleep and ask God to give you what you did not get when you were at camp."

So, I went up there. I read it. It was nice to take an afternoon siesta anyway. I went to sleep and that is when I saw this little church building, it was kind of a tan colored building. And I was coming out of a little room, I didn't know, but it had access to the outside. And I was walking along the side of the church building and the Light of God shown through and it was as if it was coming from that little church. And as I walked into that light, I could feel the presence of God there. So that was it. So, I told my dad and he said, "Well, you're going to serve a mission in that little church." And that was the little church that my uncle M. Harvey Seibel had built below Soggy Hill in Cherokee, North Carolina.

And I had that experience, in Big Cove area below Soggy Hill also known as Calico. The door I stepped out of was the men's bathroom with access on the outside of the Church of Christ building. I come out of the bathroom and the congregation were in there praying and that cone or that light had permeated me and reminded me of that dream once again. So, if you ask, how did I get called for that mission in Cherokee, NC, it was by following the burning desire for service once I finished my university studies. Nobody sent me there or anything of that nature. I started working in the mission before I was called. And brother and Apostle William A. Sheldon who was in our center place in Independence, MO, occupying that visitor's center for so long, he came. And he and I were going around doing ministry together and he said something I didn't like. I mean he's an Apostle, I held no priesthood. But he was indicating to an interested Baptist man that brother Joseph, how did he put it. He was saying to a Baptist man that brother Joseph, how did he put it, "Very evidently supported the polygamy events in the early church." That struck me as not being true. And so, when we got back to the church, I confronted him back there away from everybody. I said, "I want you to know, if you ever say that about Joseph Smith again, I will not sit idly by. If you have evidence, real evidence, or evidence from God, I will listen to it. But unless and until then you will not disparage my brother Joseph." Of course, is Joseph Smith my brother? Absolutely, the church is forever. He is my brother **today** as he was then. I am not going to take that charge against my brother. I thought that was probably career limiting as far as ministerial activities and stuff like that. But I was not going to stand there and let someone else disparage my brother. I'm just not going to do it. So, we were having a prayer meeting after that and he stands up and calls me to the priesthood, to be a priest. I'm thinking, What?

I had received a dream about being called into that priesthood there in three, time-spaced events. And those three things took place and that was part of it. In that first dream I saw myself in that service and I didn't know why, but I asked to be administered to. So, this person that I had confronted and my uncle prayed. And I didn't know why I was there in the dream. I

thought maybe some sickness was going to befall me. But instead, the Lord just led me to request that administration. And when they were done there was this great burden which was raised off my heart and gave me great freedom. I testified to that and that's when the call came. And in the dream, I also saw my aunt Lovita Grace Seibel stand up. She was old, and spoke in an old and cracked voice and things of that nature; But in the dream I heard her sing like an angel. And in the event, somebody called for a song. While they were looking for it, she just started singing it. And I heard it as God heard it. So, while she was singing, I was remembering what I saw in my dream spiritually, but I was hearing this old croaking also. That's how God sees us is a beautiful thing. And then I saw myself being ordained in the third dream as I was in my home. That I didn't accept the call right then and there, I had to think about it, and earnestly pray about it. I had been called earlier by another elder in the church to be a priest. And I fasted and prayed for a week to find out if it was His calling. I received no confirmation, so I didn't accept it. This time I did accept it as being genuinely from the Lord of the Harvest, Jesus Christ.

[Note: When Elder Harvey and Sister Lovita were serving with little results in the Cherokee, NC, mission field, they earnestly prayed to know what the result would be of all their labors. Sister Lovita was given to know that if they would faithfully discharge their duties, that he would raise up a faithful Priest who would carry the work forward. In a time of discouragement, she again petitioned the Lord, and was given a vision of a young man with a short beard walking the mountain paths and visiting and ministering to the people of that land. Although, when I entered the labor there, I did not have a beard, she was persuaded that I was that faithful Priest who would carry forward the work. Later, I did grow a short beard. Later still, I did carry the work forward from that day in the late seventies to the present time. First as a Priest, then Elder, and now Apostle and High Priest as was promised to these two servants of the Lord who finished their lives in the missionary work of the First Invitation.

1 Samuel 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house; when I begin, I will also make an end.

Even as Samuel of old witnessed the end of the work of the family of Eli, so have I witnessed the end of the work of the First Invitation given in Luke 14:16-20 and am carrying it forward in the Second Invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb as recorded in Luke 14:21-22.]

This is my testimony as a Servant of Jesus Christ,
Brother and Apostle Samuel S. Gould