

Text of Ezra Booth Letters:

Facsimiles of some of Ezra Booth Letters as printed in the Ohio Star:

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<https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/collection/BOMP/id/448>

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[The Peacegiver](#)

[The Bible Project](#)

Joseph Smith: "I do not think there have been many good men on the earth since the days of Adam; but there was one good man and his name was Jesus. Many persons think a prophet must be a great deal better than anybody else. ... I do not want you to think that I am very righteous, for I am not." (History of the Church" 5:401)

Lorenzo Snow: I saw Joseph Smith the Prophet do things which I did not approve of; and yet...I thanked God that He would put upon a man who had these imperfections the power and authority which He placed upon him...for I knew I myself had weaknesses and I thought there was a chance for me. These same weaknesses...I knew were in Heber C. Kimball, but my knowing this did not impair them in my estimation. I thanked God I saw these imperfections. (Lorenzo Snow, cited by George Q. Cannon, in George Q. Cannon Diary, 7 January 1898.)

Joseph Smith: "a prophet is only a prophet when he is acting as such." (History of the Church 5:265.)

Reference to Myopia as found in President Nelson's talk: [Let God Prevail](#)

Harold B. Lee: There have been times when even the President of the Church has not been moved upon by the Holy Ghost. There is, I suppose you'd say, a classic story of Brigham Young in the time when Johnston's army was on the move. The Saints were all inflamed, and President Young had his feelings whetted to fighting pitch. He stood up in the morning session of general conference and preached a sermon vibrant with defiance at the approaching army, declaring an intention to oppose them and drive them back. In the afternoon he rose and said that Brigham Young had been talking in the morning but the Lord was going to talk now. He then delivered an address the tempo of which was the exact opposite of the morning sermon. (Teachings of Harold B. Lee, 542.)

Brigham Young: "...it is not the place for any person to correct any person who is superior to them, but ask the Father in the name of Jesus to bind him up from speaking false principles. I have known many times I have preached wrong. (Brigham Young, in Thomas Bullock minutes, 8 May 1854, Church Historical Department.)

"Lowell Bennion, charismatic Institute of Religion teacher at the University of Utah, felt that members could properly pray for change. In 1963, he pointed out: 'God's revelations . . . depend upon our minds, our eagerness, upon our search, upon our questions, upon our moral disturbances, if you will, upon our

needs. . . . It may be that the Lord can't get through to us sometimes on things. Therefore we ought to be thinking and searching and praying even over this Negro problem.' This position accepted that God allows people—even Church leaders—to make mistakes.” (Edward L. Kimball, “Spencer W. Kimball and the Revelation on the Priesthood” page 28).

Darius Gray: “We went into a little classroom and I remember there were those orange plastic chairs that you find in every lunchroom or classroom, and we knelt beside a chair and we asked God to guide us in what we ought to do to address these issues of the missing black Latter-day Saints. After that, we felt led to approach the senior brethren of the Church.... President Smith assigned three junior apostles to meet with us – not a member of the Seventy; not a member of the Twelve, but three members of the Twelve. We had a series of meetings talking about the issues... Who could have thought that three apostles would really be willing to sit down and talk with three black guys? The tone at the time was such. The meetings went well; some of them were a little bit uncomfortable. Ruffin was the stage man – he had been around and he had a calming way about him. Gene was the fiery young man who was pushing. I see myself as the guy who was watching. I remember one of the meetings did not end in prayer where the others did, but it had been heated enough. Gene continued to push – ‘Why do blacks not have the priesthood? Why can’t blacks have the priesthood?’”

[\(https://faithmatters.org/the-genesis-of-change-in-the-lds-church-an-interview-with-darius-gray/\)](https://faithmatters.org/the-genesis-of-change-in-the-lds-church-an-interview-with-darius-gray/)

Darius Gray: “The truth is I received personal revelation. I did not see angelic beings; I did not see God the Father or the Savior; but I heard – I heard – ‘This is the restored gospel and you are to join.’ There was no mention of the priesthood restriction – whether it was of God or of man or whatever –just, ‘This is the restored gospel.’”

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