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When I first see Mother Ann and the Elders with her they looked more lovely to me than any thing that I had ever seen in this world, Their love for them was more than I ever could express to any one, their appearance was beautiful it filled my soul with reverence and fear; Mother called me her Child and said that I might love and embrace her I did so and her smell seemed pure heavenly and angelic Received faith then in their testimony which was like flames of fire against the nature of sin and ^{defilement} every of the flesh and spirit altho I was young, not nine years old I confess all my sins one by one just as honestly as I should do now, and felt their heart searching spirit and power as much as my little soul was able to bear; I loved their heavenly singing and the beautiful apperception of the power of God among the people which was like the sound of many waters or the rushing of mighty armies running to battle no hypocrit could hide in their presence nor abide the light and power of the of the day of judgement before these witnesses of truth

I tremble many times like a popple leaf in the wind and felt as tho ever thought word and deed lay open before them like a book; I confessed many of my thoughts to Mother and Father James, and told them what I had done, they told me that I must be a good child be obedient speak the truth and ^{never} do no unclean thing

The faith and conscience which I received in my Child hood has ever been my protection and shield ^{against} many snares and allurements of a carnal mind; but while in my youthful season while passing thro the dangerous rolling billows of time I had many trials and temptation both without and within, which I shall pass over in silence, and leave them on the troublosom barren wiles of despair but how ever dark my path appeared and many fell by my side

I could always look back with solemn reflection to the ministration from whence I received my first faith and love and it would out weigh all the flattering prospects of the pleasures of time; I have always felt my soul to be my greatest care for I knew if I lost that I lost my all; and to be banished from all those that I loved so well, would be more than I could bear

My Father died about this time which caused me many sorrows his last words to me was, be a good Child be obedient ^{deny} never your faith when I am gone; these words in times of adversity have been laid in my ears thro my life, and I have always wanted to live that life that when I had done with time, I could meet him in Mercy and not in judgement

He was 33 years old

When this blessed manifestation first began I knew Mothers voice she call'd me to repentance and my soul was filled with gladness and my eyes was a fountain of tears; My Sheeps know My Voice saith the Saviour and I have always been thankful yea more than thankful for all the notice and every word which I have received from my heavenly ^{parents} and I have laid it up as the most precious pearls and choicest jewels of heaven; I prize them more now than I did when I see them on earth, for I have more understanding, altho' I had many precious encouraging words from these lovely ones, which I could not sense nor comprehend, in my youthful state; But now when I think them over in my solemn hours, my soul bows into a flood of tears, at the recollection of some things which I shall now relate! - I stood by Father James one day when he was on earth, and he asked ^{me} if I had faith, I did not know

what to say, he answered and said, the time will come when you will know that you have faith, and you will be thankful for every word God which you now hear; I was then 11 years old and I have seen that day with tears of gratitude, and have been thankful that I made choice of this precious prize in the days of my youth, and gave up all to obtain it.

At another time he asked me how old I was, I told him that I was 14 years old he wept and said I had but little sense of God when I was 14 years old, He then sat down and call'd me to him, I kneeled before him his countenance was solemn heavenly and sublime, and his smell was like sweet incense, he gave me some sugar and said your a fatherless child but you may love me as much as you are a mind to, that will never hurt you, but will be your strength and protection ^{yet} in the hour of trial, this promise has been fulfilled with me and has many times raise'd me up from discouragement and despair! - He then taught me the fear of God the way of life the way the cross purity and self denial; And his words ^{were} so affecting and fatherly that it seem'd enough to break a heart of stone, I have not words to express what my feelings ware at that time but my tears ware not a few neither are they now while I write. But my heart is full to overflowing, I never can forget that day, Nay, never never nor the place where I had this ^{precious} interview with him whom my soul loved. When I pass thro these spots of ground where I received so many blessings in ^{the} days of my youth they feel holy, and the land which God has blessed.

I love Mothers work now it is the same spirit ⁱⁿ liv'd
I love Mothers word I love Mothers power, it has ^{* quicken'd} liv'd my spirit
Like Holy fire

The beautiful songs and anthems run thro my immortal Part
like streams of living water springing up into everlasting life
I know by the sensation of my ^{soul} that ^{they} emanate, and come forth from the
everlasting Mansions of the redeemed

I love to speak about these thing some times to my friends, in the
Solemn fear of God, but I have never found any one that I could
converse with so freely as Sister Besey Bates, she always meets me
in faith and love which has endeared her to me in the everlasting
bounds of affection. Even So Let it Be

for Besey Bates

Thankful E Goodrich

Written by my own hand, I am 72 years old

Beloved Eldress Ruth gave me this paper she was always the beloved of my soul