

Oct. 24, 1968

Elder R. J. Wieland
425 North Imperial
Brawley, Calif.

Dear Brother Wieland:

I have pondered your recent letters, which I appreciate as expressing your viewpoint. I had earnestly hoped that in the perspective of time we might be drawing closer together. But I see that this is evidently not the case. The two days and a night that you and a group of us spent together did not alter your viewpoint one iota, apparently, as far as I can see. In fact, you seem to have hardened your position. We here are all sincerely disappointed, especially Elder Pierson--for he had had hopes. We could do much together.

In all my 45 years of active service in this Cause I confess that I have never met a man so completely complacent over his own independent personal view--irrespective of the multiple counsel and investigation of scores of his brethren. But that is the way it appears to be.

Apparently you are set in your position, and do not intend to budge. Your mind is obviously made up. You appear to feel that you are right, and that we are all wrong. This I deeply regret. I believe such a stance to be fraught with unrealized peril. Brother Wieland, my fear is that you will not stop at this point. I wonder what your next step will be--and when. I don't think you will go on this way indefinitely. Apparently the united appeals of your brethren have had no effect.

In your second letter you ask for more evidence. Brother Wieland, apparently you do not, and can not, see and evaluate evidence as the rest of us trained in research do. You seem to have your own personal criteria. You have selected certain statements that determine your course, irrespective of modifying and countering evidence. I dare not follow such a procedure.

I know not what more we can do to any mutual benefit. I am of the opinion that it will be profitless to attempt to submit evidence. That has been done again and again, seemingly to no avail. We have totally different attitudes and relationships toward historical evidence. Consequently evidence is not determinative.

One thing I cannot understand: How you can be absolutely right, and most all other reverent, devoted, intelligent, Spirit of Prophecy loyalists be absolutely wrong. You yourself pose and constitute that question.

I deeply regret to write in this way. I respect you and recognize your right to hold your personal views. I could wish for better things. What an asset you could be on the positive side of things, pulling with your brethren. Have you ever thought of giving it a try? But--

Our understanding of the necessity of having and weighing the full evidence of the Spirit of Prophecy writings seems totally different. Our understanding of what constitutes the full content of the Spirit of Prophecy testimony is far apart. Our understanding as to use of isolated expressions is again sharply different, and leads to different conclusions. Our basic concepts of what constitutes determining evidence likewise seems far apart.

And our views of what is of paramount importance today, and should occupy our major study and mark our primary emphasis, is likewise far apart, it would seem.

I can only hope and pray for ultimate unity.

Most sincerely,

L. E. Froom

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