

Kirtland, June 24, 1835

Dear Mother

I sit down to write a few lines to you, to let you know that I am well and that we are as well as usual. I feel that the Lord has blessed me in all my undertakings since I left there, both in spiritual and temporal blessings. Our children are blessed with the privilege of school and we are blessed with the privilege of going to meeting such as we never had before. I can say to you that I am strong in the faith that I have embraced. It is the thought that will save my soul if I am faithful and do as the Lord has and does require of me, from day to day. I can say to you that this is the gospel of Jesus Christ that was preached anciently and has been lost or in other words has been taken from the children of men on account of their disobeying the commandments of God and swallowed up into the church of Rome and come under the Pope and he is the one who exalted himself above God and all that is called God. I have not written these lines for to injure your feelings but I want you should know on what grounds that you stand for I must refer you to the parable where Christ tells them not to build on a sandy foundation but to build on the rock which is Christ the chief corner stone. Now you believe there is enough in the bible to save all mankind. I will refer you to good old Cornelius whose prayers were heard and who was worthy to receive the administration of an angel but you see that would not save him. for the heavenly messenger says to him send for Peter he will come and tell you and your

household may be saved. Now you think that your priests are holy and now you show me one who has seen a heavenly messenger among all your society from first to last and he want a Peter to tell me how he can be saved for God is the same now that he was then and it takes as much to save a soul now as it did then. Now I wish you would sit down and look at old father Peter and you will see that he was not satisfied only by being with Christ, but said he thou art the Christ for flesh and blood has not revealed but my Father who is in heaven. Now I ask you do you uphold that Peter saw God or do you suppose that he saw a spirit only. Now if we believe Peter saw, we believe he saw God and if he had faith to see God do you not suppose that he conversed with him, and told him all things from first to last. Now I want you should look and see if God is not the same now that He was then and if that is not necessary that we should have a Peter to tell us how we may be saved for we have come far short of being old Cornelius. Now I have written these few lines to you hoping you may see the ground that you stand on, that unless you repent of your sins and are baptized for the remission of your sins you may come under condemnation before God for I do know that the foundation you stand on is an abomination in the sight of God and that the evil spirit is the foundation of it. Perhaps you will think these are hard sayings but if they are hard now they were anciently. I do not write these for to hurt your feelings but I want you should see the foundations that the church that you belong to is not good, neither do I want to justify my evil acts but I want that your soul should be saved in the celestial glory of God and that I may stand in my proper lot and place, for God has seen fit to instruct my weak mind

so that I can see the ground that I stand on and has through the administration of those that have authority to call me blessed in as much as I am faithful and live in obedience to his commandments and I want you should pardon all mistakes and write to me.

V. Knight

P.S. I want you should understand that I say this gospel and this church is from God, Christ being the head and that I am willing to stand ^{and} proclaim it to all that I see though they seek my life they may destroy this body but they cannot destroy the soul. I want you should tell all that inquired where I am that I am in Ohio, a serving with all my heart, powers and faculties that I am in possession of and that my trust is in God, not man and so I say to you as you said to me, may the blessings of God rest on you day and night until you are saved in the Kingdom of God, even so Amen.