

Handout 2: Saints Sacrificed to Help Each Other Receive the Endowment

On November 30, 1845, Brigham Young dedicated the attic of the Nauvoo Temple, and on December 10, 1845, temple endowments began to be administered.

Erastus Snow recalled: “On the twelfth of December, myself and [my] wife, Artimesia, received the first ordinance of endowments, and were called to labor and administer in the temple from that time forth; and I departed not from the temple, day or night, but continued in the labors and duties thereof—with the twelve and others selected for this purpose—about six weeks. Mrs Snow continued . . . about a month” (“From Nauvoo to Salt Lake in the Van of the Pioneers: The Original Diary of Erastus Snow,” ed. Moroni Snow, *Improvement Era*, Feb. 1911, 285).

Elizabeth Ann Whitney wrote: “I gave myself, my time and attention to that mission. I worked in the Temple every day without cessation until it was closed” (“A Leaf from an Autobiography,” *Woman’s Exponent*, Feb. 15, 1879, 191).

Mercy Fielding Thompson recorded that she “was called by President Young to take up my abode there [in the temple] to assist in the female department, which I did, laboring night and day, keeping my child with me” (in Matthew S. McBride, *A House for the Most High: The Story of the Original Nauvoo Temple* [2007], 285).

President Brigham Young recalled: “Such was the anxiety manifested by the Saints to receive the ordinances of endowments, and no less on our part to have them [receive them], that I gave myself up entirely to the work of the Lord in the Temple. Almost night and Day have I spent [in the temple], not taking more than four hours upon an average out of 24 to sleep—and but seldom ever allowing myself the time and opportunity of going home once in a week” (Brigham Young office files, Journal, Sept. 28, 1844–Feb. 3, 1846, 101–2, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; spelling and punctuation standardized).

- Why do you think these individuals were willing to sacrifice so much to help others receive their endowment?
- What can we learn about sacrifice from these accounts?

