

“But sanctify the Lord in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” (1 Peter 3:15)

There is no “surefire method” of leading Mormons to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Since most Mormons have been in their church for years, it’s highly improbable you will convince any Mormon to embrace Christianity in one session. One major problem is the language barrier. The Mormon uses Christian terminology, but with a vastly different significance; therefore, an understanding of basic Mormon doctrine is essential for real communication.

Because of the complex nature of the Mormon faith, this tract is very limited on the information given. It is intended only as a starting point for the concerned Christian who asks, “Where do I start?” and “What do I say?”

A FEW BASICS

- **Love** them enough to tell them the truth. Attack Mormonism, not the Mormon.
- **Be prepared.** There is no substitute for being well versed in both the Bible and basic Mormonism.
- **Respectfully take control** of the conversation. Put the Mormon on the defense by asking pertinent questions.
- **Discuss the “real issues.”** i.e. God, Jesus Christ, Salvation and Sin.
- **Don’t get sidetracked!** Stay on one subject until you have reached a satisfactory conclusion.
- **Quote only from the King James Version** of the Bible or Mormon publications. This is the only version they accept.
- **Share the need for a personal relationship** with the Jesus of the Bible. Proclaim Jesus, not a church.
- **Offer him literature.** Tell him all the quotes are from Mormon leaders or the Bible.
- **Pray for the Mormon.** Never cease to pray for him. God is able to save the most hardened Mormon.

The following is a brief examination of the Mormon doctrine of God compared with the Holy Bible:

THE GOD OF MORMONISM

“In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: ‘AS MAN IS, GOD ONCE WAS: AS GOD IS, MAN MAY BE.’” (Apostle James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, p. 430)

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man,... We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345)

“God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified,

exalted, immortal, resurrected Man! (Apostle Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 1979 edition, p. 643)

“... you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you...” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 346)

“If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.” (Apostle Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 2, p. 345)

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

“...the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.” (Deuteronomy 4:39)

“... for I am God, and not man;...” (Hosea 11:9)

“For I am the LORD, I change not;...” (Malachi 3:6)

“Therefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee...” (II Samuel 7:22)

“For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.” (Psalms 86:10)

“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:...” (Isaiah 45:5)

The following dialogue is a hypothetical witnessing encounter between a Christian and a Mormon missionary. Missionaries always come in pairs, but usually only one will be the spokesman. This same discussion could be applied to a Mormon friend, neighbor or relative.

MISSIONARIES AT YOUR DOOR

Missionaries: (Knock, Knock) Hello, we represent the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We would like to tell you about our church. May we come in for a few minutes?

Christian: Just a minute, let me get my Bible (Christian leaves the door and returns with a Bible.) Perhaps you could answer a question for me. Is Mormonism based on the Bible?

Missionary: Oh yes! The Bible is one of our standard works. (The other three are: *The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants* and *The Pearl of Great Price*)

Christian: I understand Mormonism teaches, “AS MAN IS, GOD ONCE WAS, AS GOD IS, MAN MAY BECOME.” Is this true?

Missionary: Yes, we teach that.

Christian: In other words, God wasn’t always God,

there was a time when he was just a man, and he progressed to become God Is this true?

Missionary: (Reluctantly) Yes, this is Mormon doctrine.

Christian: (Handing his Bible to the missionary) Would you please read Psalms 90 verse 2 and tell me how this verse fits Mormon doctrine?

Missionary: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” Well . . . Uh . . . I’m not sure.

Christian: According to this verse, how long will God be God?

Missionary: To everlasting.

Christian: According to this verse, how long has God been God?

Missionary: Uh.. Well... it says from everlasting.

Christian: You mentioned earlier that Mormonism is based on the Bible. Doesn’t this verse refute the teaching of the Mormon Church that God wasn’t always God and was at one time just a man?

Missionary: Uh..Uh... What about the two sticks in Ezekiel?

Christian: That’s a very good question. After we discuss this most important teaching about God, let’s look at the two sticks mentioned in Ezekiel. Let’s reconsider the statement, “AS MAN IS, GOD ONCE WAS; AS GOD IS, MAN MAY BECOME.” Doesn’t this indicate that there were gods before our God, there will be gods after our God, and in fact, there are many gods?

Missionary: Yes.

Christian: Would you please read Isaiah 43:10 for me and explain how Mormon doctrine deals with this verse?

Missionary: “Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.” I don’t know. I’ve never seen that verse before.

Christian: Would you read and explain Isaiah 44:6 then?

Missionary: “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am

the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” This probably means there is no other God that pertains to this world.

Christian: But it doesn't say that, does it?

Missionary: Well, no.

Christian: Tell me - Does your God know every thing?

Missionary: Certainly! He's all knowing.

Christian: Would he know if other gods exist?

Missionary: Of course.

Christian: Read Isaiah 44:8 and see what God says about other gods.

Missionary: "... Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any." Well. . Uh... The Bible has been copied and recopied so many times, it's just not trustworthy, besides, we only accept the Bible as far as it's translated correctly. (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church)

Christian: Perhaps you could tell me where is it incorrectly translated and give me your documentation.

Missionary: I don't know. I haven't been told.

Christian: What about your prophet? Certainly he could give you a correct translation.

Missionary: Well... I TESTIFY TO YOU. I KNOW THE BOOK OF MORMON IS THE WORD OF GOD, I KNOW JOSEPH SMITH WAS A PROPHET OF GOD, I KNOW...

Christian: (Interrupts testimony) Wait a minute! How do you know these things are true?

Missionary: Because I've prayed about it and the Holy Ghost has revealed to me that these things are true.

Christian: Do you know that nowhere in the Bible are we told to pray for an "inner feeling" to know if a prophet is a true prophet, or if a book is from God or if a teaching is true? The Bible says in I John 4:1 "...believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 gives a test for a true prophet. It says if a prophet tells us to go after a different God than the God of the Bible, that's a FALSE PROPHET! According to the Biblical test, Mormon doctrine and Joseph Smith FAIL THE TEST!

Missionary: Thank you for your time. We had better go now.

Christian: Before you go, I would like to tell you what Jesus Christ has done in my life. I have received his free gift of eternal life based on the finished work at the cross. According to Ephesians 2:8,9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

I base my eternal destiny on the trustworthy word of God, the Bible. Also, I would like to give you these two tracts. You may think they are anti-Mormon, but the only quotes in them are statements from your own prophets and apostles, or the Bible. If you think they are in error, please come back and show me EXACTLY what is in error. I love both of you, and want you to know the true Jesus.

Missionary: Thank you. Good-bye.

GOD PROMISES

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit..." (Hebrews 4:12)

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." (Proverbs 30:5)

If this tract has been a blessing to you or you have questions or comments, please write:

Challenge
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 20195
El Cajon, California 92021

Visit our web sites at:
www.challengemin.org
www.fishersofmen.us

Witnessing to Mormons



ALL QUOTES ARE FROM LDS PUBLICATIONS OR THE BIBLE
Jerry & Dianna Benson