

Straight Talk #57 On Witnessing to Mormons

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Whenever we "target" a person in any cult to try and get them to receive Christ—especially the Mormons—we need to understand up front that it is primarily a spiritual encounter, not an intellectual one. Witnessing to an unbeliever, and most especially to a cultist, is more than just an intellectual exchange of ideas. The Believer should know that the heresies of Mormonism are not just bad ideas, or even bad theology, they are evil!

In other areas of human discourse (politics, sports, etc.) you can just dispute a point back and forth until one or the other party is convinced. However, witnessing to a member of a religion who already has their head filled with Satan's lies cannot—dare not—be an argument! It must be treated as a spiritual encounter—as spiritual warfare.

As you are witnessing Christ to a Mormon (a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), if you could see into the spiritual realm, you would be astonished. When you are trying to show Bible verses to a Mormon, there are swarms of deceiving spirits (**1Tim. 4:1**) buzzing around their head like gnats. They will do *anything* they can to impede the progress of the witnessing exchange.

This interference may include phone calls, people at the door, kids falling out of high-chairs, etc. Thus, if you know—in advance—that you are going to witness to a Mormon, you should begin praying for them in this fashion: (See note 1)

1.) Pray that you would really be able to minister the truth and LOVE of Yah'shua the Messiah (Jesus' name in Hebrew) to them. *(Realize that very few Mormons have ever experienced real, unselfish love. That is because such love is difficult to achieve without Yah'shua's Spirit. Thus, when a Mormon is allowed to experience the true love of Yah'shua through you, it can really go a long ways towards melting their heart!)*

2.) Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you key Bible verses to share that the Mormon really needs to hear, and that his or her heart would be opened to hear them!

3.) Pray for the sensitivity from the Spirit of YHWH (and discernment) to be aware of the Mormon's special needs. Be willing—if necessary—to put aside any plans and just respond to their questions. Don't assume all LDS are fanatics! Many have doubts, but are afraid to articulate them.

4) Pray that all the lying, deceitful spirits of the LDS church would be bound from interfering with the witnessing time, at least for a season. The predominant ones are:

- the Spirit of Mormo, (See note 2)

- the Spirit of Moroni,
- the Spirit of Priestcraft and
- the Spirit of the Bishopric.

5.) Pray for the Spirit of Truth in the witnessing encounter.

6.) Pray that the veils of deception would be lifted off the Mormon's eyes and that they could see the real Yah'shua in all His power and glory. Once you have prayed in this fashion, you will be well prepared to witness to your LDS friend.

Getting down to business

Realize that an *"Are you saved?"* opening is not really effective with Mormons. This is because there is a smog-bank of terminology differences. Most LDS have been trained to think that all people are "saved" in that they will be resurrected from their graves at judgment. This is called "general salvation" and according to LDS doctrine, it is available to all because of Yah'shua's resurrection. However, the typical Mormon will NOT tell you that. They will just say that they are saved.

You can't ask them if they are *"Born Again,"* because Mormons believe they are regenerated when they are dunked in a baptismal font. You cannot ask them if they think they are going to heaven when they die, because they think virtually *everyone* will make it into one of three heavens that are part of their doctrine:

1.) The Telestial Kingdom—(lowest) this is an existence similar to ours now on earth, except people will live forever. It is the eternal destination of "Jack Mormons" (backslidden), and various slackers from all other religions, as well as drunks, fornicators, etc.

2.) The Terrestrial Kingdom—like the Garden of Eden—no storms, sickness, etc.—this is for devout non-Mormons who are living *as best they can* according to all the light they have—Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists, etc. Also, the vast majority of Mormons will end up here, since few—if any—can keep all the thousands of LDS commandments required for...

3.) The Celestial Kingdom—this is the ultimate hope of all LDS, it is called **"exaltation."** *To be truly "saved" in the fullest sense of the word, you need to get here.* Attaining this Kingdom means becoming a god or goddess and keeping your children with you in a unit throughout eternity. The destiny of this Kingdom's inhabitants is to go out and populate other worlds with spirit kids and reign over them as gods and goddesses, just as our "Heavenly Father" and "Heavenly Mother" reign over us.

Only Mormons who have been married in the temple (sealed for time and all eternity) and **who keep true and faithful to all their covenants and commandments** can make it here. In other words, for all practical purposes, it is what one Christian expert on Mormonism, Bob Witte, calls "*Mission: Impossible.*" Because of this difference in terms, it is usually best to avoid getting into a "saved - not saved" discussion. It may be better to avoid the subject of how to receive eternal life until later on in the encounter. However, if you are led to begin there, you might wish to proceed in the following fashion.

Cutting through the Smog

Unfortunately, because of the terminology differences, you need to try and be very precise in your choice of terms with your Mormon friend. Engage them in conversation about their faith. Most LDS *love* to talk about their religion. Then ask them this slight variation of the famous "Diagnostic Question" from *Evangelism Explosion*:

"If you were to die tonight, are you absolutely certain that you would receive eternal life and be with Heavenly Father in the Celestial Kingdom?"

It is important that you say "ETERNAL LIFE," because for most LDS, eternal life means "eternal increase of seed," i.e., living as a god/goddess and propagating spirit babies. LDS theologian Bruce R. McConkie has explained it this way in his monumental work, *Mormon Doctrine*:

...eternal life is not a name that has reference only to the unending duration of a future life; immortality is to live forever in the resurrected state, and by the grace of God all men will gain this unending continuance of life. But only those who obey the fulness of the gospel law will inherit eternal life. (D&C 29:43-44.) It is "the greatest of all the gifts of God" (D&C 14:7), for it is the kind, status, type, and quality of life that God himself enjoys. Thus those who gain eternal life receive exaltation; they are sons of God, joint-heirs with Christ, members of the Church of the Firstborn; they overcome all things, have all power, and receive the fulness of the Father. They are Gods.

It is important that you discuss Heavenly Father and the Celestial Kingdom because only worthy temple Mormons have any hope of making it there. We have NEVER met a Mormon who could answer THAT QUESTION affirmatively! That is because they only trust in their "Jesus" to get them out of the grave on resurrection morning. Everything else is up to them! This means that they are in the position of Israel in Romans 10,

*For I bear them record that they have **a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **going about to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.— Rom. 10:2-3*

Mormons are saved by their works. Therefore, they cannot possibly know their eternal fate for certain. This is then an opportunity for you to get excited and let

them know that you have some wonderful news for them. Take them to 1John 5:13 and have them read it out of their own King James Bible if they have it with them!

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye **may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.— 1John 5:13*

Explain to them that YOU KNOW that you have eternal life because the Bible promises it to you *in plain English*. Tell them that if they are uncertain about their eternal life, then it is because they aren't believing in the right "Jesus" (Yah'shua!). Show them from this verse that you already have eternal life, the very thing that seems to have eluded them, and for which they are working so hard! You, a measly "sectarian Christian" have eternal life and they don't!

This may not be enough to convince most Mormons. Indeed, we encourage all Believers to never just let one verse be a determining factor for a doctrine. "*In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*" (2Cor. 13:1) Thus, it is good to have some other verses in your arsenal for them:

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, **but have eternal life**. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**— John 3:14-16*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And **I give unto them eternal life**; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.—John 10:27-28*

Create a "scripture chain" in the margins of your Bible. In other words, out in the margin by 1John 5:13, write the next verse you need to go to: "John 3:14-16." Then flip to John 3:14-16 and in the margins write "John 10:27-28." As we keep bringing up new verses, add them to your "chain," and that way you won't have to rely upon your memory at first. Now, back to the last verse in John 10.

Point out that in that verse eternal is a **GIFT**. That means it cannot be earned!

This is borne out by other verses as well (put these in your chain): John 17:2, Rom. 6:23, 1John 5:11! To try and pay for a gift is an insult to the giver. Therefore, the Mormon needs to see that he must just receive God's free gift instead of trying to work for it. Ask the Mormon if he or she would like to pray with you to receive the gift of eternal life.

Bypassing the Salvation Question

Most LDS are so astonished that you would even *think* to question their relationship with

the Lord Yah'shua that they get a bit miffed with you for even suggesting such a thing. This, in addition to the terminology problems, is why we actually recommend a different approach.

You cannot get someone saved unless they first think that they are lost. Precious few Mormons would ever think that they are lost, and fewer still would admit it to a non-Mormon. In fact, LDS are used to thinking of themselves as virtual "Super-Christians." As a Mormon, I used to think that I had everything "sectarian Christians" (See note 3) had, plus more! I had a "Restored" gospel, the priesthood, etc. I didn't feel needy enough to be saved.

Most LDS will acknowledge that they commit sins, but do not think of themselves as sinners. They do not believe in "original sin," or really that Rom. 3:10 or 3:23 applies to them in any meaningful way. Thus, rather than getting into this kind of dispute, it is often better to begin in areas which are not quite so confusing, nor emotionally volatile.

Basically, there are two major Bible topics where we can recommend a Christian begin when witnessing to a Mormon. (See note 4)

- The nature (and number) of God
- The nature of Divine Revelation

These subjects, that are actually vital parts of fundamental Christianity, are not usually as inflammatory as talking about salvation, or the Book of Mormon or the character of Joseph Smith. Because there is not such emotional content in these issues, you can often progress further into them with the Mormon without the discussion getting heated. Here is how to proceed:

God: "How many are We?"

Mormons are **POLYtheists**. That is a fancy word for people who believe in a "plurality of Gods" (LDS founding prophet Joseph Smith's term). It is like "polygamy" (having more than one wife). Believers in Yah'shua (and Jews and Muslims, for that matter) have always been MONO-theists. We only worship one true and living Creator.

Nowadays, a lot of Mormons are uncomfortable with the term "polytheists," since it seems to put them in the same camp with Hindus. Some will even deny quite blandly that they believe in more than one deity. Others will claim to only be "henotheists." This is a word seldom found outside of abstruse theological texts, and its use is a sign that the LDS you are dealing with is probably pretty well prepared.

However, he or she can be as well prepared as possible, and still be able to be shown the truth. I was an example of such a Mormon. (See note 5)

"Henotheism" is the belief that there are many TRUE gods out there, but that we only worship one of them. It is kind of a "shopping mall" religion where you check out

different deities like going to different dress shops, until you find one that suits you. All of these gods are good, but you just happen to like yours best. It can readily be shown that Mormons are neither monotheists nor henotheists. Here is a pretty gentle way to proceed.

Are they polytheists?

Ask the Mormon if he or she hopes, someday, to achieve the celestial kingdom and become a god. If they say yes, (See note 6) then point out that they would be a god, and "Heavenly Father" would be a god, and that would be two gods. **Hence they are polytheists.**

Since presumably other great men of YHWH (Joseph Smith, Paul, Moses, etc.) have already attained their eternal destiny, then they would also be gods, correct? (The Mormon should answer yes.) Then there are literally dozens of gods up there already. That is obviously polytheism.

What about Henotheism?

Get the Mormon to confirm that they do not believe in the Christian doctrine of the Trinity (Three Persons in one God). They will almost certainly say that they do not believe it. Then ask them if they believe that the Father is a God, the Son is a God and that the Holy Spirit is a God. They will agree that this is the case.

Now Mormons, like Christians, believe that the Father, Son and Spirit constitute the Godhead. They just disagree about the nature of the Triune relationship. LDS worship the Godhead. (See note 7) Point out to the Mormon that three gods are obviously more than one—thus, Mormons are polytheists (or at least tri-theists)!

Now, once you have established that; you need to take them to the Bible and show them what IT teaches about the plurality of gods. The nice thing about this approach is that you have to know very little about LDS history and theology, and **instead you just need to know what the Bible teaches.** That should be something every Christian should know.

What you should do is get them to take their Bible (if they have it with them—otherwise, use yours) and ask them to read **Deut. 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD."**

Ask them how many "Gods" does that verse teach. Give them an opportunity to think and answer, then take them to the following verses (scripture chained in your Bible in advance, of course): **Isaiah 40:25, 41:4, 42:8, 43:10-11, 44:6-8.** Draw their special attention to that last verse:

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. ...Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.—Isa. 44:6, 8

Gently ask the Mormon if here YHWH is saying that He knows of no other god, how come Joseph Smith knew of other gods? Then take them to **Is. 45:5-6** and have them read that. By now you have shared with them EIGHT scripture passages clearly teaching that there is only one God. Ask the Mormon how Joseph Smith can be a true prophet and teach that there is a "plurality of Gods" when the Bible so frequently says that there is only one.

The Mormon may retreat to his "Henotheism" position by saying that these passages only refer to the uniqueness of the God of our planet and solar system and that Mormons only worship "the God of this world." There are two ways to respond to that from the Word of God—a "nice" way and a bit more confrontational way.

Never use confrontation unless you truly feel that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do it. It is too easy to injure the person, to win the argument and lose the soul. Here is response number one (the "nice" one):

If the Mormon is maintaining that their God, the true God is sort of a "local deity" of just this solar system, take him to Is. 45:12 and have him read it:

I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

This shows clearly that YHWH of the Bible is not just a local god, but that rather He created the heavens (plural—meaning both the clouds, and the stars and galaxies) and "their host"—meaning all the starry host (Gen. 2:1, 2Kgs. 17:16). "Host" means thousands—as in a vast military contingent (Exod. 14:4, Num. 2:8), so we are talking about thousands of stars here. Obviously, the Bible here teaches that the Lord created and commands all the galaxies and stars. He is not just some local, tin-pot deity.

The more jarring approach is to have the Mormon read 2Cor. 4:4:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The clear context of the passage is that the "god of this world" is **Satan!** This is why you want to use this response with care and a real sense that the Holy Spirit is in it. Otherwise, you might blow the Mormon so far out of the water that they will never recover. They might stomp off in a huff.

"All Scripture is Given by Inspiration of God..."

Usually, if you can bring the Mormon this far they will begin to attack the Book you are using to lovingly demolish the infrastructure of their religion. They will say either *"Well, that's just your interpretation of the verse"* OR *"The Bible has had many plain and precious things taken out of it, and it is not completely trustworthy."*

They may also helpfully point out that today we have the Book of Mormon and a "living prophet" to help us out with our "defective" Bible. Realize that this is basically an attack on the inerrancy of the Bible—a tactic as old as the serpent asking, *"Yea, hath God said...?" (Gen. 3:1)*

The first response is easier to answer, because it is a less complex issue. Take them back to ANY of the verses above and have them re-read them. Gently point out that they are written in plain English, and nobody had to interpret anything! *"Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God"* is pretty plain to any one over a third-grade reading level!

Do this with several verses and show them how it requires no interpretation to see that the text says what it means and means what it says! If you cannot get through to them with this approach, you may have to just back off and pray for them some more. They have been too spiritually blinded by their "god of this world."

Has the Bible Been Tampered With?

This, of course, strikes to the very core of the issue. There are two parts to this problem:

- 1.) The question of whether men have tampered with the Bible text.
- 2.) The question of whether God has either the intention or the power to prevent such tampering.

As we shall see, the first question essentially hinges on the second. That is because IF YHWH is all-powerful, then it stands to reason that no human being could tamper with something which He was protecting.

The Mormons are taught in THEIR official **Articles of Faith #8**, *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* Thus, Mormons don't trust God to perfectly preserve His Word as He promised. Apostle Bruce R. McConkie wrote:

Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors—many plain and precious things were deleted, in consequence of which ERROR AND FALSEHOOD POURED INTO THE VARIOUS CHURCHES. One of the great heresies of modern Christendom is the unfounded assumption that the Bible contains all of the inspiring teachings now

extant among men! (See note 8)

However, most sane people will acknowledge that if YHWH says that something will or will not happen, then He is speaking the truth. This is because if He lays His hand of protection upon something, *who—or what—is* powerful enough to pry the Almighty's fingers off something and tamper with it?

Take the Mormon to this chain of scripture verses to show him or her that God has indeed promised to protect the Bible. Start with Yah'shua' promises:

For assuredly I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.—Mt.5:18 (see also Lk.16:17)

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.—Mark 13:31 (see also Lk. 21:33)

Point out that in both these passages Yah'shua has put the full power and authority of His assurance behind individual "words" (**Mark 13:31**) or even pen strokes – the tiniest letters of the Hebrew Alef Bet (**Mt.5:18**). Yah'shua is promising that every single word and even jot and tittle (See note 9) of His Word would be preserved. Now if Yah'shua (who cannot lie, and *who is infinitely powerful*) promised something, who could have the power to over-ride that promise and claim that His words had been tampered with?

Lead them through the following chain of other verses to show them that this is not an isolated doctrine: **1 Kg.8:56, 1 Pet.1:23-25, Ezek.12:25, Prov. 30:5-6, Is.40:8, 51:6, Ps.119:89; 119:140, 12:6-7; 18:30, 19:7-8; 33:4, 111:7, 2Tim. 3:16, Heb.4:12.** This hammers in the truth that every one of the words in the Bible (KJV, of course) are pure and true.

This, of course, leaves the Mormon in the position of having to either believe the words of Yah'shua, etc. OR the words of Joseph Smith and the LDS leaders. Point out gently to the Mormon that if men like Smith make such claims against the Bible—in the face of such overwhelming evidence to the contrary—then *the burden of proof is on them!* Ask him to prove that there are huge parts of the Bible missing, but objective archaeological sources—not just by his Book of Mormon! Then, help him to see that:

IF God is more powerful than we (He is), and...

IF He promised to preserve His Book and give it to us perfectly (He did)... THEN we either have a perfect Bible or a DEITY who is a liar!

"What About our Living Prophets?"

The other principle it is helpful to introduce the Mormon to at this point is the

concept that PRIOR REVELATION MUST JUDGE LATER REVELATION. Mormons will claim that their living prophet is able to help them correct and understand the Bible, because he has the divine authority to do so. However, that is not a logical supposition. If God never changes (here comes the scripture chain again):

Num. 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Num. 23:20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

Mal. 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Hebr. 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Here are some other verses (**1Sam 15:29, Job 23:13, Ps. 33:11, Prov. 19:21, Eccl. 3:14, 7:15; Is. 31:2, 40:28; Rom. 11:29, Heb. 6:17-18, Jas. 1:17**). Put the syllogism to the Mormon in this fashion:

**IF God never changes (see above verses)
AND IF His Word cannot be tampered with (ditto),
THEN if God says "A" in 2000 B.C., He cannot say "not-A" in 1840 A.D.**

In a concrete example, if the Holy Spirit says, "The LORD your God is one" (**Dt. 6:4**) to Moses in 1450 B.C., He is NOT going to say "The LORD your God is a baker's dozen" to Joseph Smith in 1844, A.D. Yah'shua says the scriptures cannot be broken (**John 10:35**), so YHWH is not going to trash revelation He gave in the days of Moses in favor of revelation He gave in the time of Joseph Smith!

This means, practically, that any scripture or "prophet" which comes down the pike must be evaluated by already existing scripture. Prior revelation must judge later revelation! Isaiah puts it this way:

Isa. 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: [God's Word] if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Everything a "living prophet" or a book of "scripture" says must be held up against what God has already said. If they contradict, then you can safely flush the prophet! We have already given the Mormon many verses that contradict his doctrines.

Ask the Mormon if it makes sense that God would so obviously contradict Himself. Ask him if it makes sense that an all-powerful God would promise continually that His

Word would be perfect, and then permit finite, sinful men to meddle with it.

Isa. 14:27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

That Golden Bible!

The final area (if you can get that far with a Mormon) that we recommend you deal with is the celebrated Book of Mormon—occasionally called "The Golden Bible" because it supposedly was originally written on gold plates. LDS founding Prophet Joseph Smith taught that the "*...Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get closer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book (See note 10)*

Therefore, the Mormon would expect to find the fullness of all the unique doctrines of Mormonism within its pages. In a revelation supposedly from God, Joseph Smith in fact promised us all this. (See note 11) However, if you can prayerfully get this far, you need to point out to him that almost all the KEY doctrines of the LDS faith are **CONTRADICTED** by a plain reading of passages in the Book of Mormon.

For example, Mormons teach a "*Law of Eternal Progression,*" that God was once a man and evolved into Godhood—simply put, that he has changed and is changing. Yet, verses in the Book of Mormon teach:

Alma 41:8 Now, **the decrees of God are unalterable**; therefore, the way is prepared that whosoever will may walk therein and be saved.

3Nephi 24:6 For I **am the Lord, I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. [Yes, that is a direct "steal" out of Mal. 3:6]

Mormon 9:9 For do we not read that **God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?**

Mormon 10 And now if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a God of miracles.

Moroni 8:18 For I know that God is not a partial God, **neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.**

Obviously, if the LDS "god" has been changing and evolving over the eons, *then he is neither the Deity of the Bible, nor of the Book of Mormon.* Mormons are taught that the Trinity (Three Persons in one God) is a false doctrine, **yet the** Book of Mormon tells us:

2Nephi 31:21 And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be

saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is **the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end.** Amen.

Mosiah 15:2 And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son-

3 The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son-

4 And they are one God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth.

5 And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people.

Alma 11:44 ...but every thing shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

3Nephi 11:27 And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name; for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.

Now Mormons may say, "That means 'one in spirit,'" but then they are **adding** to the *"most correct book ever written."* How dare they? If the Bible says God is three in one (**1John 5:7**) and the Book of Mormon says it as well, then why do LDS leaders deny the Trinity?

These are just two examples of central LDS dogma that are denied by the Book of Mormon. Here are some other key doctrines that are countered by the Book of Mormon:

- SALVATION BY GRACE (not works as Mormons are told) is taught in: 2Nephi 9:21-23, Mosiah 3:18, 5:7, 27:24-26; Alma 5:21, 11:40-41; Helaman 5:9-11; 3Nephi 11:33, Mormon 9:23-24, Ether 3:14, 4:18; Moroni 8:23.
- PLURAL MARRIAGE as a sacred Gospel ordinance is denounced by: Jacob 1:15, 2:22-27, 3:5; Mosiah 11:2, Ether 10:5.

- BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD as a principle of the gospel denied by: Alma 34:32-35.
- PLURALITY OF GODS is denied by Alma 11:26-33.

Space prohibits a complete listing of these verses—all of which deny some critical LDS teaching. Having shown the Mormon how God is One, and how the Bible is perfect and logically unchangeable, we have now shown them that the Book of Mormon is not even consistent with their own theology. (See note 12)

Additionally, it can be demonstrated that there were thousands of errors in the Book of Mormon. There have been more than 3,900 changes in the Book of Mormon text since it was first published in 1830. Dozens of those changes are extremely important doctrinally. Not all of them are just typos as "the Brethren" would have us believe. We have neither the time nor the space to get into these issues, but you can acquire the material by contacting us. (See note 13)

Having dealt with all these issues, it is time to begin to gently press the Mormon for a decision as to whether or not he will choose to trust Yah'shua' words or Joseph Smith's words. I made that decision in 1984, and chose to follow Yah'shua. I have not regretted it for one moment. Help them to reach it by sharing these Bible verses and facts with them. You may be surprised and blessed at the harvest you reap.

Endnotes:

1.) Of course, you may not always know in advance—as when the infamous Mormon missionaries show up at your door unannounced. Even then, though, you can send up a quick "arrow prayer" under your breath as you unlock your door like: *"Lord, in Yah'shua' name, please let the Holy Spirit give me the words I need to say, and I ask you Father, to bind all the lying and deceitful spirits of Mormonism away from these people in Yah'shua' name. Amen!"* God can obviously handle the details.

2.) As many Christians know, the name "Mormo" is actually the name of an ancient demon identified in Anton LaVey's *The Satanic Bible* (Avon, 1969) as "King of the Ghouls," p.59. A ghoul is one who lives in graveyards and consumes dead people. An appropriate "deity" for a church which is obsessed with genealogy and "redeeming their dead."

3.) This is a term Mormons use for Protestants and Catholics generally. It distinguishes us "sectarians" from LDS "Christians," which are actually no such thing!

4.) I am deeply indebted to my good friend James R. Spencer for the basic program for witnessing outlined here. It is taken from his excellent book, *Have You Witnessed to a Mormon Lately?* (Chosen Books, 1986). He can be reached at Through the Maze Ministries, P.O. Box 8656, Boise, ID. 83707, phone (208) 322-7120.

5.) To receive Bill Schnoebelen's testimony on tape, send \$7.00—postage included—to *With One Accord Ministries*, 3500 Dodge St, Ste 7-290, Dubuque Iowa 52003.

6.) If they say "no", then realize that you are either dealing with a Mormon who is very new to his faith or ill-informed about it; or else you are dealing with a Mormon who is willing to lie to you to make his religion sound better. Either way, you may need to back off and—if you feel competent to do so—demonstrate to them that Mormon doctrine does indeed teach the famous "Law of eternal Progression:" *"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."*—first said by LDS "prophet" Lorenzo Snow.

7.) Though this was not the case a few years ago, we have found that more and more Mormons (and LDS missionaries) with whom we have spoken, say that they worship Yah'shua Christ. Whether this is a factual statement or just something that they have been told to say to Christians, it is a radical change in LDS doctrine. Use it to your advantage.

8.) Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, Bookcraft, pp. 82-82.

9.) A "jot", for example, is an English transliteration of the Greek word IOTA, which is the equivalent of the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the YOD, which barely looks like a stylized dot (y).

10.) Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 461.

11.) Doctrine and Covenants 135:3.

12.) Much of the material on the differences between Mormon doctrine and the teachings of the Book of Mormon are drawn from an excellent tract that helped get me out of the Mormon church, "*Those Plain and Precious Things*," from Saints Alive, P.O. Box 1076, Issaquah, WA 98027. (206) 2280175.

13.) Contact *With One Accord Ministries* for a STRAIGHT TALK on the changes in the Book of Mormon.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the author through:

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