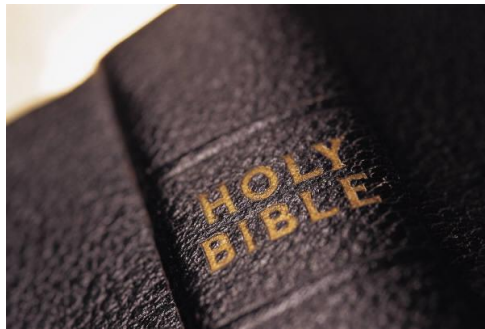


# **EFFECTIVELY WITNESSING TO MORMONS**



*A Guide towards Witnessing*

*Bob Brincat*

## *Introduction*

You are sitting at home when the doorbell rings and there are two young men at your door representing The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints or better known as The Mormons. They introduce themselves as Elder Mark and Elder Thomas. They are well dressed, well-mannered and they want to share with you how you can have eternal life. They speak about God, Joseph Smith as his prophet and the only true church of God. But, is what they are saying the truth? Are they telling you the whole story of what they truly believe and what their leaders are teaching them and want you to believe?

In this booklet, I will share with you the most effective method I know for reaching Mormons with the truth. As you know, people can be shown the truth, but the deceptiveness of sin and the lure of promises of godhood that are found in the Mormon religion are hard to turn away from. Add to this, the fact that many Mormons have been raised within a Mormon family and their culture makes it very difficult for them to turn away from possibly “the only faith they have ever known”. In essence, when you witness, you are really asking people to break with family, friends, their church, and deflect a load of guilt from the devil to follow the truth. No matter how difficult this may be for both them and you, the truth still needs to be told and a decision needs to be made by the many involved in Mormonism.

As you will see, Mormon prophets have made fantastic claims since their founding and have labeled these as revelations from God. Here lies the Achilles heel of Mormonism. Mormons hold the revelations of their prophets above the Bible and even above the Mormon scriptures themselves. Therefore, if you can help them recognize some of the fantastic claims of Mormonism and help them realize that they need to make a decision towards

truth, you will have gone a long way in bringing that person closer to Christ.

The following chapters will reveal a simple and effective method for leading Mormons to the truth that is found in the gospel.

## *The Most Revealing Question*

As you speak with Mormon missionaries (or any person involved in another religion), you will find that they normally will allow you to share what you believe and try to discover your depth of knowledge of the scriptures. A Mormon missionary usually will come along side your belief system at first and will state that they believe in God and Jesus Christ as well, in an attempt to show commonality of faith. They will frequently ask questions to gain a better understanding of what you believe, so they can learn where best to insert their beliefs and doctrines into the conversation. This may sound deceptive, but in actuality it is quite common in conversations. Eventually, they will begin to simply contrast the Bible's teaching with their own doctrines. They may try to share with you scriptures from your own Bible and state that these scriptures point to Mormonism or simply ask you what you think the scriptures mean – so they can then tell you what they mean to them personally or mean in general. At some point, they will try to discredit the Bible, your understanding, your church or Christianity in some form or fashion. They will state that they have a living prophet and you do not. Their scriptures are accurate and yours has been translated many times and probably contains errors and contradictions. They may discuss the Catholic Church, the Pope, church history, and different Protestant faiths in an attempt to show that Christianity today and through the centuries has been corrupted and full of problems, errors, and hypocrites.

Most cult members will try and get you on the defensive concerning your faith in Christ or Christianity in general. However, it is their doctrines that are contrary to the Bible. Therefore, it would be helpful to know what the Mormons believe, so that their doctrines don't catch you off guard. I have included some key Mormon beliefs within this booklet. However, I would highly recommend the following

resources that provide a good contrast and in-depth teachings on Mormon beliefs. The first is the video *The Mormon Puzzle* published by the North American Missions Board ([www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)). This is an excellent contrast between basic Mormon beliefs and Biblical Christianity. The video has one drawback. The video recommends that you do not engage Mormon Missionaries in hopes of converting them to Christ, because these young men are thoroughly trained to bring you to Mormonism. However, I believe you should reach these young men who are on the road to destruction and follow this simple method that is laid out in this booklet. The next excellent resource is the book *Mormonism Shadow of Reality*, by Jerald and Sandra Tanner. This book will give you an in-depth view of Mormonism with photocopies of Mormon documents and doctrines to reveal some of the outlandish claims made by Mormon prophets.

I would also encourage you to gain a working knowledge of Mormon doctrine and beliefs so that you may be able to communicate effectively. For instance, you will find that Mormons believe in many gods, but only one god for this particular universe. They believe god was a man at one time and that he attained godhood. They also believe that God the Father literally had physical relations with Mary to conceive Jesus. If you read the book, I mentioned earlier *Mormonism – Shadow or Reality* by Jerald and Sandra Tanner you will have an ample understanding of the history and Mormon doctrine. However, it is not necessary to be an expert on everything they believe, just knowing the obvious fallacies should be enough to help you and possibly them. If you get entangled in comparing doctrines, when the truth of the false prophecies are so plain, then you will be wasting your time and will become ineffective in sharing the gospel.

Once you have a basic understanding of Mormonism, you are now better prepared to help the Mormon follower see the light of the true gospel. Let me suggest that you first remember your relationship with Christ. Always remember

what God has done for you and who lives inside of you. The wonderful advantage you have over those who don't know Christ is that Christ lives in you and unfortunately not in them. You belong to Christ and they do not. This is your strength and living hope. And you shouldn't feel any less than those who may know a whole lot about Bible discussion points, but do not have Christ dwelling in them. Get ready! Because, with this assurance, you can deliver the most pointed and revealing question to any lost soul caught in a false religion, **“Where is Christ in your life?”**

Most people will react in one of two ways when you ask that question: They may be flustered, or they may defend their belief system. For example, they may begin to tell you what they believe about Jesus. However, that is not what you asked them. Say to them, “Excuse me, but I did not ask you what you believed about Christ. I asked you, **“Where is Jesus Christ in your life?”** They may seem somewhat confused and ask you, “What do you mean?”, or they may respond by saying something like, “Jesus is very precious to me and he is the center of my life”. That's closer, but it is still not what you asked them. **Where is Christ in your life?** Press the point and say; “But where is he? If they say any other place than living within them, then make it clear that **“anyone who does not have the spirit of Christ does not belong to him” (Romans 8:9)**. This immediate helps them understand that they are living without Jesus Christ in their life. They may begin to realize they only have religion and knowledge of their scriptures, but not what counts the most – a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

Immediately, this will make them aware of the difference between you and them. You speak from your relationship with Christ and they do not. Now when a person is confronted with that question, they may try and downplay it, spiritualize it, or redefine it. But, the fact remains, he the Holy Spirit indwells the believer in Christ and does not

indwell those who have rejected Christ or not accepted Jesus Christ.

During this important point in your discussion with them, it would be good to help further their understanding of the living presence of God in the believers' life, by giving them other scriptures to ponder such as:

1. The Father is in me and I will be in you.
2. I know my sheep and they know me.
3. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man opens that door I will come in and fellowship with him.
4. Jesus in you, the hope of glory.

After you have made it clear that God has a living personal relationship of this type with every believer, they may try to continue the conversation again. They may try to agree with you or discuss doctrine or church history with you. However, the Holy Spirit has already made His point and their conscious may have been pricked concerning their need for this same kind of relationship and assurance that you have. Stand firm. Because, they may begin to realize that they are powerless in gaining the advantage and win you to Mormonism.

Now, let's see who are the true worshipers of God.

## *The True Worshipers of God*

“The time is coming and now is, when the true worshipers of God, will worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23)

Mormons believe that they are the true church in all the earth, keepers of the true gospel, that every other church has been deceived and is deceiving others. When you speak with a Mormon missionary you will find that they give more credence to their Mormon Prophets and Mormon Apostles than they do to even their own scriptures and the Bible itself. Beginning with the founder Joseph Smith we unfortunately find some of the most outlandish and untruthful claims made. For instance, Joseph Smith the founder and first President of the Mormon religion claimed that there were men living on the moon. *“The inhabitants of the moon are more of a uniform size than the inhabitants of the earth, being about six feet in height. They dress very much like the Quaker style and are quite general in style, or fashion of dress. They live to be very old; coming generally, near a thousand years. This is the description of them as given by Joseph the Seer, and he could ‘See’ whatever he asked the father in the name of Jesus to see.”* (“Journal of Oliver B. Huntington,” Vol. 3, page 166 of typed copy at Utah State Historical Society)<sup>1</sup> And, not to be outdone in outlandish claims, we find Brigham Young (the second President and successor to Joseph Smith) making this claim: “Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening, called the moon? ...when you inquire about the inhabitants of that sphere you find that the most learned are as ignorant in regard to them as the ignorant of their fellows. So it is regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? No question of it; it was not made in vain.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, page 271)<sup>2</sup> Here we see Brigham Young, President and Prophet of the Mormon Church of his day claimed that even the most educated of



men was ignorant for not knowing that men lived on the moon and on the sun.

Mormons today and in 1870 when Brigham Young spoke these words would be considered ignorant men and women if they reject these revelations of people living on the moon and the sun. Yet a Mormon's confession of faith clearly states that they believe in God and Joseph Smith his prophet. Without being rude, ask the young Mormon if they believe men are living on the moon and sun as their prophets claimed. Thank God that He allowed men to travel to the moon to find an empty barren moon. And point out that these are their prophets making these claims. Then point out that they would be considered as ignorant if Brigham Young was here saying these things today and they rejected it. **Point out to them that these are the types of people that they want you to follow and profess as prophets!** Remember, the role of a prophet is to communicate truth from God. I think we can clearly see that these two men were not communicating truth to their followers, which puts them in the category of a false prophet, which the Bible says clearly would come.

In addition to these two quite remarkable statements above, Joseph Smith reported that he was visited by several heavenly beings, such as: various angels, God himself, by Elijah, Moses and others. Here lies another un-nerving question for Mormons to ponder. Let's say Joseph Smith really was visited by angelic beings, *how did he know if these were really from God and not from the devil trying to deceive Joseph Smith into starting a false religion?* The Bible states that; "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it's no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness..." 2 Cor. 11:13,14. How is it that Joseph Smith did not heed the Biblical warning concerning angels from heaven..."**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now**

**again, if any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8,9).**

Emphasizing the main scripture above, “The true worshipers of God worship in spirit and in truth” John 4:23, may help Mormons to understand God’s standards regarding true and false worshipers. Ask the follower of Joseph Smith whether they believe men live on the moon and sun. Help them understand that these are Mr. Smith’s and Young’s beliefs and are not their own. Next, you will have to help them understand that they need to make a decision now for truth. This we will examine in more detail in the next chapter.

## *Making a Decision for Truth*

As you point out the apparent lies concerning the false revelations of Joseph Smith (men living on the moon) and Brigham Young (men living on the sun), you should help them realize that they have to make a decision for truth in their life if they are to be a true worshiper of God. Just like the woman at the well had to break with her Samaritan beliefs and like the Apostle Paul had to break with his fundamental anti-Jesus Jewish beliefs, all people desiring to be saved must choose truth in their life, no matter the cost. To knowingly reject truth in place of a lie is to ultimately side with devilish practices and reject the nature and character of God. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. And the devil is a liar and the father of lies. True salvation begins with receiving truth. How can a person come to know Christ, who is truth, when they reject truth? In fact, the Bible states that a time is coming when those who receive not the love of the truth will be damned for not believing the truth (2 Thess. 2:8-12).

Again, citing the many examples from scriptures of those who broke from their former way of life and beliefs will help the Mormon person understand that they are not alone in their decision for truth. Share with them how you had to make a personal decision for truth and how Christ said that, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household (Matt. 10:34-36).

When they accept the truth of the Bible, the truth about their Mormon prophets and the truth about Jesus, then they will have the truth that will set them free.

Now, I am sure you have noticed that I have not gone into great detail on Mormon history, writings, doctrines, and practices yet. There are many wonderful resources that can tell you all about the Mormon religion. Unfortunately, if you begin comparing what the Bible says to what the Book of Mormon says, to what their prophets say, to what your church believes, to what you believe, to how you live, to how they live, to why you practice what you believe, to all of church history throughout the ages, and to everything else under the sun...you are indeed treating the symptom of the problem, but that can be a long and arduous task. Get to the heart of the matter first and help them realize their need for the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

When I first shared these truths and took this approach to witnessing with the Mormon missionaries that came to my door, one of the young men stated that he didn't feel good about our discussion any longer. I agreed with him and said, "I don't blame you for feeling uncomfortable. I feel uncomfortable too. I can't in all good conscious accept the teaching that men live on the moon and sun, when I know this to be false. **Is this the type of prophets you want me to follow?** I can't. You see, I had to make a decision in my life a long time ago and decide for truth above all else. **And, now you my friend have to decide for truth as well**".

Unfortunately, our conversation ended that day and we have not had a visit in a long time from the local Mormon missionaries. Even my daughter's friend who was a Mormon didn't come over to play any more after my conversation with the Mormon missionaries. Unfortunately, there are consequences when sharing the truth with others, even when it is done in love. Like the Apostle Paul said, "**Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? (Gal. 4:16)**. The best thing to do is to simply do as Peter says, "**But sanctify the Lord God 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”.**

## What Do Mormons Believe?

I have saved this brief outline of what Mormonism teaches for the end, because penetrating their belief system is more important than debating their doctrines and history. Trying to convince those deep in Mormonism that their belief system is contrary to Biblical truths is no revelation to them. **They already know this...**

Mormons are taught that all faiths are false, and their teachings are the only true teachings. So, debating Biblical truths may not gain you much if you only have a short time to witness to them. That is why I shared with you the direct approach to establishing who are the true worshipers. of God.

Now basic Mormon beliefs can be found in a variety of sources such as: Internet sites, encyclopedias, Christian Apologetic ministries, and The Mormon scriptures of course. Below is a list of basic beliefs found in Mormonism:

1. They claim to be the one true church in the world.
2. They believe in the authority of the Mormon Prophet over the church and sole revelator for God.
3. They accept four books as scripture: *The Book of Mormon*, *Doctrines and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*, and the King James Bible as far as it has been translated properly as they say.
4. There are many gods and many universes.
5. There is only one god for this universe.
6. This god was once a man as us and had attained exaltation or godhood.
7. They believe that we all existed prior as spirit children of god and that Jesus was the first spirit child of god and was made manifest through natural physical intercourse that God the Father had with Mary to produce Jesus.
8. Humans are potential gods in the making.

9. Only faithful Mormons who complete all the Mormon temple ordinances will attain full godhood.
10. Mormons claim Trinitarian beliefs because they believe that The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit are all gods, but not one God.

Their religious beliefs are quite extensive and can take months or years to learn all their history, doctrines and beliefs. The ones listed above were taken from various sources such as: Mormonism – Shadow or Reality by Jerald & Sandra Tanner and information from the North American Mission Board Bullet Belief on Mormonism - [www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net).

## Conclusion

I hope this short booklet has given you some insight into witnessing to Mormons. This approach works with anyone of a different religion because it approaches witnessing from the perspective of truth. The following set of guidelines will be helpful when witnessing to those of another faith:

1. Have a good knowledge of the truths found in the Bible.
2. Gain a working knowledge of the other person's faith.
3. Communicate God's desire for a personal relationship with others through His personal indwelling in the lives of believers, through Christ.
4. Help the other person see that Christ is not indwelling them.
5. Communicate God's standard for the true worshipers of God – John 4:23.
6. Examine the other person's faith in light of truth.
7. Warn them that God is sending a strong delusion on the world because it is rejecting the truth and choosing to believe a lie.
8. Reveal the need for people to make a decision for truth.
9. Give them a Bible, new testament or gospel to get them started on the road to discipleship.
10. Try and meet with them on a regular basis and encourage them in their walk with God.

I have included a list of other fantastic claims made by Mormon prophets and leaders on the next page for your review. However, the simple truths of the fantastic claims of men living on the moon and sun made by Joseph Smith and Brigham Young should suffice to help you begin to lead them into truth. In addition, the fact there is no archaeological evidence to support any claims made by the



Book of Mormon should help you when witnessing to  
Mormons.

May the Lord bless you and lead you into all truth.

## More Fantastic Claims of Mormonism

### I. Made by Joseph Smith:

1. Smith found a round chocolate-colored, egg shaped stone and stated that it was a “Seer Stone” prepared by God for Joseph to receive revelations. (Comprehensive History of the Church, by B.H. Roberts, Vol.1, page 129)
2. Smith Visited by an angel (Moroni) and instructed to unearth gold plates, which was reportedly the accounts of the “former inhabitants of this continent” and the everlasting gospel message. Later the plates were taken
3. Revelation by Smith: Jackson County, Missouri is where the Garden of Eden was located. (Mormon Doctrine, page 20).
4. Smith found the remains of an altar, which he claimed to be Adam’s altar in Spring Hill Daviess County, Missouri. (Mormon Doctrine, p.21).
5. Smith found a “skeleton of a man”, which was revealed to him by the “Spirit of the Almighty” was Zelph, a “white Lamanite” and a “man of God”, who was killed during the “last great struggle of the Lamanites and Nephites.” (History of the Church, Vol. 2, pp. 79-80)
6. 1834 “six brass plates” where found near Kinderhook, Illinois. Smith claimed that these were ancient records of a descendant of Ham, through the loins of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and that he received his kingdom from the Ruler of heaven and earth. (History of the Church, Vol. 5, page 372)
7. 1835 a man came to Kirtland, Ohio with some mummies and some scrolls of papyrus. Smith examined these and claimed that they were writings from Abraham, Joseph and even Moses. The mummy he said was Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt.

Smith stated that he was given the ability to translate these items. (figures of the Past, by Josiah Quincy, as quoted in Among the Mormons, Edited by William Mulder and A. Russell Mortensen, 1958, pp. 136-137)

8. Joseph Smith was able to see beyond the earth by means of his revelations. Smith claims to see the inhabitants of the moon. About 6 feet tall, dress like the Quakers, live to be very old, generally about 1,000 years old. “This is the description of them as given by Joseph the Seer, and he could “See” whatever he asked the Father in the name of Jesus to see” (Journal of Oliver B. Huntington, “ Vol. 3, page 166 of typed copy at Utah State Historical Society)

## II. Made by Brigham Young (Second President of the Mormon Church)

1. Confirms Smith’s revelation of men living on the moon and then states that people live on the Sun. “Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening, called the moon? ... when you inquire about the inhabitants of that sphere you find that the most learned are as ignorant in regard to them as the ignorant of the fellows. So it is in regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think that it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question of it; it was not made in vain.” Journal of discourses, Vol. 13 page 271)

## III. John Taylor (Third President of the Mormon Church)

1. “What! Are Christians ignorant? Yes. As ignorant of the things of God as the brute beast.” Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 25)

2. “We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense...The devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century.” (Ibid., Vol.13, page 167)
3. “...we are the only people that know how to save our progenitors, how to save ourselves, and how to save our posterity in the celestial kingdom of God; ...we in fact are the saviors of the world...”(Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 163)

#### IV. Joseph Fielding Smith (Tenth President of the Mormon Church)

1. “Saints are the best people. We are, not withstanding our weaknesses, the best people in the world. I do not say this boastingly, for I believe that the truth is evident to all who are willing to observe for themselves. We are morally clean, in every way equal, and in many ways superior to any other people.” (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.1 page 236)

#### VI. The Juvenile Instructor – Mormon publication:

1. O.B. Huntington, “refers to Adam’s Altar and to Noah’s Arch built near Carolina (The Juvenile Instructor, November 15, 1895, pages 700-701)

#### VII. The Elders Journal (edited by Joseph Smith) – Mormon publication:

1. “Is it any wonder then that we say of the priests of modern days, that they are of their father the Devil...we shall see all the priests who adhere to the sectarian religions of the day, with all their followers, without one exception, receive their portion with the devil and his angels (Elders’ Journal, Vol. 1, No. pp.59-60).