

JESUS

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OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Many Mormons have special memories of growing up in a small Mormon town in a wonderful Mormon home where everything seemed perfect. However, not all Mormons have had that privilege. Some have had to behave outwardly as if everything was "perfect" but when they were inside of their four walls, it was an entirely different story! I have had to listen to testimonies of many Mormons that said they always felt like a second-class citizen as they felt they didn't measure up to their "perfect" Mormon neighbors but kept it hidden in their secret hearts. What a joy it was to be able to tell them no one measures up to the perfection of a holy God. We all fall short but Jesus came to trade our sinfulness for His righteousness if we repent of our sins and accept Him as our Savior. When they do this, I have seen their hopelessness change into joy as they realize they are no longer a "second-class" citizen but a child of the King!

~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

RIGHTEOUSNESS, ACHIEVED or RECEIVED?

The Bible tells us – *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"* (Matt.5:6, NAS). Righteousness may be defined as conforming "to the divine standard of right and justice" ("Funk & Wagnalls"), or simply just being in right standing with God. Righteousness is something both Christian and Mormon would agree is

necessary by which man becomes acceptable to God, however, the similarity stops there for each seeks a different path in this quest.

Mormons are taught that they may **achieve** righteousness through their own efforts: *"Plainly and simply stated, righteousness is the quality and type of living that results from obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."* ("Mormon Doctrine", Second Edition, p.654). On the other hand, Christians believe Christ purchased righteousness for us with His atoning death and can be **received** only through faith: *"But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness"* (Rom.4:5 NAS).

Again in 2 Cor.5:21 we are told: *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"*. Consider the parable of Luke 18:9-14. It was not the self righteous man, who believed God worked on a merit system, that went away justified, but the one who knew he was a sinner and relied solely on God's mercy!

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY



If righteousness could be obtained through self effort then God made a serious mistake at the cross: “*I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died needlessly*” (Gal.2:21 NAS). We hope that you will take the time and be bold enough to share this “good news” with the Mormons you know.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

“When you ask for a recommend, remember that to enter the temple of our Lord is a sacred privilege. It is a serious act, not something to be taken lightly. We must be obedient to every covenant that we make in the temple of the Lord. He has said that if we are true and faithful we shall pass by the angels to our exaltation. We will become gods (see D&C 132:19-20). Temple marriage is worth any sacrifice. It is a way of obtaining eternal blessings beyond measure.” (“GOSPEL PRINCIPLES”, Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”, p.236, my emphasis)

GAINING A “TESTIMONY” OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

Mormons are encouraged to give a Book of Mormon (BOM) to a prospective convert and tell them to read and then pray about it as instructed in Moroni 10:4 – “*And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.*” (my emphasis)

Again, on the “Introduction” page of the BOM we read: “*We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon, to ponder in their hearts the message it contains, and then to ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ if the book is true. Those who pursue this course and ask in faith will gain a testimony of its truth and divinity by the power of the Holy Ghost.*” (my emphasis)

Another Mormon source gives these instructions: “*But, behold, I say unto you, that you **must** study it out in your mind; then you **must** ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall **feel** that it is right*” (D&C 9:8, my emphasis)

However, following directions from an obviously prejudiced source (their *own* material) is being very unwise and gullible to say the least. That seems tantamount to me telling you a story and then instructing you to pray and ask God to show you that it is true. Who am I? Am I a source that can be trusted? It is ridiculous to think the BOM can give instructions for its *own* testing when it has no authority or credentials to do so.

The Bible, which has impeccable credentials (e.g. fulfilled prophecies) and tons of historical and archaeological proof, does not even ask a person to first read it and then believe it on the basis of prayer alone. If reading something then praying about it was a valid means for knowing divine inspiration then shouldn't one read the “Quran” (Islam), or the “Pali Triptaka” (Buddhism), or the “Vedas” (Hinduism), or the “New World Translation” (Jehovah's Witnesses) with the same instructions in mind?

Mormonism's test for the BOM is not even logical, yet many have fallen for it and have been tragically misled. The Bible warns about “deceitful spirits” (1 Tim.4:1) and even our own hearts that can trick us (Deut.11:16, Pr.14:12, Jer.17:9). We are to *test* things like the BOM against the already divinely proven yardstick called the Bible!

PROPHECIES (Fulfilled & Failed)

Fulfilled prophecies are vital for knowing if something is truly of God or not. First of all, God is omniscience (all knowing) so He will not give erroneous information or revelation. Second, if a person gives a message “in the name of the Lord”, it will happen *exactly* as spoken, provided they are not false prophets. To understand the seriousness of saying a word is from the Lord when in reality it is not, we only have to read Deuteronomy 18:20: “*But the prophet who shall speak*

*a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.***" (NAS, my emphasis)

We know that the Bible has numerous prophecies that have been *fulfilled*, but when we look into Mormonism we find that numerous prophecies have *failed*. The following prophecy given by Joseph Smith is just one example: "*I, THE Lord your God, am not displeased with your coming this journey, notwithstanding your follies. I have much treasure in this city for you, for the benefit of Zion...And it **shall come to pass in due time that I will give this city into your hands**, that you shall have power over it, insomuch that they shall not discover your secret parts; **and its wealth pertaining to gold and silver shall be yours.***" (D&C 111:1,2,4 my emphasis)

This city was never given into their hands, and wealth pertaining to gold and silver was never theirs. The preface to this piece of LDS scripture even **admits** the failure of this prophecy as follows:

*"Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Salem, Massachusetts....At this time leaders of the Church were heavily in debt due to their labors in the ministry. Hearing that a large amount of money would be available to them in Salem, the Prophet, Sidney Rigdon, Hyrum Smith, and Oliver Cowdery traveled there from Kirtland, Ohio, to investigate this claim, along with the preaching the gospel...**When it became apparent that no money was to be forthcoming, they returned to Kirtland...**"* (My emphasis)

Even though it only takes one false prophecy to make one a false prophet, many more examples can be given. If anyone is interested in a more extensive list, just contact us and ask for "False Prophecies". A donation for shipping would be appreciated.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, a question and answer time, and refreshments. All are welcome - those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 240-A W. Chapman Ave. In Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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