

How to Witness to Mormons

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INTRODUCTION:

Mormons are not easy to win, but they can be won. Winning them will require special effort. Since they usually do not recognize a need and do not understand themselves to be sinners, and since they question the Bible's authority, a special technique and skill will be needed. New Testament Christians had similar problems. They worked with religious people who were apparently satisfied (Acts 8:25; Romans 10:1-3).

Further visits will probably be necessary. Don't be discouraged if the Mormon is not won on the first visit. A Mormon is seldom won on the first visit. All witnessing is the culmination of building relationships. With Mormons it will take longer than normal to build a relationship of trust.

1. It is important when witnessing to Mormons that Biblical methods be used. Don't confuse timidity with meekness. One can be meek and yet bold. (A) Peter and John were bold (Acts 4:13). (B) Paul was bold (Acts 9:27-29, 17:2, 10-17, 18:4, 26; 19:8-9).

2. Paul used non-Christian authorities (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12). It is suggested here that to follow this Biblical norm to present a Christian witness Mormon sources may be used.

3. Keep in mind: Mormons use our terms

with their meanings. Don't let this throw you. Salvation — resurrection; God — an exalted man; Gospel — Mormonism; Eternal life — godhood; Heaven — a place where all go (except a very few) to different heavens prepared for practically everyone.

I. METHOD...

Remember, you must be wise yet humble. Humility is not weakness, but the opposite of pride.

A. Do not be defensive. *Don't try out your new found witnessing technique on the returned missionary at first.* It is not necessary for you to explain difficult passages in the Bible. Your attempt to explain the Urim and Thummim, or the Stick of Judah and Stick of Joseph, baptism for the dead, etc. will not contribute to winning the Mormon. Mormons have not been known to be won by these techniques. You are on the defensive when you allow yourself to be cornered with these obscure passages. These passages can be answered but are irrelevant and distracting in attempting to win a Mormon to Christ.

B. If for some reason the Mormon wishes to use the Bible be sure and ask him to read an entire section or chapter to get the context.

C. What is the most important subject? Not temples, nor prophets, nor a priesthood, nor authority, etc. None of these: God is most important!

1. ASK: What do you believe about God? *Get him to commit himself.* Prompt him. (A) Ask: Do you accept the statement: "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become?" This is not found in any of the standard works. (It will surprise him, and he will be especially amazed that you know this. This will allow you to maintain the initiative. (B) Does God have a body, fingers, toes, etc.? (Pause between each question for an affirmative answer). (C) Is he married? (D) Does he have parents? (E) Is he

changing? (F) Is there more than one God?

2. Then say, "What if I could show you that the *Book of Mormon* does not teach these things? Would it disturb you? Would you agree that something is wrong if I show you? Do you want truth? Would you accept it if I show it to you?"

3. Show him in your *Book of Mormon*. These following suggested passages should be written in your *Book of Mormon* and underlined in the text. Don't allow him to change the subject. Keep bringing him back; don't discuss other subjects. *Don't let him get you back to the questions about those obscure passages in the Bible. Keep the initiative.* Stay on the offensive (just as Paul did).

4. Suggested passages from the *Book of Mormon*.

a. ONLY ONE GOD

...Last sentence of the testimony of three witnesses (*Book of Mormon*).

...Alma 11:22, 28-29. Note especially vs. 28-29. Stay on it.

...Alma 11:38-39.

...Statement in second paragraph on title page in capitals. "JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD." Remind him that this is his book. It is supposed to contain no error. There is no problem of translation. *Stay with him.*

...You might turn to Mosiah 15:2-5 to show him the relationship of Jesus and God, and the fact that they are not two, but one. Read this over many times, familiarize yourself with all these passages. You might need a few more verses, but learn these well. (There are many more, but these are usually sufficient.)

...another is 3 Nephi 11:14.

b. GOD UNCHANGING (maintain initiative).

...Mormon 9:9-11, 19.

...Moroni 7:22 (Everlasting to everlasting,

always existed, knows all things).

...Moroni 8:18.

c. GOD IS (not has) A SPIRIT (The Bible says this only once — the *Book of Mormon* twice.)

...Alma 18:24-28.

...Alma 22:9-11, etc.

...I would not mention the following in this parenthesis unless necessary, since you want to stay with the *Book of Mormon* at this point — but the Bible says that God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and Jesus said that a spirit does not have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

II. The next suggested course of action is to say, “It is evident that there is something wrong! Mormonism and the *Book of Mormon* do not agree! In fact, they differ greatly.”

A. Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). The prophet is not the way, a restoration is not the way, Mormonism is not the way, the priesthood is not the way — Jesus said, “I AM THE WAY!”

B. It is imperative to maintain the initiative. Paul did. If you do not get a profession at this point, I would read Mosiah 27:24-28. Remind him that he must have a new birth in order to become a child of God (vs. 25b). This strongly contradicts Mormonism. Ask him if he has had this experience. **DON'T LET HIM GET YOU ON THESE OBSCURE PASSAGES.** This could result in nothing more than an argument. **KEEP THE INITIATIVE.** Stay on the offensive.

1. Read Alma 5:14. This change or new birth is necessary.

2. Read Alma 5:26.

3. 3 Nephi 9:17 tells how to become sons of God (this is similar to John 1:12-14), use this passage, but keep him on the subject of this change being necessary. Don't let him change

the topic. Stay with this proposition. **KEEP THE INITIATIVE.** Mormonism and the *Book of Mormon* do not agree. Something is wrong! The book demands a new birth, a change (this is not baptism). **STAND UP TO HIM. DON'T LOSE THE INITIATIVE.** Ask him again, "Have YOU been born again? When? When? When?" Jesus (and not Mormonism with its prophets, restorations, etc.) is the need.

4. You should now share the plan of salvation you feel comfortable with.

CONCLUSION

When the Mormon accepts Christ, if at all possible, help him see that he must not continue to be a party to something that teaches error or places the emphasis on the wrong things. As a new-born Christian, help him see his obligation to win other Mormons. It is important not to press him for church membership at this point. Work with him later. The Holy Spirit will help him on this point. He is making a **BIG** change and is leaving his culture, religion and possibly his family behind.

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The methods presented in this tract are proven.

Recommended Reading

- Leazer, Gary & Davis, Tal, *Light on the Latter-day Saints*, Atlanta, GA, Home Mission Board, 1991
McKay, Robert, *What is Mormonism?*, Marlow, OK, Utah Missions, Inc., 1988
McKeever, Bill, *Answering Mormons' Questions*, Minneapolis, MN, Bethany House Publishers, 1991
Smith, John L., *Witnessing Effectively to Mormons*, Marlow, OK, Utah Missions, Inc., 1975

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