

Missionary Methods



- Basic Church Doctrines
- The Restored Gospel & Church of Jesus Christ
- Ongoing Revelation, Open Scripture Cannon
- Faith & Works for Salvation
- Conversations with Protestants on Doctrine
- Ways to Share the Gospel

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Nate Richardson is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This book is written to benefit people of faith & goodwill everywhere.

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Introduction: “Gathering Together All Things in One in Christ”

“This is good doctrine. It tastes good. I can taste the principles of eternal life, and so can you. They are given to me by the revelations of Jesus Christ; and I know that when I tell you these words of eternal life as they are given to me, you taste them, and I know that you believe them. You say honey is sweet, and so do I. I can also taste the spirit of eternal life. I know it is good; and when I tell you of these things which are given me by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you are bound to receive them as sweet, and rejoice more and more.” – Joseph Smith, TPJS 355 (cf. 2 Ne. 31-33)

https://emp.byui.edu/ANDERSONR/itc/Book%20of%20Mormon/03_2nephi/2nephi31/2nephi31_07gooddoctrine.js.htm

Finally! A good taste in our mouths for religion!

We are living in a day foretold by prophets of old, and can expect more direction than cliché church answers to life’s questions from the Catholic and Protestant churches. The restored Church of Jesus Christ is vastly different than any other church, so to you dissatisfied with religion in general, so are we, give this a try.

Because Jesus Christ restored his Church to Joseph Smith in 1820, we are now living in “The dispensation of the fullness of times” (D&C 128:18,20; 112:30-31; 138:48; 124:41; 121:31; 27:13 Eph. 1:10;) wherein things are to be revealed which have been kept hidden from the foundation of the earth. If you think the restored Church of Jesus Christ has merely the same run of the mill talking points to offer humanity as other contemporary Christian groups, this letter will show you that such is not the case, and that Mormonism has a more holistic answer to life’s questions, and a more glorious hope for the future of mankind, including more compassion and joy than is traditionally allowed among “Christian” groups for those who believe differently: non-Mormons and non-Christians alike. These things offer not only a brighter future, but a more peaceful present (See D&C 59:23; Moses 6;59).

The Devil is launching a powerful and relentless attack against us, more so than ever before. Though many physical dangers and hardships of life have subsided, the spiritual ones have increased 100-fold. I believe God’s counter attack in this war of words and opinions is in declaring truth more clearly and powerfully than ever before. When the Devil stands up to fight against God with his powerful weaponry, GOD WILL FIGHT BACK, and WIN EVERY TIME.

Because Jesus Christ the Son of God restored his Church to Joseph Smith in 1820, we are now living in “The dispensation of the fullness of times” (D&C 128:18,20; 112:30-31; 138:48; 124:41; 121:31; 27:13 Eph. 1:10;) wherein things are to be revealed which have been kept hidden from the foundation of the earth. If you think Mormonism has merely the same run of the mill talking points to offer humanity as other contemporary Christian groups, or just more clever thinking, this letter will show you that such is not the case, and that Mormonism has a more holistic answer to life’s questions, and a more glorious hope for the future of mankind, including more compassion and joy than is traditionally allowed among “Christian” groups for those who believe differently. It is a faith of angels, prophets, visions, and God speaking anew from the heavens to the earth as a whole in these our times, to reveal afresh the doctrine of Christ. These things offer not only a brighter future, but a more peaceful present. (See D&C 59:23; Moses 6;59)”

What the current leaders of the Church declare overrides speculations of past statements. Interpreting doctrine is to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set. The Standard Works and words of the living First Presidency and Quorum of the 12 Apostles are what constitute church doctrine. Living Apostles help interpret the Standard Works lest any of us “look beyond the mark”. Apostasy can be found in both far left and far right ideologies, as well as in between. I denounce any group which actively seeks to change church doctrine or policies.

I witness that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the one true Church of Jesus Christ in these latter days. Other churches contribute to God’s work, but the “LDS Church” is the only organization vested with the authority of God to lead the work of salvation in these the latter and last days. Only those authorized to preach the gospel represent the church, and I am not so authorized. When dealing with religious topics, focuses on the teachings of the prophets both ancient and modern.

I feel to say like Joseph Smith once did, “if my life is of no value to my friends, it is of none to myself”. Foremost I am your friend, and if disagreements are between us, let us refocus on the overall goodness of humanity, and allow friendship to overcome disagreement, for God’s sake. We want safety for all persons, and we want all to believe and worship as they wish in peace.

Now a few notes of some basic tenants of the restoration of the fullness of the gospel:

- The Church of God has been on earth from time to time.
 - The Church of God is always lead by a prophet. (Amos 3:7)
 - The Church of God is taken from the earth at times because of unrighteousness. (Amos 8)
 - The Church of God is to come to stay in the last days (Daniel). The restored church of Jesus Christ of latter-day saints today claims to be that very church, and I witness is.
 - Joseph Smith was the first leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Since his death God has continued to call people to lead the Church.
 - God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith to call him as prophet and leader in the Church.
 - Church leaders clarify doctrines of salvation.
 - Power to seal in heaven things that are sealed on earth (like marriages) were restored to the earth via the Church.
 - The Church has the fullness of the Gospel (all we need to know and do to be saved) and can be found in the Book of Mormon.
 - The Book of Mormon points us to modern prophets for further guidance.
 - The Book of Mormon’s key goal is to testify of the resurrected living Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - Baptism is legal only in the organization that God has given legal power to complete that ordinance. We claim this to be that organization. (D&C 1, D&C 22)
- further references on this to come, for now see mormon.org/restoration or mormon.org/joseph-smith or mormon.org/book-of-mormon

“For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, it is clear that the Father and the Son are giving away the secrets of the universe!” -Elder Neal A. Maxwell

“One of the things the Spirit has repeatedly impressed upon my mind...is how willing the Lord is to reveal His mind and will.” -President Russel M Nelson

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” – Proverbs 29:18

“Wherefore, we search the prophets, and we have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy; and having all these witnesses we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea.” – Jacob 4:6

“Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” – Mark 12:30

“Occasionally, I am asked by Church members why we do not have mighty miracles today like those that occurred in the early days of the Restoration. My answer always is the same: We do!” - David A Bednar (<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/elder-bednar-temple-miracles-covid-19>)

I was recently asked if the Book of Mormon was the thing that made the Holy Bible complete in our religion. I answered that no, the key is living prophets to guide today, and without those, not even the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon will get you where you need to go (people can always creatively manipulate texts to support their agenda, but not so with living oracles!).

PART 1: BASIC DOCTRINES

Basic Q & A On Being A Latter-day Saint

Contents:

Why I am a Latter-day Saint

How has the Holy Ghost helped you?

What are you doing to help strengthen your family and make it successful?

How has the Book of Mormon brought you closer to God?

Could you talk about your baptism?

Please explain the part prayer plays in your life?

Why do Latter-day Saints go on missions?

How has attending Church services helped you?

What have you done successfully to shield your family from unwanted influences?

Please share your feelings/testimony of Joseph Smith.

Why/How do you share the gospel with your friends?

Which of the Savior's teachings have influenced you in your life?

How can your talents and gifts bless others?

How does making right choices help us make more right choices?

How has your knowledge of the Plan of Happiness changed/benefited your life?

What has helped develop greater harmony in your home?

How has The Book of Mormon helped you understand the purpose of life?

What is hope and what do you hope for?

Please share your feelings/testimony of the Restoration of the Gospel.

Can you talk about the missions of the Church and your participation in them?

What blessings have come through your faith in Jesus Christ?

How I live my faith

Why I am a Latter-day Saint

My faith is what helps me to walk with a smile on my face. It helps guide me in the choices I have to make every day.

Growing up, we read from the scriptures, including The Book of Mormon, and prayed daily as a family. We went to church weekly, and helped serve our neighbors family and friends. When I moved out of the home, I kept doing that because I knew it was true. It helped strengthen my testimony that the teachings of the church as found in The Book of Mormon are true, and that I really could find power to do good by repenting of my sins, and leaning upon The Lord.

It's good to have a solid foundation where I know God loves me, and that He speaks to me through prayer, parents, and teachings of the modern-day prophet.

I believe the church is true, and that God founded it as He did in Christ's time. I'm not afraid to face the future because I know God will guide me every step of the way. I know this church is true.

I have studied about this and I have felt the witness of the Spirit that these accounts are true as I do and pray.

The church is where just about all the blessings in my life come from. The Spirit continues to testify to me that he was Joseph Smith was a prophet, and that his successors are as well.

My grandpa read the Joseph Smith pamphlet and knew it was true. From his choice I've had the gospel in my life.

How has the Holy Ghost helped you?

After being baptized, I received the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands by one holding the Priesthood authority of God (Acts 8:15-17). Since that special day, I have had a great need for the guidance of the Holy Ghost. I believe my ability to remember the importance of daily scripture study is from the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. When I pray, I am filled with ideas on how to live more peaceably, and to be a better influence on those around me. I also feel comfort and the presence of The Lord. I know these are from the Holy Ghost. As a missionary, I prayerfully determine who I should see and where I should go, and miracles happen because of it. For example, I felt like a particular door we walked past that we should talk to them. We did, and found the person there was in great need of our help. That strengthened my faith that God knows His children and will take care of them. When I'm in a situation where I would otherwise react impatiently, The

Holy Ghost whispers to me to love one another as Jesus loves me. I know that I've received answers to my prayers day to day in the bigger and smaller matters of my life. I am confident that I will be guided all my days by the influence of the Holy Ghost so long as I am faithful to the commandments of The Lord which I covenanted with Him to obey when I was baptized.

What are you doing to help strengthen your family and make it successful?

I write them letters encouraging them to be faithful when I have to be away. I'm always trying to improve so I can be a greater light for my family, and I'm always trying to learn more about and better live the gospel of Jesus Christ so the light I hold up can be Jesus Christ. I try to live within my means, not complain, led by example with patience and love, and I keep my family in my prayers every day.

How has the Book of Mormon brought you closer to God?

I love the Book of Mormon! I remember mother reading it to us every night growing up. I could always feel the power of that wonderful book, and recognize the importance of it as we read from its pages. Growing older, the Book of Mormon became a serious topic of study as I lived on my own and needed to know how to follow Jesus Christ. I remember having heard the stories of Book of Mormon prophets who had overcome their challenges, and that empowered me with the faith that with God's help I could likewise overcome my challenges. I learned from the Book of Mormon that God loves all of His children, and they can always come home to Him no matter what.

On my mission, the Book of Mormon has been helping me understand the doctrine of Christ so I can teach that to others. Understanding the workings of God in ancient America as well as ancient Jerusalem have helped me to understand God's plan of salvation for us His children. I find often very specific messages from The Lord to me as I read the Book of Mormon daily. I read all the scriptures, but the Book of Mormon is a particular treasure to me. Knowing that it is true by The Holy Ghost allows me to know that Joseph Smith is a prophet of The Lord in our day, and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is The Lord's kingdom once again established on the earth preparatory to the second coming of The Messiah. This is an anchor to my soul, knowing that there is a living prophet on the earth. Knowing that what I hear at church is the word of The Lord. Reading of the faithful accounts of Book of Mormon prophets inspires me to render more faithful service to The Lord, and then I work more closely associated with The Lord as I serve His children.

Think about your everyday activities. What are things you act upon each day where you cannot see the end results? How does faith move you to action?

I pray, read the scriptures, serve others, teach the gospel, serve as a missionary free of charge, I give people the benefit of a doubt and do all I can for them. Faith moves me to act like this because I believe these things will bring them to God where all happiness is. I believe we can be together in God's Kingdom if we help each other get there and eternally enjoy that.

Could you talk about your baptism?

I was 8, I remember my family was very happy, and I knew I was doing the right thing by being baptized. It was peaceful.

Please explain the part prayer plays in your life?

I pray when I wake up, at meals, when I go to bed, and before I do things for The Lord.

When I'm distressed I pray, then comfort and sometimes answers come.

Why do Latter-day Saints go on missions?

I went on a mission, so I've some good insight on this one. We love the message we've been blessed with, the fullness of the gospel. I would do anything to promote that to other people. It is the foundation of my soul, and I can attribute every blessing that has come to me in life to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The prophets of our day have long called all worthy young men to prepare to serve missions. They have and still do teach that missionary service is a Priesthood duty. Jeremiah 16:16 teaches us that The Lord will send missionaries, as well as teachings from the New Testament. The Book of Mormon has many accounts of great missionaries who taught the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ancient inhabitants of what is now known as the Americas.

When I learned that Jesus Christ had power to redeem me through prayerfully reading The Book of Mormon, I made every preparation necessary to serve a full-time mission. There is no message that has ever brought me greater joy!

We believe that the same church which existed primitively in New Testament times has been restored in its fullness through a living prophet Joseph Smith. That he prayed to find the true church and had a vision where he saw God the Father and His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ. They called him to be a prophet and gave him power and authority by sending angels to him. What a glorious message! There is a living prophet on the earth today, President Thomas S. Monson, the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When we were baptized, we covenanted with God that we would “mourn with those that mourn, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death... that ye may have eternal life.” See Mosiah 18:8-10 in The Book of Mormon.

The blessings of Abraham are ours only if we carry the gospel to all the families of the earth. This is our covenant with God.

How has attending Church services helped you?

My favorite part of Church services is when the sacramental bread and water are passed each Sunday. I remember the promises I have made with Jesus Christ, and what He has promised me in return. That gives me great things to look forward to, and calm my natural tendencies to crave the things of this world. I remember that Jesus Christ can and will forgive me as I try to follow Him as He has asked me to do. “Come follow me” He said. I moved some ten times in my teenage life, and making new friends has been important in every place. Church has helped me to find friends with the same values I have. Sunday school at church on Sundays has helped me to understand the doctrine, and that has changed my behavior more than the study of behavior has changed my behavior, just like the prophets said it would. Now I understand why the apostles met together on a weekly basis to eat bread in remembrance of Jesus Christ, and why it was so important to these people to be no more strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints. I remember in ancient America, from The Book of Mormon, that they spoke one with another concerning the welfare of their souls as they met once a week, I see just how strongly that can affect the rest of the week. I feel rejuvenated each week after attending church, and I don’t know how I would get through or enjoy the week without it. Growing up, attending the nursery and primary Sundays at Church services helped me learn scripture stories and develop a strong moral character from an early age. It helped me to know that we keep the Sabbath day holy by church attendance, and serving each other, yet resting from the week’s labors. My testimony has grown as I’ve had opportunities to teach the youth and others in church services, and I can never repay The Lord for that. It’s like the prophets say, you can’t give a bread crumb in The Kingdom of God without receiving a loaf of bread in return.

What have you done successfully to shield your family from unwanted influences?

We read the scriptures every night together, then we say a family prayer before we go to bed. We reserve Monday nights for family night, we call it Family Home Evening throughout the church. In Family Home Evening we spend time together, teach each other the gospel, and counsel together. In my family we go out of our way to plan camp-outs and picnics, so our lives are filled with wholesome things, and we have a lot of joy! We follow the prophet’s admonition to not watch ‘R’ rated films, to avoid violent video games, and any obscene material that will not allow the Spirit of The Lord to be in our home. We have yearly family reunions to keep close to our extended family, and build off of each others goodness. We value making the most of an education, and being where we are supposed to be when we are supposed to be there. I’m thankful my mother didn’t allow any of her 8 children to have sleepovers with anyone except family, there is too much that could go wrong there. The Lord says he worketh not in darkness, I don’t see a need for young people to either. Mother taught us the gospel as we would drive in the car together, and vulgar music was never tolerated. I’m thankful mother never allowed us to have a personal computer or television in our homes growing up, that is another thing the prophets have warned us against. We have pictures of the Savior or a temple in our home in every room, that is another thing the prophets have urged us to do. Our home is a sanctuary from the storm. A holy place where we feel loved, belonging, safe, and The Lord’s Spirit. I’m thankful mother gave us chores to do each day that filled our time with good contributions to the family. She also made sure we had a bedtime, and tucked us in every night. Our family is full of culture and tradition that fill me up, and help me to not have the need for unwanted things to bring me happiness.

Please share your feelings/testimony of Joseph Smith.

I know Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. That has been challenged by others and my own contemplating in the past- but I’ve come to know by the power of The Holy Ghost that he was who he says he was. He saw what

he said he saw. He founded what he said he founded. Nothing can take that testimony away from me. I know the church he organized was under the direction of Jesus Christ The Promised Messiah, and that Jesus stands at the head of this His great church today. I know this church is true as sure as I know that I live, and I will live and if needs be, die for it. Joseph Smith wasn't a perfect man, but he was called of God to do a great work, and establish the restitution of all things as spoken of in the New Testament. The kingdom which would roll forth and eventually fill the earth as prophesied in Daniel 2. Joseph Smith was called of God the same that Noah, Moses, Jesus Christ, Peter, and other holy prophets from the beginning of time have been called and commissioned of God, with the mandate to dispense the Everlasting Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. I stand with Joseph Smith as he made the following declaration, "The standard of truth has been erected. No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing. Persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly nobly and independent till it has penetrated every nation, swept every country, visited every clime, and sounded in every ear. Till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and The Great Jehovah shall say, "The work is done.'"

Praise to the man, Joseph Smith, who communed with Jehovah. Jesus anointed that prophet and seer.

The testimony of The Living Christ that I received when I read The Book of Mormon, which Joseph Smith claimed to translate into the English language by the gift and power of God, is so through and unmistakable, that I know Joseph Smith was a true prophet of the Living God.

Why/How do you share the gospel with your friends?

I like to invite my friends to meet with the missionaries, to read The Book of Mormon, to come to church, to do fun activities, and I like to be friends with everyone. No one deserves to be made fun of or to be left alone. I share the gospel with my friends because I know I can't understand all of their trials, but there is one who can, that is Jesus Christ. It's not that I don't listen to and counsel with my friends, heaven forbid- but I know that if I can strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ, they will become much more independent, and have a greater level of peace and joy. I use The Book of Mormon as a primary tool in that effort because it mentions The Savior Jesus Christ about every 3 verses. I use the bible as well, but primarily The Book of Mormon. It is something most do not already have. It is something that helped me understand the doctrine of Christ in a simple yet profound way. I like to do service like tutoring in school or helping people move. Things that one can't do all on their own very easily or at all. Christ came as he that serveth, what a better way to help people know about Jesus Christ than trying to be like Him.

Which of the Savior's teachings have influenced you in your life?

"Jesus sayeth unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." John 11:25-26

I reap several influential messages from these words of The Master. I've lost many loved ones, and knowing that we shall all live again brings me comfort that the world cannot afford.

As we believe in Christ, we will have a better quality of life and eternity. We won't become stagnant, or unforgivable. We will progress growing brighter until the perfect day. We will be empowered to do good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. According to the scriptures, we will become as He is as we live His gospel. That is the miracle of Jesus Christ. He takes us imperfect beings, and makes us perfect through His grace divine. Perfection will not be reached in this life, but we are promised that it will eventually as we live His gospel.

Reinstated in The Book of Mormon, we hear the words of Jesus Christ again, speaking to the Nephites, His "other sheep... which are not of this fold..." (John 10:16) shortly after His resurrection, "Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. Verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do; for that which ye have seen me do even that shall ye do; Therefore, if ye do these things blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day." 3 Nephi 27: 20-22.

The Savior said in our day through the prophet Joseph Smith, that as we live faithfully the gospel, the same organization which exists among us here (families) will exist among us there in the Kingdom of God. That helps knowing that my family can be together forever.

How can your talents and gifts bless others?

The prophets teach us that the home is where we render the most important service.

I remember so many great things from my family growing up that have shaped who I am. I can use my gifts and talents to bless my family now, and pass on our traditions and beliefs. I can teach my family to work, like I learned from my family. One of my gifts is that I know this church is true. I can bless others with that by doing what we call home teaching. Every male member of the church is assigned several individuals or families to watch over and share a monthly message with. The Church publishes a magazine called the Ensign, in which the First Presidency of The Church conveys a message they want everyone to hear that month. We share this with the families we're assigned to. This program makes it so that everyone in the church is watching over someone, and is being watched over by someone else. My children will need a testimony of their own, so I can read the scriptures with them daily and explain them. I can pray for them and with them and teach them to pray daily. In anything we're involved in, whatever our interests be, doing so in an upright manner, setting a good example, will help bless others. Being a good example is one of the most effective ways to bless others.

How does making right choices help us make more right choices?

It's like a song we sing in Church, "Choose the right let the consequence follow." Jesus taught the Nephites, "Be thou perfect, even as I or your Father which is in heaven is perfect." In The Book of Mormon Jesus Christ teaches, "And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for it they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them." Ether 12:27.

How has your knowledge of the Plan of Happiness changed/benefited your life?

I discovered there was a Redeemer prepared, from the foundation of the earth, who could help me overcome all things, for He already had. I'm not perfect, but hopeful for that day, and enjoying life, living Christ's teachings.

What has helped develop greater harmony in your home?

We sing a hymn and that helps a lot. Grandpa would speak up and the patriarch of the home since dad was elsewhere, and there would come peace. It was given to my brother and I to "one divide, and the other choose" said mother, when it came to chores and chocolate. He helped me with my homework, we played games together, and prayed and studied the scriptures daily as a family. My mother told us stories about our family history, those legacies of faith hope and charity. These things helped us know who we are, and helped us to act our part. Going to church on Sundays would always bring a sweet Spirit into our home. I remember every Sunday morning I would wake up to gospel music playing, and usually a treat mother had prepared. Looking back, the daily chores we were assigned by mother brought us closer together as a family. My brother and I had to live by the same rules. Mother never forced us to do anything, yet certain privileges were revoked upon naughtiness, and certain blessings revoked as well. Mother often sang us to sleep. Our older siblings played with us, and their visits were ever awaited. We served in the church together and grew closer there. Those blessings carried over into our home. We did fun wholesome recreational activities together, we had gardens, and always a project to work on in the home or the yard. Mother liked to give us gifts like rabbits, chicks, and other animals. Mother always had a dinner she made for us but never forced us to eat it. We got to take care of grandpa and abide in service. Grandpa taught us his life lessons he learned which blessed us richly. Our Home teachers in the Church coming to see us monthly and sometimes more always brought a spirit of love and peace. Scout leaders, young men's leaders, and countless other volunteer leaders in the church helped us in uncountable ways. They cared for us as their own. I have such a great debt to repay all my life for such blessings.

How has The Book of Mormon helped you understand the purpose of life?

In The Book of Mormon, I read as soon as I moved away from home, about how this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God. As I read that, I felt like I lived in heaven long ago, and that the right thing, and the happy thing, for me to do in this life, would be to be good, and to raise a good family, and help others. I read about how Jesus is the promised Redeemer, and that helped me see that I can learn from my mistakes and not be condemned for them as I pick myself up and pray for God's help.

What is hope and what do you hope for?

Hope is a longing for the brighter day, an acceptance of the way things need to be in order for that day to come. A trust that a taste of it will be granted today.

I hope to be with my family eternally. That when I die, I can hear the words of my King Jesus Christ saying, "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter ye into the rest of thy Lord." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

I hope for those I train to live good lives. Someday that hope will entail the children I'll have. I hope that I can live true to the faith for which martyrs like Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith have perished, true to the truth which my fathers have cherished.

I hope to follow the pathway of discipleship following Jesus Christ until I become like Him by His grace.

I hope for world peace, and have faith that it will come. I have charity for the world to help bring that to pass, and I'll ever serve my brothers and sisters anywhere and anyone.

I hope to answer well to the prophets of old, of how I have done with their words. An ancient American prophet Nephi said in the record called The Book of Mormon, "...you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness. And I pray the Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day." 2 Nephi 33:11.

My hope is like Moroni's, an ancient prophet whose writings are contained in The Book of Mormon, "I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen." Moroni 10:34.

With this hope, I can do it. I know, like Nephi, the ancient American prophet, that the Lord will provide the way for me to obey him 1 Nephi 3:7.

Please share your feelings/testimony of the Restoration of the Gospel.

I feel the restoration of the Gospel, as individuals take it in, it will be the restoration of themselves. Of their hope and joy! Of their childhood dreams and testimonies that no one could take away! I have a testimony that the gospel has been restored as it was fully here when Jesus taught, so is it now, and not a part is missing, and it is found in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

No organization which does good is of evil, I mean merely to say that there is more, there is a fullness of truth available. Bring what treasured truths you have and come and see if we can add to them.

We always are learning throughout life, right? Allow yourself to study this, and see if it is not from God. You can know it is by the power of The Holy Ghost as you study it and ask your Father in Heaven concerning its validity. He will let you know it is His church, then you can hold to it and grow throughout your life exponentially by following the guidance of a living prophet, an authorized representative of Jesus Christ who speaks with Him face to face as did the prophets of old like Moses (Exodus 33:11) and Peter. I would hope that all would have an open heart to this message. If it is true, and I testify that it is, then there is a way that it will fit to the needs of every one of our Heavenly Father's children, including you, my brother/sister of our Father in heaven who created us, and anxiously awaits our return to his presence in heaven, and to see us grow and learn more of his plan for us day by day.

The beautiful thing about this message is that it is true, and God will back it up with The Holy Ghost if it is true. The Holy Ghost is a personage of the Godhead, a member without flesh and bones as the other 2 of the godhead have, so he can dwell inside of you, and bring those special unexplainable feelings that come to you as you study this message, that hint to you, 'it's true!'

The best part is that Jesus Christ explains anew how he loves us.

Can you talk about the missions of the Church and your participation in them?

The missions of the church are three-fold: To preach the gospel, to perfect the saints, and to redeem the dead. [when in the mission field full time I wrote:] I'm on a full-time mission preaching the gospel. My purpose on my full-time mission is to invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

I spend some of my mission teaching people who have fallen away or need strengthening.

I've been able to go home teaching monthly since I was 14 to teach members of my local congregation the prophet's monthly message to help perfect the saints.

I've been attending the temple since I was 12 to redeem the dead by performing proxy baptisms for them (See 1 Corinthians 15:29). This gives them who have died without the opportunity to be baptized the opportunity to receive that ordinance.

In the future when I am not on a full-time mission I'll raise a righteous family, continue to share the gospel, and continue to redeem the dead through doing temple work for my ancestors who lived at times when the fullness of the gospel was not available to them.

What blessings have come through your faith in Jesus Christ?

Positivity, hope, charity, direction, daily inspiration, an understanding of where I came before this life, the purpose of life, and where I will go after I die. I've come closer to my family, and learned what kind of friend to be. I've found forgiveness for my sins, and felt alleviated because of that.

My faith in Jesus Christ brought me out on a full-time mission, that has been a blessing to me because I've had the joy of helping others fix their families and enjoy life by teaching them the gospel and inviting them to live it.

As I do what Jesus said to by keeping one day of 7 holy, I feel peace and comfort throughout the week.

As I do as Jesus said by paying one tenth of my wages to tithing, and giving offerings, I have never had want for food, and have always had sufficient for my needs.

As I refrain from contention as Jesus taught to, what I think are issues fall away and I'm able to become a better person and live a happier life.

As I live chaste as Jesus taught to, I have more self-confidence and a clearer look on how to raise a family, and brighter hope for a united and happy family of my own in the future.

As I don't steal and be wise living within my means as Jesus taught, I learn to use my resources better and am happier.

As I don't covet other people or things as Jesus taught, I learn that there is available joy in hoping for heaven, and I can get through even the toughest situations like having to stand alone when no one will live up to the standard Jesus Christ calls me to.

As I pray to God the Father in the name of Christ as Jesus taught, I feel direction, comfort, peace, hope, and solice just to name a few.

As I "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness", "all things" are "added unto me." Matthew 6:33.

I would be lost without my faith in Jesus Christ. Before I had it I was. Now that I have it, I'm found. In this, The Lord's church, I trust He will guide me through prophets all through my life.

How I live my faith

I've lived my faith by reading the scriptures and learning to believe Jesus Christ can redeem me, repenting of my sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end. I am learning God's plan for me from the scriptures, and from going to Sunday services at church. I've had the opportunity to teach and serve in the church full time. I'll raise my children, teach them from the scriptures daily, help them enjoy living a righteous life, and seek to be a good influence on others in the work place and the community as I serve there. I'll continue to make the most of an education so I can further bless my family church community and the world. In my home is where I'll do the most good. I keep a daily journal to recognize the hand of the Lord in my day to day life.

[The Only True Church – Prophet Quotes](#)

Here I demonstrate that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church.

“To possess a testimony of Jesus is to know that the Church, which He established in the meridian of time and restored in modern times is, as the Lord has declared, “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.” (D&C 1:30.) (Benson Teachings Ch. 6 <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-ezra-taft-benson/chapter-6-jesus-christ-our-savior-and-redeemer?lang=eng>)

“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. (See Moroni 10:3–5.) Those who gain this divine witness from the Holy Spirit will also come to know by the same power that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, that Joseph Smith is His revelator and prophet in these last days, and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s kingdom once again established on the earth, preparatory to the Second Coming of the Messiah.” (The Book of Mormon, Introduction page)



“It is our firm conviction that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is, as the revelations state, “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.” (D&C 1:30.)...We did not invent the doctrine of the only true church. It came from the Lord. Whatever perception others have of us, however presumptuous we appear to be, whatever criticism is directed to us, we must teach it to all who will listen.

“If we can stand without shame, without hesitancy, without embarrassment, without reservation to bear witness that the gospel has been restored, that there are prophets and Apostles upon the earth, that the truth is available for all mankind, the Lord’s Spirit will be with us. And that assurance can be affirmed to others. Of this I bear witness in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, “The Only True Church”, Conference Report, Oct. 1985 <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1985/10/the-only-true-church?lang=eng>)

“The Church of Jesus Christ, nicknamed Mormon, is the only true and living church which is fully recognized by God...Most of the world disbelieves it, ministers attempt to disprove it, intellectuals think to rationalize it out of existence, but when all the people of the world are dead, and the ministers and priests are ashes, and the high trained are maundering in their graves, the truth will go forward, the Church will continue triumphant and the gospel will still be true.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Sep. 10, 1977, p.3)

-see also this man’s search for truth Wilford Woodruff realizing there was an apostasy and only one true Church on earth today. see <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2010-07-02-a-search-for-truth?lang=eng>

-see also President Packer on Priesthood in the home via the authority of the restored Priesthood <https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/article/worldwide-leadership-training/2012/01/priesthood-power-in-the-home?lang=eng&query=only+true+church>

“Nothing matters in time or eternity like the gospel of Jesus Christ [and] the saving ordinances of the only true Church on the face of the earth. And God turns its future over to a bunch of 19-year-olds. There is no precedent for it on the face of the earth.” (Elder Jeffery R. Holland, Elder Holland Testifies of Gospel in Sierra Leone; Contributed By Heather Whittle Wrigley, Church News and Events 24 FEBRUARY 2012 <https://www.lds.org/church/news/elder-holland-testifies-of-gospel-in-sierra-leone?lang=eng&query=only+true+church>)

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth” (D&C 1:30).

Response to Article about closed canon of scripture “The Canon of Scripture (Wayne Grudem)” from <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/canon-scripture-wayne-grudem> as well as a few other questions about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and their doctrine.

See also other compilations of mine on the subject: Continuing Revelation from God at

<https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/category/continuing-revelation-from-god/> ; and see The Only True Church at <https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/category/the-only-true-church/>

-saying the sticks in Ezek. 37 is a mere analogy is your opinion, it’s doesn’t say that such is merely an analogy. Nothing says it couldn’t be books, the text even seems to say that. If you don’t agree, so be it. I think no less of you. As for minimizing God and what he does, I know he is blessing Israel and gathering them, and I praise him daily for that. Let’s not accuse each other of doubting God’s majesty and blessings just because we both interpret a passage differently.

-you say the only possible explanation for 3 God’s being one is the trinity. It is POSSIBLE that the word one is to be translated in the way the passage about a man leaving his mother and father and they being one flesh. Certainly the husband and wife aren’t to morph into one body! That’s just unnatural. In fact, there are 2 ways to write the word “one” in Greek and Hebrew, one of them means one thing, the other way means being united in purpose and desire. The latter way is what is used in the passage about the man leaving father and mother to be one with his wife. The latter is also the one used when speaking of father son and HG.

Another example on this point: Jesus wanted his Apostles to become one with him as he and his father are one. Did he want them to morph together into one entity? Osbert!

Another example: What did Jesus mean when he said not mine, but thy will be done?

What did Jesus mean when he said I go to my God and to your God?

These are only a few of a plethora of examples showing that indeed, it’s quite possible for them to be separate people.

-grace alone isn’t expressed by the writer of the book of James, just to use one example (many protestant biblical scholars say book of James doesn’t belong in the bible for this reason). Also, Paul speaks of getting your calling and election made sure, pressing toward that mark, and lists requirements of that which include righteous behaviors. He said not even he had reached it yet at the time of writing that. 2 pet. 1:10 says give diligence to make your calling and election sure. cf. 2 Pet. 1:4-9 for a list of things one must do. Also see Philip 3:8-10, 12-14 ‘press toward the mark’. also see Philip 2:12.

Hence what of the passages saying that not my works but by faith we are saved? works to Paul mean the law of Moses, i.e. circumcision. This won’t save you, the new law of Christ is here. Faith to Paul must include good works, else why would he say he was pressing toward the prize, etc.? Also Jesus says in the parable of the sheep on the right and goats on the left, that the reason for that separation was those on the right did charitable deeds. Also he says, ‘well done’, this means they had to do something. Like the good Samaritan parable. Or the parable of the talents. or when the rich prince said what for salvation he wouldn’t sell all and follow Christ, although he recognized Jesus as Lord and kept the ten commandments, he didn’t pass his Abraham-like trial of giving his all, and hence we have no record of that man getting the blessings of Abraham. In summary, it is by Christ alone that we can be saved, but it’s not to say that the traditional scenario of “get saved then shoot people and get to go to heaven” is reasonable. In other words, I think this is a misunderstanding; you and I both believe that Christ saves us, and we both believe that we can’t be involved in gross sins and still make it to heaven.

-as for offending you in guessing responses, I’m merely using the arguments that most protestants give me. I’ve had this conversation many times. I don’t mean to offend you and will let you answer for yourself in the future.

-I will look at Wayne Grudem and try to get my hands on “From God to Us” by Norman Geisler. Also “New Evidence that Demands a Verdict” by Josh McDowell. I’m open to reading about both sides of the story, which I have been doing for quite some time now.

-indeed, the bible is quite accurate. But to say it’s impossible for it to have been meddled with is problematic, since it can’t be proven that it was not meddled with. The fact stands that although we have manuscripts, no one claims to have the exact ones written by the Apostles themselves. Many passages beg a more correct translation, like the 2 ways Judas Iscariot died, or the passage of Satan forcing Jesus onto a mountaintop, or the passage of God repenting that he created people when he saw the evil of Noah’s day (God never repents he is perfect). Or

when Jesus says "I never knew you" in one of the parables speaking of an evil person. I believe Jesus knows everyone, evil or no. The JST renders this "You never knew me." There are other examples.

-as for personal interpretation, if it's possible to know the correct meaning of the bible by merely studying the entire text of the bible. why isn't the entire Christian world, whom claim the entire bible text as their source of doctrine, flocking to one set of beliefs rather than making splinter groups based on their own interpretations of what they sincerely believe the bible says?

-as for the other sheep I have which are not of this fold, he doesn't ever say who those other sheep are, so we can't claim one way or the other. But you can speculate that it's the Gentiles, and I can speculate that it's Americans. I believe Jesus Christ has come out and said that indeed, it's the American's. I have this belief based on the book of Mormon which I hold as sacred like the bible.

-you say 66 of them are reliable, but others disagree with you. Who is correct? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has an official position on the matter because a modern prophet received a revelation from Jesus Christ on the matter, but as for all else, how do they know? How does your church/fellow believers and all of the other churches/groups of belief make these kind of decisions? By vote?

-why did Nephi kill Laban? As for Laban being sufficiently warned, the BFM says that there were many prophets like Jeremiah and Lehi and others whom the people were rejecting. They even tried to kill Lehi it says. Exo. 21:12-14 entirely excuses the behavior of Nephi killing Laban; a defense attorney or Priest in the days in which they took place under the law of Moses would have CLEARLY justified Nephi in what he did. Read the text carefully, you will see Laban had 3-4 offenses against Nephi, the law of Moses condemned him to death and this was in Jerusalem at 600BC, they lived the law of Moses!

One of God's prophets, Lehi, was commanded to get those plates. Laban stood in the way of the will of God, and was eliminated. Is this so strange?

-as for Creatio ex nihilo, I can quote you several bible scholars (non-Mormon scholars) saying it's not a biblical doctrine. One issue of this doctrine is that since God created everything, he must have created evil, and hence he is responsible for our suffering. On the other hand, if evil is simply something that has always been around, God is not responsible for it- it's merely something we have to fight through to reach the status that God has already reached. Naturally we need help of Christ to do this.

-Same with the trinity, the scholars say this doctrine evolved from Greek influence rather than Apostolic text. I have those quotes too (from non-Mormon scholars). Nowhere in the bible does it come out and say, 'god created everything out of nothing'. Also the following passages suggest the contrary: Heb 12:9, prov. 8:22-31, acts 17:26, Heb 11:3 (Jesus the word is pre-mortal and created earth cf. Heb 1), john 1:1, 3, 14; 1 Pet 1:20, Isa 14:12, rev 12:7-9, rev 12:4, Heb. 1:6, job 38:4, 7; the word was made flesh must mean that the word (Jesus Christ) existed before his mortal birth.

-do you believe with many protestants that the majority of the human race are going to hell forever because of not hearing about Jesus Christ during their lives?

-do you believe with many protestants death bed repentance?

-where do you say spirits go between death and the resurrection?

-as for the link you sent me by Wayne Grudem on Canon of Scripture: indeed this is not something to truffle with. Indeed, man should not add to the scriptures, only as he is writing the word of God. God indeed authorizes adding to the word of God by his prophets. As for scripture attesting to something being scripture, the BFM and D&C say they are true. Indeed, the first 5 books of the bible don't always speak of more writings to come.

Neither did Moses say a guy named Paul etc. would come along to add to the scriptures, but they did, and God and God sanctioned it. This is an eternal principal. Who are we to tell God to not allow more to be written? Indeed the phrase quoted "until there should come a prophet to tell what to do with them". I don't rely on scholars to tell me what is and is not scripture, not even Josephus, I rely on prophets commissioned of God. I don't rely on the bible alone for doctrine, but from living prophets. Amos 3:7 God always uses prophets. What Jerome and Josephus and Eusebius say are nice, but not authorized by God himself. That is the point of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: God has authorized people in this day by the laying on of hands from Peter James John and John the Baptist to have authority to be modern day Apostles who officiate officially for the Church and regulate its affairs in order to maintain unity there in see Heb. 5:4 and Thes. about unity in the faith and the perfecting of the Saints. Scholars are helpful but not authoritative. It's quite possible for scholars to be incorrect, Jesus calls and ordains people to lead his Church, he doesn't leave the administrations

and regulations thereof to scholars or not even well-meaning individuals. One may argue that it's hard to believe that Joseph Smith said what he says he saw (God Jesus angels and being ordained by them etc), but it's also hard to believe that Jesus Christ atoned for my sins. Nevertheless, by the power of the Holy Ghost, I can know all truth: the truth that Jesus Christ atoned for my sins, as well as the truth that Joseph Smith was a true prophet and was called of God to re-establish the only true Church of Jesus Christ on the earth in these latter-days, indeed, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Indeed, the times of refreshing sent from the presence of the Lord. Indeed, the "falling away first" preceding the Second Coming of Christ (as enumerated in the New Testament that it must come) has occurred, and not the glorious restoration of the fullness of the gospel has come. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints whom have learned this glorious truth go all around the world, preaching to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, bringing them into the fold of Christ. We love everyone, and call ever person who believes in Christ a brother/sister. We invite everyone to bring what truths they have and come receive more, building on the foundation of Christ. The Protestant Reformation was nice, but it never claimed to have the true church restored, it only claimed that the true church had fallen away, and they were trying to find the truth, teaching each other from the bible, looking for truth. Many Protestant reformers never intended to start their own church, but to merely be awaiting the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ, the organization sanctioned of God with his authority. Many Protestants today believe that whoever wants to has the Priesthood and authority to officiate in the Church of Christ, but that would lead to chaos, all contending for their own ways. It wasn't my idea to start a church and call it the only true church- no, but the Holy Ghost revealed to me that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true and I cannot deny it any more than I would deny that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God, come to redeem the world from sin, the key figure in all history of humankind, the intergalactic Redeemer prepared from the foundation of the earth. Indeed, in the latter days, the Lord is pouring his spirit out upon handmaidens etc., lowly people like myself, blessing them with revelation pertaining to eternal truth. I am not called to receive revelation for the Church policy, but I am entitled to receive revelation or myself and things pertaining to my eternal salvation as well as that of my family which I preside over. This document says that the apocrypha are what caused the Catholic Church to say that salvation requires something from us as well as Christ, but I have shown earlier in this letter that the New Testament itself is very supportive of this.

Your document says, "Protestants have held that the church cannot make something to be Scripture, but can only recognize what God has already caused to be written as his own words". This is all well except for the fact that God can speak to each generation, and such can be recorded by a prophet. Isn't that the way he has operated for the past thousands of years? There was an apostasy, when the world at large rejected the prophets, and there were no prophets for about 1700 years, but then in 1820 beginning with Joseph Smith, the restoration of the Church has come, and prophets are being accepted in our day. The preaching to this generation by those prophets is being recorded in sacred text, just as sacred as any text ever was.

The analogy of a policeman only accepting real currency was used. Indeed, but who are the policemen in the world today? The prophets called of God by the laying on of hands in a direct line of authority in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Who creates the legal tender? The same. In ancient days, so it was with them. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not a reformation of the Catholic Church, it is a restoration of the ancient Church as seen to be operating in the bible, New and Old Testament.

The article says, "Christians today should have no worry that anything needed has been left out or that anything that is not God's words has been included."; But who gave the author of this article authority to declare that? It doesn't say that in the bible, if that's what he is thinking.

We have the new testament because people were going astray, and they needed more prophets to guide them. Who would argue that the world today is not going astray? If any time ever needed prophets among them, it would be our day. The earth today is as wicked as the days of Noah, and is about to be baptized by fire, like it was baptized by water in the days of Noah. Wouldn't God, in his great mercy, send living witnesses of Christ to our day? People who have seen him and can witness that he lives! People who can help the people of the Lord prepare for the return of Jesus Christ in the glory of the clouds at his mighty Second Coming- yes, we should have a modern-day leader who can speak with God face to face as was the case with Moses Peter etc. The "falling away" has occurred, now Israel is being restored, is being gathered to The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints. We love people who don't join with us, but are nevertheless firm in our convictions, the Holy Ghost having revealed to us the truthfulness of this doctrine.

Your article says, "apostles who are given the ability from the Holy Spirit to recall accurately the words and deeds of Jesus and to interpret them rightly for subsequent generations." I ask, if they gave the right interpretation for all subsequent generations, why is there dispute today between Christian churches as to which doctrine is correct? Surely, we need more instruction. There are many ways to interpret the bible. Let God tell us how to do it, not man! God will continue working in the same way he always has, by authorized representatives, called and ordained by him, by the laying on of hands by his servants. Joseph Smith was ordained to the Apostleship in the Priesthood by resurrected beings, Peter James and John. Joseph Smith has spoken with Jesus Christ personally face to face on many occasions. The authority and line of communication Joseph Smith held with God have been passed down to the current Prophet Thomas S Monson and the current Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They speak every April and October in General Conferences, as well as other times, if you are interested in hearing their global messages of instruction, reproof, etc. The bible says that is why God gave prophets and apostles, for the perfection of the saints, the unity of the faith, the work of the ministry of the Kingdom of God.

Your article quotes "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:13-14). Indeed, the Spirit has led me to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The bible speaks consistently of there being a Church, a group of leaders kept in line by the Prophets and Apostles. The bible says that they are to help with this effort of guiding the Saints etc. We can't take one scripture and say that's the whole answer. In other words, just because it says the Spirit will guide, that does not discount the other passages which say God will send prophets Amos 3:7, and other New Testament passages about prophets, and the "restoration of all things". A restoration of ALL things would include that the people of God would be together as a group and be led by prophets. There would be no dispute about which doctrines are correct, the voice of the Lord would clarify and reveal doctrines to the Saints in their organized body. There are many passages in the New Testament and Old referring to an organization in the Kingdom of God. It's not merely Tom thinks the bible means this, George thinks the bible mess that. You see, we need current prophets and apostles, not just records about what they have done in the past. We need someone whose preaching is so powerful that it pierces your soul, someone who has spoken face to face with God. Someone who is called of God by God himself, not just Jerry who thinks he should help out in the community. Sincere efforts by people to help build God's Kingdom are always appreciated, and God builds His Kingdom with non-members of His Church as well. But for entrance into the kingdom of heaven, you need to be baptized by someone in authority into the Church which embraces the doctrines which God embraces.

Is this mean of me to say? No, it's religion. It's conviction to a set of doctrines. Who am I to say any what God has revealed to me is not true? I respect everyone and their beliefs- let them worship God how where or whom they may. I want the same respect from others. If my religion says you are wrong, you can respect that. If your religion says I am wrong, I can respect that. I respect everyone's beliefs, but I'm not about to change mine just because it's different from what you believe. Belief is a sacred thing, and God bless you in yours, and me in mine. God bless you in your religion, and me in mine. I eternally respect you in yours, and me in mine. I would die for you and your religions freedom to believe what you want as soon as I would die for one of my religion and their religious freedom. I want political freedom for all religions to worship as they please, and I want to serve and love you as well as I want to serve and love someone in the same religion as myself. I am as always, your friend. That is part of my religion, and I enjoy it thoroughly.

Your article rightly sights the scripture, the spirit "would guide them into "all the truth."". Indeed, my religion is that the spirit has guided me into the great and many truths embodied in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I praise God for it!

Based on your article, the philosophy of the Protestants is that the spirit is all they need; if so, why have the bible? Why keep any of the revelations of the New Testament past the page with the quote "would guide them into "all the truth.""? That is not the last page of the bible, so why is there more? It's because whenever God gives scripture, it's from the spirit of God. Now please don't accuse me of guessing how you would respond to my questions, I am merely responding to the obvious implications of the document you asked me to read.

Your article says that New Testament Apostles had same level of authority as Old Testament Apostles. I agree. Representatives of God they are. And my religion says that there are those kind of Apostles in the earth again today, glory be to God!

Your article quotes the scripture "Paul tells the Corinthians, "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14.37)." Indeed, I believe this scripture, and I say the same applies to modern representatives of Jesus Christ. My religion is that those representatives are to be found in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Your document claims, speaking of the purpose of New Testament era Apostles, as to why they preach, write, etc.: "They do this to record, interpret, and apply to the lives of believers the great truths about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ." Indeed I agree. Look at the world today, do all the Christian Churches/groups of people who conform to the same doctrines, believe the same thing pertaining to these matters? It doesn't take long to find out that no, they are quite separate on many of the particulars of these matters. It's my religion that modern day Apostles, living ones, have the same mission as the ancient Apostles: to testify of Christ, and teach the points of His doctrine in plainness and truth.

Your document says certain things are scripture simply because Paul said so, namely the time that he quotes Luke's writing and calls that scripture. I similarly believe this, and it's my religion that whatever modern Prophets and Apostles say is scripture, likewise is scripture. It's my religion that not only is the bible the word of God, but also The Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price, and other words from modern Prophets and Apostles. Your religion is that the bible is the only source of God's word which is applicable to the entire earth. My religion is that the bible as well as modern Prophets and Apostles words are God's word applicable to the entire earth. Protestants say nay, my interpretation is wrong. But that's their religion. It's based on a different interpretation. Protestants say the bible is for no private interpretation- indeed, I don't have private interpretations, they are embraced by my entire church. We claim this is how God wants it to be said. God has told us that. It seems that each church has its own interpretation of the bible; if that were not the case, there would only be one Church. It's further my religion that such should be the case. There should only be one Christian Church. My religion is that that church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

My religion is that religion should not be hard to understand, that Jesus said we need to be as a child to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Are not these explanations simple, and a child capable of understanding them?

-as your article says, I agree that all of the New Testament is scripture. However I disagree that all scripture is found in the Old and New Testament which we currently have. One reason why is that the Book of Mormon refers to Old Testament prophets named Zenos and Zenoch and Ezias (apart from Isaiah). My faith is that not all of the records of the prophets of the Jews are in the old testament. I know the bible has been miraculously preserved when looked at as ancient literature, most books never survive to the level the bible has, but yet like I said, and it's ok if we disagree about this, my faith is that some of the books are gone. That being said, it's also my faith that those lost books shall return in a future day, and they will help establish the truth of the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's my faith that some of these records are lost by honest error, others by evil men trying to hide the truth.

-yes, the book of Mormon is not a grace salvation alone book, neither is the bible; we all need Christ and none can make it on their own, but the entire purpose of the book of Mormon is to get people to see that unless they repent, they and their entire nations will be destroyed by God.

-Joseph Smith had a theophany just like Jesus Christ, John the Revelator, Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah, had are theophanies. There are patterns in these which biblical scholars have found. 1. historical prologue 2. question concern problem, a thing they are wrestling with.

3. mission (book containing a wo). 4. they are rejected when trying to share it, and killed. (they tried to kill John many times (but could not)). This is the same pattern of Joseph Smith! The Book of Mormon is a repent or be destroyed book, it has accounts of two entire nations who would not repent and were destroyed. It's to invite our day to repent or be destroyed!

-as to the LDS faith being based on Joseph Smith being 100% correct and the possibility of him being deceived, it's like Paul. We have part of the New Testament by Paul, what if he was deceived? Is it too dangerous to base your life off of the principals Paul taught? We get a witness from the Holy Ghost that Paul was called of God to carry on the Church of God, despite his weaknesses. It's always been the same- God sends messengers,

however imperfect, like Noah, Moses, Aaron, Peter, Paul, and I say Joseph Smith, and it's up to us to choose whether we are going to follow that divinely appointed leader. We try to be careful to believe not only the dead leaders, but the living ones, that's always been the hardest thing. Now if you don't agree with this, that's ok, I'm merely telling you about my religion.

-when it comes to deciding what is scripture, The Book of Mormon for example, I agree with the article you sent, in its debate as to whether to call Hebrews scripture, they said "whoever its human author may have been, its ultimate author can only have been God himself." Now who makes that call as to whether something must be from God? There is only one truth in the universe, and the Holy Ghost tells us what that is. You can't force someone to believe in the existence of a God, you can't prove that to someone, that's what makes this life a good test, we have to figure it out on our own.

-in your article when it speaks of why Hebrews is in the canon it says "The majestic glory of Christ shines forth from the pages of the epistle to the Hebrews so brightly that no believer who reads it seriously should ever want to question its place in the canon." That is the same way I feel about the book of Hebrews, and The Book of Mormon. I believe it's true that God had prophets in other nations in antiquity as well, and their witnesses of Jesus Christ have blessed me in many ways giving me unshaken faith in Christ despite of my imperfections.

-I try to overcome my imperfections because I am part of the family of Christ, and I feel that God my father asks me to do things, and I want to do them to please him, and to grow up to become like him. He has been so good to me that I want to grow up to become like him. Not replace him but be one with him like Jesus said, he wants us to be one with him even as he is one with the father. I believe Jesus Christ's atonement which he wrought out in gethsemane and Calvary is so powerful that it can enable to be become like Jesus Christ, to be one with him in desire, in power, in righteousness, in holiness (cleansed by his grace), in wisdom, etc. In almost every conceivable way except us inhabiting the same body. That would contradict many of his sayings if I lost my body (I am the resurrection and the life whoso believeth in me shall never die).

-the article you shared says if a book was written by an apostle, then it should be scripture. I agree. I merely say that there are more Apostles than the rest of Christendom thinks.

-I like the part in your article that says this: "It should not surprise us that the early church should have been able to recognize Hebrews and other writings, not written by apostles, as God's very words. Had not Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10.27)? It should not be thought impossible or unlikely, therefore, that the early church would be able to use a combination of factors, including apostolic endorsement, consistency with the rest of Scripture, and the perception of a writing as "God-breathed" on the part of an overwhelming majority of believers, to decide that a writing was in fact God's words (through a human author) and therefore worthy of inclusion in the canon. Nor should it be thought unlikely that the church would be able to use this process over a period of time — as writings were circulated to various parts of the early church — and finally to come to a completely correct decision, without excluding any writings that were in fact "God-breathed" and without including any that were not."

-I want to point this out. You quoted this "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world" (Heb. 1:1-2).

-your article says this means God can't add anything else to scripture, that Jesus is the end of the message so far as scripture goes. I have 2 problems with that. 1. There are more books in the New Testament that were written after Jesus The Son. 2. It never states in this passage that God can't speak more to us in an official "more scripture" sort of way. It says that God has spoken to us by his Son, and that's good. But I can't see anywhere in there where it says he won't have more messengers coming to us to continue teaching us the words of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, The Son, is the source of scripture.

-you don't have to agree with this, but I believe Jesus Christ is Jehovah. Jesus said to the pharisees, before Abraham was, I am. They tried to stone him because he was there claiming to be God. And who is God? Jehovah. Now why do I bring this up? To show that all scripture comes from Jesus Christ, whether it's BC or AD. You don't have to agree with that. You can believe whatever you want. Also recall Isaiah prophesying of Christ: Unto us a child is born a son is given, and his name shall be called. the Everlasting Father. Christ is our father in that we made covenants with him to gain salvation. Heavenly Father is our Father in that he birth life to our spirits in the pre-mortal world. The scripture says, "we are his offspring". Created in his image.

-I don't see how Hebrews 1 and 2 say that revelation has a time of completion. That idea would contradict Amos 3:7, where it says God does nothing except he reveals that thing to his prophets. What does that mean? It means revelation will happen as long as God is doing something. And the writings of the New Testament point to a future great work by God yet to be done.

-the article also sites Rev. 22 being at the last of the bible to say there can be no more revelation, we already talked about that. You agreed with me that it being there doesn't mean what this author says it means. You weren't happy that I spoke about that, that I was guessing what your argument for that would be. As we see by this article, it's a prevalent argument. As we stated earlier, such an interpretation would conflict Amos 3:7, etc. This article says that John knew that his book "The book of Revelation" would be the last in the bible. There is no text that says he knew it would be last in the bible. So the most we can say about this is that John didn't want anyone to mess with his book. Those whom have modified his text to make it say something other than the original message will suffer the consequences he states in Rev. 22. Wo unto them they have caused many to stumble!

-you say that God is in control of all history, and that such means the Holy Bible is all we need. I say that God lets people have their agency to rape children, or to try and alter the bible, both terrible things. But that God provides ways to overcome that; for the rape case there is healing in Christ and eternal reward and justice in heave; for the Holy Bible being modified by wicked men, God has given us the Book of Mormon to make sure we have correct doctrine.

-I like where your article says this "As we read Scripture the Holy Spirit works to convince us that the books we have in Scripture are all from God and are his words to us. "; that would apply to the Book of Mormon. To anything.

-this is sort of on topic. I want to point out that many people interpret the bible differently. At the bible teacher conference, about 700 people were there, and only half of them believed in God. The other half were atheists and thought of the bible merely as interesting literature like Shakespeare. I don't recall the name of this conference, but I suppose you've seen that trend also. Scholars like to make their own interpretations of doctrine. That's why we need modern messengers officially sent by God. The people can reject those messengers, but they do so to their own condemnation. So some people seem to be sincere yet totally misinterpreting the bible. The world deserves messengers who come onto the scene and declare with boldness that salvation is in Christ Jesus. They say come be baptized according to the command of Christ, into his Church, where his laws are upheld. For how can someone agree to obey Christ (which is what you do at baptism) if you don't know what the laws of Christ are? There are many who disagree about that. Many who claim to be right saying Jesus is here, no he is here, and they argue with each other. And if 3 of them are right, that wouldn't make any sense. Christ is not divided: there is one Lord one faith one baptism.

-the article speaks much of a final revelation. I never see the term final revelation in the bible.

-if the bible contains "there is nothing missing from Scripture that God thinks we need to know for obeying him and trusting him fully." then why do so many disagree about it? Am I an idiot? Are so many people idiots?

-this article condemns ideas that are not in the bible, specifically Mormons. But I remind you that the author of this article gives some of his own ideas that are not specifically in the bible. For example he creates a word called "God-breathed". Also the word "cannon" is not in the bible. These are little examples, but the bigger examples are things we've talked about etc. The doctrines he teaches. One example of your article "3:6 Jude 14-15 does cite 1 Enoch 60.8 and 1.9, and Paul at least twice quotes pagan Greek authors (see Acts 17.28; Titus 1.12), but these citations are more for purposes of illustration than proof. Never are the works introduced with a phrase like, "God says," or "Scripture says," or "it is written," phrases that imply the attribution of divine authority to the words cited." So he is saying that unless it says "thus sayeth the Lord" it's not scripture. That idea is that of the author, it never states that rule in the bible. This is the authors creation, "but these citations are more for purposes of illustration than proof." he says. The main thing the article says is that the cannon of scripture must end. I think that's an assumption he is making based on several passages that could have that meaning, but not necessarily. It's simply one among several possible interpretations. Who has the correct interpretation of the bible? That is a matter of faith. Everyone has the right to believe what they will. I say that my group of believers (my church) and I have the right interpretation, you say you and your group of believers (your church) have the right interpretation. Can we co-exist? Pleasantly? Of course!

-a person could quote 10000 bible scholars who agree about something, and that doesn't mean it's necessarily true. For example the bible scholars of the day of Jesus said that God could not come down and become a man, but that is exactly what Jesus did. And they tried to stone him for it. The answers never have lied with scholars, always with God and his appointed messengers. He can even use fishermen. All God needs is someone humble enough to say "Thy will be done" when God speaks to them from the heavens. God appeared to Joseph Smith, like he did Moses and "spoke with him face to face" as the bible says Moses did. The Holy Ghost has witnessed this truth to me as I live the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Like Christ said if any man want to know whether I speak doctrine or of myself, let him do the teachings and they'll learn if they are from God or not (John 17).

-the article says to see how you feel when you read books "perhaps with the Book of Mormon or the Qur'an. Is the spiritual effect of these writings on your life positive or negative?" I say when I read the Book of Mormon I feel like serving Jesus Christ.

-your article admits Christ has a Church, "O make thy church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold, " (which Church is true? Which set of believers have it right? Who will be the people who are together to meet Christ at His Second Coming in Zion? What makes your church stand out amidst 3000 other Christian denominations? The Holy Bible?)

-why say I that there are modern prophets if you will? Among other reasons, its because someone has to orchestrate the gathering of Israel; there will be a place called Zion where Gods people will physically come together geographically to be together as a people ready for the Lord's Second Coming. They will be sheltered from the destructions soon to come upon the whole earth. Also, there are temples where God gives his people eternal power protection promises, where covenants are made. You don't have to agree with me on that, but I've been inside the dedicated temples (the temple you went inside wasn't yet dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and felt the power inside, and MIGHTY outpourings of the Holy Ghost witnessing to me so deeply that what goes on in there is from God that I can never deny it, not even on my death bed.

-I won't be the least offended if you choose not to believe in my religion. I believe that before we came to earth we lived with God in heaven, and there were two forces, one was Jesus Christ, the other was Satan (Lucifer). Some followed Lucifer, and never got the blessing to come to earth because of that. Those that chose to follow Jesus Christ got the blessing of coming to this earth; that means you and me; we made the correct choice up in heaven, so here we are on earth, and isn't it wonderful? Life is wonderful. It's hard but it's such a wonderful learning experience, and just as there are deep sorrows, there are deep joys. So here we are on earth, and we need to once again choose Jesus Christ or the devil as our leader. We follow one or the other. Following Jesus Christ is the way to pass this test, our "second estate". If we pass the test in this life, we win. We get eternal joy. If you want to know more about what I believe happens in heaven you can ask me, or go to mormon.org and search "The Plan of Salvation". There are more details than I've told you and it's thrilling.

-if you have a question about something a church leader has said that troubles you, I am happy to respond. Not everything that General Authorities of the Church say constitutes official Church doctrine. It must be something that has been repeatedly taught in the Church and that the Apostles are united in teaching. Members of the Church come from all kinds of backgrounds and they're not always spot on. But the canonized books are what we base the teachings on. Those include 4 books. The Holy Bible. The Book of Mormon. The Doctrine and Covenants. The Pearl of Great Price. It's ok to have questions, they are worth asking. They help us grow.

-I will try to get those books you wanted me to read. If you're interested, I remind you of a book "Shared Beliefs, Honest Differences: A biblical basis for comparing the doctrines of Mormons and other Christians by Dwight E. Monson" that tells parts of where I come from. It's a pretty short book.

-you ask why do I believe in the bible? I've read it and had the Holy Ghost confirm it's truth to me. That is what I do with everything, I seek the confirmation of the Holy Ghost.

-some say that God is loving (I agree), and that a product of that love is passing down to us a perfect bible (I don't agree). I do agree that the bible is useful and is the word of God (as far as it is translated correctly). The doctrine that the bible is the way it is supposed to be isn't a doctrine found in the bible, it's an idea people have. You could suggest that it is in the bible, but it's a way to interpret the text of the bible, it never says that specifically. For example, there is no passage in the bible that says "the bible as had in 2015, KJV and other versions of your choosing, is exactly how it should be, and no one should bother considering anything else as

scripture. By the way, Mormons are wrong.” You see, it’s all about how one interprets the bible. You have yours, I have mine. I say my faith is very biblical. I say my faith is the most biblical of any faith out there. I could talk to you about any one passage of scripture. You could say the scriptures condemn me, and that’s fine. I don’t agree with that interpretation. The bible says what it says, but people read into it. They say, “because x is written, y must be true”. While that can be done at times and should be, there are other times where it should not be done. Ruling out the possibility of my faith being the right one I would say is one of those times where it should not be done. But then again, you’ll say the same thing about your faith.

-of course, “no private interpretation” is a passage in the bible, no scriptures are for private interpretation. Then who interprets them? God. How does he tell us his interpretation? Yes, that public interpretation? By his Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In other words, there are 3000 about Christian denominations. How many of them are condemned for making their own private interpretations? If they agreed on doctrine, they would be “one faith one Lord one baptism”, not 3000. If I’m not mistaken you say that it doesn’t matter, the whole churches thing. I say, a church represents a set of doctrines. I also say that the bible represents a set of doctrines. I say if everyone believed the same doctrines, they would not go to separate churches which teach different doctrines. My “interpretations” of the bible are not private, go to any member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints around the world (there are more of us outside of the USA than there are inside), and they’ll give you the same response about any given doctrine- Jesus, the Fall, resurrection, God, repentance, grace, etc. God has revealed his official doctrine to his official Church. It’s the same doctrine that Adam Enoch Noah Moses Elijah Jesus Christ, Paul etc. had, and it’s been restored in it’s fullness to God’s “latter-day” church. We have official books telling what the doctrines of the Church are. One of the foremost of those is called “Gospel Principles”. We study from it regularly. If you wish to read it (fairly short), here is a link to it, and you can even download it (it’s a worldwide manual we all use in the Church):

<https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles?lang=eng>

-why do we study from more than just the bible? Because that’s a part of our faith. Why do you only study from the bible? Because that’s a part of your faith. Does the bible support both of our faiths? We both claim the bible supports our faith and not the other persons’. So what do we do? We live our religion. I mine, you yours.

-I know the Church is the people, but Jesus Christ is one of those people, and he makes the rules.

-it’s been said that people should not speak about religion or politics, because they are bound to disagree. I think it’s ok to talk about those things, it’s just that people have to decide not to terminate friendships based on those disagreements. We shouldn’t be ashamed of the gospel like Paul says. Nor of liberty.

-here is an article by a non-LDS guy who agrees with me that the canon is not necessarily closed:

<http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2013/05/why-i-believe-the-canon-is-theoretically-open-and-am-fine-with-it/>.

-in conclusion remember I regard all people who believe in Christ as a brother. Though we have different doctrines we can get along as friends just fine. A core part of both of our religions is to try and treat others as we would ourselves be treated; I’m sure I fall short in that here and there, and my explanations here aren’t perfect but they are sincere. I won’t be the least offended if you choose not to believe in my religion. As always, I wish you all the best, you are my siblings in Christ . -Nate Richardson.

[Biblical Context of Latter-day Saint Doctrine, a House Divided Principle, & The Achilles Heel of Preferring Past Prophets to Modern Prophets – Debate with a Protestant](#)

Protestant:

LDS take scriptures out of context for their doctrines.

Nate (Latter-day Saint):

“Ultimately it boils down to this. The LDS interpret the bible differently than other faiths. We will never agree on bible interpretation. Thank God for the Book of Mormon to clarify bible doctrine, and thank God for modern prophets who clarify doctrine.”

Protestant:

“All Mormonism does is put a twist on very clear passages. It’s called eisegesis.”

Nate

“If the bible is so clear why is Protestantism one of the most divided faiths on earth (hundreds of different churches professing the ‘best’ interpretation of the bible). Ya’ll can’t agree. Mormonism brings new dynamic revelations which bring the scolding of others as they are doctrines of power and authority which hardly anyone can handle. As Jesus was to the Jews, so is Mormonism to the Protestants.

Just like misguided religious persons of the past, you praise prophets of the past (Peter, Paul, etc.) and reject prophets of the present (Joseph Smith, Russel Nelson, etc.). The convenient thing about believing in dead prophets is that they don’t tend to call you out on your misinterpretation of their words. Just like Jews raving about Moses to Jesus.”

Protestant:

“They are in disagreement in “some” things just like LDS are not in agreement over some things. But one thing we are all in agreement in is that the bible is very clear that there was no pre-existence.

That is a baffling view of prophets. Are you saying prophets are true prophets because they are rejected? What about the prophets of Baal in the bible? they were rejected as false prophets in their present time... So by your logic they were actually true prophets because they were rejected. Logic never seemed to be on the side of Mormonism.”

Nate:

“You conveniently select random bits of pseudo logic to scoff at the Mormons. There are plenty of false prophets today. But Protestants can’t seem to acknowledge the possibility of true prophets living in our day who declare the correct interpretation of God’s word and reveal new words from God. What new Revelations have your prophets come up with to guide the people of our day? None. God speaks today collective messages for society via prophets like he always has done. At least the LDS have 1 united government, unlike the thousands of fragmented churches teaching different doctrines as seen in Protestantism. The LDS are organized in one great body of power to act United for the salvation of the human race. The Protestants are not.”

[Deficiency of the Bible as Solo Compass & the Executive Officer Metaphor - A Response to a Friend](#)

Here is treated a few items of disputation among Christians, and the resolution thereto as authoritatively and decisively declared by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the only true and living church on the face of the earth:

On account of deleting the word of God, removing theosis (that we can become Gods) from Christianity, “most Christians say the bible says you can’t become like God.” Or better yet, “The bible obviously says you can’t become like God” (since there is no private interpretation and anyone in their right mind should agree with them!)

Well, that actually is a private interpretation. Indeed the author of the bible meant it to say one thing and one thing alone, but that one thing seems to not be very popular.

I declare that God has appeared in 1820 to Joseph Smith to call him as an authorized prophet and again reestablish the true non-private interpretation of the bible.

...Like CS Lewis put it; it wasn’t just that Jesus made the world lighter, it’s that all things were seen new via the light he shined on me.

... thus you see the need for a church, so that the rules are defined, and people can’t have “their own personal Jesus”, but that they answer to “THE Jesus” the real one, and there is only 1 Jesus (1 Lord 1 faith 1 baptism it

says). Without an organization that represents Jesus, people can get the wrong idea about WHO Jesus is and WHAT he expects of them (and yes, I think that the bible isn't enough, so many people read the bible and profess to adhere to it 100%, yet they all have many different interpretations about how we can/should live.). If I'm not mistaken your religion emphasizes a confessing of Jesus as being the bar for getting into heaven. While this idea is in the scripture, the LDS believe that confessing Jesus also means conforming to his laws. And lest people be confused about his laws, Jesus has a church on earth, his organization for teaching what those laws are (again the bible is insufficient in this regard, look at the many churches disagreeing).

Let me give an example:

a man writes a book.

100 people come and start companies saying, "hey come live by the book!" but the companies all have their own way of doing it.

Then the author of the book shows up and says "what's going on here? You guys are perverting what was supposed to be clear and uniting. From here on out, I will declare in person what I meant by my book. The book is still critical, but in case of dispute, I'm here, come ask me. When I have to be away on business, you can come talk to this person, whom I myself have declared as my representative. I will communicate with him, I trust him to do this, and will strike him down if he ever goes astray in passing on exactly what I tell him." thus the truth is kept alive and honored the way the author meant it to be.

I give you this slightly more elaborate response to teach you, not to say that salvation comes from all these things. LDS believe Jesus Christ is the source of all blessings we receive. LDS believe that we are saved only through Christ. But when you get into "who" is Christ and "what" does he expect of us, that is where the church comes in handy.

[Increased Accountability and Expectation of the Latter-day Saints: Extra-Biblical Scripture & Exaltation \(Theosis\) - Response to a Friend Christian Friend](#)

Firstly, we the Latter-day Saints believe we have more truth. Since truth is power, the old adage applies "with great power comes great responsibility"

For instance, you are a Christian. Since you know about the motivating love of God, and the need to avoid hell, and the need to follow the teachings of Jesus, I can expect you to do more in that regard than I could expect from a heathen who never learned about why those things are important.

For example, a Christian teaching is "thou shalt not commit adultery"; so if a heathen commits adultery, he could be "expressing himself", but if a Christian does it, he is damned to hell (however, there is conscience (the latter-day saints have a name for conscience, 'the light of Christ') which everyone has, which warns against evil, so depending on how steeped a society is in sin, even the non-religious person is accountable before God for his acts, as his conscience warned him against the evil, and urged him toward the good, and he quenched that spirit/conscience.)

one of the fundamentals of LDS and I think overall Christianity is that if you have more knowledge about true laws, you are held more accountable for obeying them.

Like how we expect a child to not walk in the road because they know it's bad, but if an infant crawls into the road we treat it differently, it didn't know any better.

Every religion which claims to be "the true" religion, could in some form claim that they are expected to do more since they have more truth.

For example, the Pharisees placed emphasis on outward observance of the law. Jesus came and told them a higher truth, to not only love one another, but to love one another as he loved them.

Another metaphor is that when a person is contracted to do a high paying job, they are often required to do more than the people that are being paid less. In LDS temples, we make contracts with God to not only be saved in heaven to live with God and Christ forever, but contracts which set us up to become like God and Christ

forever. (Some say “ah Lucifer wanted to be like God, so he got thrust out of heaven and is a devil”; no, he was thrust out for rebellion. To become a God you have to do it in Gods way. Also, Lucifer wanted to not have anyone to answer to, but that is not the way of the universe. Everyone has someone to answer to. Christ answers to Father, Father answers to his father, etc. Lucifer wanted to subvert the entire eternal system and ‘be a law unto himself’. This could not be. Further, Lucifer wanted to be a God without putting in the work to get there, he wanted to overthrow Father instead of following the ways of Father. For more on this topic, see Elder Christofferson’s address in 2017, a BYU Devotional titled “A Message at Christmas”. I have notes on it and a link to it under the title of “The Need for a Savior: God’s Plan of Justice vs Lucifer’s Tyranny”.

This doctrine of theosis was in the Christian church for several centuries after Christ among the Christian Fathers, until opinions of men rooted it out, and it’s not in most Christian churches to this day; or if this appeals to you more I’ll put it this way, deleting the word churches (that seems to be popular), “most Christians say the bible says you can’t become like God.” Or better yet, “The bible obviously says you can’t become like God” (since there is no private interpretation and anyone in their right mind should agree with them!)

Well, that actually is a private interpretation. Indeed say one thing and one thing alone, but that one thing I declare that God has appeared in 1820 to Joseph prophet and again reestablish the true non-private ... Like CS Lewis put it; it wasn’t just that Jesus things were seen new via the light he shined on me. ... thus you see the need for a church, so that the have “their own personal Jesus”, but that they answer there is only 1 Jesus (1 Lord 1 faith 1 baptism it represents Jesus, people can get the wrong idea about WHO Jesus is and WHAT he expects of them (and yes, I think that the bible isn’t enough, so many people read the bible and profess to adhere to it 100%, yet they all have many different interpretations about how we can/should live.).



the author of the bible meant it to seem to not be very popular. Smith to call him as an authorized interpretation of the bible. made the world lighter, it’s that all rules are defined, and people can’t to “THE Jesus” the real one, and says). Without an organization that

represents Jesus, people can get the wrong idea about WHO Jesus is and WHAT he expects of them (and yes, I think that the bible isn’t enough, so many people read the bible and profess to adhere to it 100%, yet they all have many different interpretations about how we can/should live.). If I’m not mistaken your religion emphasizes a confessing of Jesus as being the bar for getting into heaven. While this idea is in the scripture, the LDS believe that confessing Jesus also means conforming to his laws. And lest people be confused about his laws, Jesus has a church on earth, his organization for teaching what those laws are (again the bible is insufficient in this regard, look at the many churches disagreeing).

Let me give an example:

a man writes a book.

100 people come and start companies saying, “hey come live by the book!” but the companies all have their own way of doing it.

Then the author of the book shows up and says “what’s going on here? You guys are perverting what was supposed to be clear and uniting. From here on out, I will declare in person what I meant by my book. The book is still critical, but in case of dispute, I’m here, come ask me. When I have to be away on business, you can come talk to this person, whom I myself have declared as my representative. I will communicate with him, I trust him to do this, and will strike him down if he ever goes astray in passing on exactly what I tell him.” thus the truth is kept alive and honored the way the author meant it to be.

I give you this slightly more elaborate response to teach you, not to say that salvation comes from all these things. LDS believe Jesus Christ is the source of all blessings we receive. LDS believe that we are saved only through Christ. But when you get into “who” is Christ and “what” does he expect of us, that is where the church comes in handy.

The Imploring God of the New Testament

Works are the other aspect of grace. If grace is what God does for us, works are what God asks us to do for him. This document is to refute the idea that the Old Testament God is the strict / imploring God, then changes in the New Testament. For more treatment of this topic, see my article "The Graceful God of the Old Testament: Scripture References"

This is to show how works have always been expected of God's people, including New Testament times, and modern times. This is in opposition to the popular idea that by grace alone we are saved. I am bold in this, not thinking it a crime to rely on the scriptures rather than the creeds of men!

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

1 Timothy 5:10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Acts 14:26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

(you get access to grace by doing works!)

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

Mark 14:6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

(if you believe in Christ, you'll do what he says. He says we should do good works. It's like if you believe a train is coming, you won't stand on the tracks. You'll do the work of moving, based on your faith of the coming event. Like how you'll do your homework in college if you have faith that it will get you a good job.)

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

1 Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

2 Thessalonians 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in goodworks, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Revelation 2:26

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth myworks unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

1 Corinthians 12:10

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

2 Timothy 3:17

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Titus 3:1

1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

Titus 3:14

14 And let ours also learn to maintain good worksfor necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Acts 15:18

18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

1 Corinthians 16:10

10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

John 5:17

17 ¶But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

John 5:20

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

Matthew 13:58

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

(in addition to the obvious meaning of this passage, it well shows that unbelievers in the true gospel refuse to recognize faithful lifestyles for what they are, and recognize their role!)

James 1:4

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Hebrews 3:9

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Hebrews 10:24

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

2 Corinthians 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

John 7:3

3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judæa, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

James 3:13

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:16

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

1 Corinthians 3:14

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Matthew 21:28

28 ¶But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

1 Timothy 3:1

1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

John 10:25

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

(this shows that "by their works ye shall know them"!)

John 10:37

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

(this shows that "by their works ye shall know them"!)

John 10:38

38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

(this shows that "by their works ye shall know them"!)

2 Thessalonians 3:10

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

(*since we must live to work out our salvation, we see work is needed for salvation, since we die if we don't work, and being dead, how would we work out our salvation?!)

2 Thessalonians 3:12

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Matthew 23:3

3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

(*we see doing is required)

1 Corinthians 9:1

1 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Ephesians 3:7

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Revelation 20:13

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

1 Thessalonians 4:11

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we

commanded you;

Revelation 3:2

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:8

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:15

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Revelation 18:6

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 18:6

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

2 Timothy 2:21

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Mark 6:14

14 And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

Revelation 9:20

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

2 Peter 3:10

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

John 8:39

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's

children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Acts 26:20

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judæa, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

1 John 3:12

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Philippians 3:21

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Ephesians 4:16

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Revelation 2:2

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:5

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:9

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:13

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:23

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Luke 13:14

14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Acts 13:2

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 9:36

36 ¶Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Matthew 11:21

21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Matthew 11:23

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Mark 13:34

34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Titus 3:8

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain goodworks. These things are good and profitable unto men.

1 Peter 2:12

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Hebrews 9:14

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from deadworks to serve the living God?

Philippians 2:12

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Luke 10:13

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty workshad been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Revelation 3:1

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Mark 6:2

2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

(*Jesus told us to do the things we have seen him do!)

Revelation 20:12

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Modern Scriptures:

– “thrust in your sickle with all your soul” (D&C 31:5)

-work with “all your heart, might, mind, and strength” (D&C 4:2).

–Through every major Nephite prophet, for example, the Lord declared: “Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence.” (2 Ne. 1:20—Lehi; see also 1 Ne. 2:20–21—Nephi; 2 Ne. 10:19–20—Jacob; Mosiah 1:7—Benjamin; Alma 9:13—Alma; Alma 48:25—Mormon; Ether 2:7–9—Moroni and the brother of Jared.)

-“wickedness never was happiness.” (Alma 41:10.)

-“the joy of the saints.” (Enos 1:3.)

Old Testament Scriptures:

– Psalms 141:4

4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

– Psalms 90:17

17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

– Exodus 36:4

4 And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;

– Nehemiah 6:3

3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

– Exodus 28:15

15 ¶ And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

– Nehemiah 5:16

16 Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work.

– Exodus 36:1

1 Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded.

– Ecclesiastes 8:14

14 There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.

– Numbers 8:4

4 And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the Lord had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick.

–Exodus 31:15

15 Six days may work be done

–Leviticus 23:3

3 Six days shall work be done

– Exodus 36:8

8 ¶And every wise hearted man among them that wrought the work of the tabernacle made ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work made he them.

– 2 Kings 22:5

5 And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the Lord: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the Lord, to repair the breaches of the house,

– Exodus 39:3

3 And they did beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen, with cunning work.

– Exodus 35:2

Six days shall work be done

-Exo. 36:1 work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded.

– Nehemiah 7:71

71 And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.

– Psalms 28:4

4 Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

– Proverbs 16:3

3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

– Proverbs 20:11

11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

– Jeremiah 48:10

10 Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

– 2 Chronicles 3:10

10 And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold.

– Nehemiah 9:35

35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wickedworks.

– Proverbs 18:9

9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

– Job 14:15

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

– 2 Chronicles 24:13

13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

– Proverbs 24:27

27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

– Proverbs 24:29

29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

–Psalms 104:23

23 Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

– Job 1:10

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

– Hosea 6:8

8 Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

-Ps. 106: 23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

-Ps. 106: 25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.

– Psalms 106:39

39 Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

– Nehemiah 13:10

10 ¶And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

– Psalms 77:12

12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

– Psalms 145:4

4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

– Psalms 145:5

5 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

– Psalms 145:10

10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

– Isaiah 66:18

18 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

– Jeremiah 25:6

6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

– Jeremiah 25:7

7 Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

– Jeremiah 25:14

14 For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

– Ezra 6:7

...let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

– Exodus 23:24

24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

– 1 Chronicles 23:4

4 Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the Lord; and six thousand were officers and judges:

– Exodus 25:18

18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

– Ecclesiastes 3:17

17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

– Psalms 118:17

17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

– Psalms 17:4

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

– Job 34:11

11 For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

– Job 34:25

25 Therefore he knoweth their works, and he overturneth them in the night, so that they are destroyed.

– Exodus 31:5

5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

– Leviticus 23:8

8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord seven days...

– Psalms 95:9

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

– Job 36:9

9 Then he sheweth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.

– Job 36:24

24 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.

– Psalms 58:2

2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.

– Psalms 62:12

12 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

– Psalms 9:16

16 The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

– Psalms 9:16

16 The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

– Nehemiah 4:19

19 ¶And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

Nehemiah 4:21

21 So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

– Jeremiah 10:15

15 They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

– Ecclesiastes 9:7

7 ¶Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

– Nehemiah 6:9

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now

therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

– Nehemiah 6:14

14 My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

– Isaiah 49:4

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.

2 Chronicles 15:7

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

– Exodus 37:29

29 ¶And he made the holy anointing oil, and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the apothecary.

– Jeremiah 51:18

18 They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

2 Chronicles 2:18

18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.

– Psalms 33:15

15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

– Ezekiel 33:26

26 Ye stand upon your sword, ye work abomination, and ye defile every one his neighbour's wife: and shall ye possess the land?

– Exodus 39:42

42 According to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work.

– Exodus 39:43

43 And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.

Proverbs 21:8

8 The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

Psalms 101:3

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

– 2 Chronicles 4:11

11 And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basins. And Hiram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God;

– Lamentations 3:64

64 ¶Render unto them a recompence, O Lord, according to the work of their hands.

God the Same Forever: Old Testament Demonstration of Grace for Salvation

Grace is the work God does for us. “Works” are the things we do for God.

Old Testament scriptures on grace show that God is unchanging, not just nice in New Testament, not just mean in the Old, but the same yesterday today and forever.

This is to show how grace of God has always played a role with God’s people and their salvation.

For a document on scriptures commanding works from the New Testament, see my document “The Imploring God of the New Testament: Scripture References”

This refutes the idea that God was mean in the Old Testament and just nice in the New Testament / without any real requirements or expectations.

– Psalms 86:8

8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

– Psalms 143:5

5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

– Psalms 92:4

4 For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

– Habakkuk 1:5

5 ¶Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

– Isaiah 28:21

21 For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

– Isaiah 29:14

14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

– Exodus 31:15

in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

–Leviticus 23:3

the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.

– Exodus 35:2

on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the Lord: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

– Psalms 26:7

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

– 5 ¶And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make.

6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

– Exodus 40:33

33 And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

– 2 Kings 19:18

18 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

– Jeremiah 50:25

25 The Lord hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

– Deuteronomy 33:11

11 Bless, Lord, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.

– Psalms 28:5

5 Because they regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

– Isaiah 54:16

16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

– Proverbs 16:11

11 A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

– Isaiah 17:8

8 And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

– Psalms 135:15

15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

– Psalms 102:25

25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

– Psalms 73:28

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

– Jeremiah 17:22

22 Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

– Psalms 104:13

13 He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

– Psalms 104:31

31 The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

– Job 1:10

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

– Psalms 75:1

1 Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.

– Psalms 139:14

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

– Numbers 28:18

18 In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:

– Numbers 28:25

25 And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work.

– Isaiah 64:8

8 But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

– Psalms 106:13

13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

– Ps. 106:21-22 21 They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.

– Ps. 106:24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

– Psalms 77:11

11 I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

– Psalms 77:12

12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

– Psalms 145:4

4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

– Psalms 145:5

5 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

– Psalms 145:9

9 The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

– Exodus 5:4

4 And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

– Genesis 2:3

3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

– Psalms 46:8

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

– Ecclesiastes 1:14

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

– Isaiah 37:19

19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

– Isaiah 41:24

24 Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you.

– Isaiah 41:29

29 Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.

– Micah 5:13

13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

– Psalms 118:17

17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

– Psalms 17:4

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

– Isaiah 43:13

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

– Job 34:19

19 How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

– Proverbs 8:22

22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

– Leviticus 23:8

... in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

– Leviticus 23:25

25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

– Leviticus 23:28

28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God.

– Leviticus 23:30

30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

– Leviticus 23:31

31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

– Leviticus 23:35

35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein

– Job 36:24

24 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.

– Ecclesiastes 7:13

13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

– Habakkuk 2:18

18 ¶What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

– Psalms 9:1

1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

– Jeremiah 10:3

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

– Psalms 64:9

9 And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.

– Deuteronomy 32:4

4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

– Nehemiah 6:9

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

– Nehemiah 6:14

14 My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

– Isaiah 49:4

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.

– Psalms 66:3

3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

– Psalms 66:5

5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

Jeremiah 51:10

10 The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

– Psalms 33:4

4 For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.

A Marvelous Work and A Wonder by LeGrand Richards – Book Notes

LeGrand Richard was a member of the quorum of the 12 Apostles, this book is a classic on fulfillment of scripture in the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith, and missionary work in these latter-days to prepare the world for the return of Jesus Christ.

-Luke 10:1 we are sent out 2 by 2 as them of old. We are who Jeremiah spoke of when he said I will send hunters to gather them from the rocks and the fishers to search and gather Israel.

-Instruction in the New Testament not to go house to house is thus: the missionaries go on a house. Should the spirit of the Lord be there, then the missionaries are to stay and teach the gospel fully so that there is a witness against that people if they reject it or a blessing to them if they accept it. Too many missionaries run away from the work rather than running to it.

-Missionaries are not going forth to argue and debate. They must tell our story energetically and enthusiastically and then their hearers will become listeners and questioners.

-Telling of the gospel is not just dooming people bringing judgement upon them, rather it's like building a foundation for a house. We can't judge yet; the house is not yet finished. People can't judge the truthfulness of the gospel without having heard it.

-When you find a house that has the peace of the Lord there, we as missionaries should visit it at least once a week for the next 6 months giving them presentations about the gospel. The spirit of the Lord must be there since the letter killeth and the spirit giveth life. 2 Cor. 3:6.

-Some topics missionaries teach take more than one visit to cover. When investigator is asked to read from the bible it is wise that the investigator turn to the passage in his own bible and read with you. It is much more impressive than when the missionary quotes or reads from his own book.

-The LDS Church is the only Christian church which does not merely depend on the bible for its instruction. We appeal to it. The Restored gospel teachings are in accord with it.

-One well known radio broadcaster was asked what would be the most important message to broadcast to the world. After thinking a while he said it would be a message from someone who had been dead, then received a

message from God, then returned from the dead to give us that message. Hence the LDS have a great message to share. That is the Book of Mormon, a detailed account of the resurrected Jesus' teachings.

-Jeremiah said they shall sing in the heights of Zion. He was referring to the LDS pilgrimage to the west, and the singing of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, an over 300-member choir, and it will continue to fulfill this prophecy.

-Moses speaking of the land of Joseph was referring to this land America. Blessed be this land for the precious things from above and beneath. The precious things and the chief things of the ancient mountains and the precious things on the lasting hills and for the precious things of the earth and the fullness there of (Deut. 33:13-16).

-The blessing of Jacob to his son Joseph Gen 49:22-26 these are blessings about America.

-Joseph's land would be choice above all other lands the Book of Mormon says.

-70 times the Book of Mormon uses the word precious in describing the land (USA) and its blessings. These are in actual fulfillment. You will see that as you travel among the valleys of the Saints in the Rocky Mountains.

-Jer. said and they shall not sorrow or anymore toil. Then shall the virgin rejoice and dance both young men and old together and make them rejoice in their sorrow. This is completely fulfilled. If you heard the testimony meetings of the Saints after their trek west when they arrived in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains and expressed their gratitude to the Lord for having brought them here, you would know it's been completely fulfilled. If you would have attended their dances and seen how both the young and old would dance. Practically every ward or branch or congregation has adjoining the chapel a cultural hall. The young and old rejoice together. Surely the Lord has turned their mourning into joy and made them rejoice from their sorrow.

-“And I will satiate the soul and the place with fatness and my people will be satisfied with my goodness”.

“Members of the Priesthood in the Church aren't paid for their services. Thousands have left their families to do missionary work in the nations of the earth paying their own expenses and without funds from the Church, yet they are the best paid of anyone because of the joy and satisfaction that the Lord plants in their hearts which couldn't have POSSIBLY been purchased with money. Thus he has satiated the soul of the priest with fatness and his people are satisfied at his goodness. Where else in all the world in all the annals of history can you find a fulfillment of this prophecy from Jeremiah? This is literal fulfillment, yea, this gathering of the LDS to the mountains in these latter-days. “

-The Lord said via Isa. 11:10-12 about setting his hand to recover his people for the second time: This is plainly the gathering of the seed of Joseph that has been scattered among Gentile nations and among the seed of Judah. This is the LDS. This is an Ensign to the people.

-“The mountain of the Lord’s house will be established in the top of the mountains exalted above the hills and all nations shall flow unto it many people shall say come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us in his ways and we will walk in his paths for out of Zion shall go forth the law and from Jerusalem the word of the Lord Isa. 2:2-3. The Lords house established in the top of the mountains: only those associated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the last dispensation will understand how literally this has been fulfilled. In order that the Saints may enjoy the sealing privileges in the house of the God of Jacob they have gathered from the nations of the earth for the missionaries have carried the message of the Restored gospel of Jesus Christ to them and now we are seeing the holy temples erected in many of these lands. The law of the Lord is going forth from Zion as will ultimately the word of the Lord from JERUSALEM. The establishment of the house of the Lord in the top of the mountains and the gathering of all nations unto it will proceed the judgements of the Lord which shall be followed by a day when nations shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore Isa. 2:4. We are all hopeful that we are approaching the day when the Lord foretold the anticipated. This part is not yet fulfilled.”

-“How better can they describe the horse’s wheels as flint than a train or how better describe an airplane than to say it shall not slumber. It can go all night. The Lord can hiss unto people unto the end of the earth to come with speed swiftly; they also understood this gathering would be in the mountains and that the Lord would cause the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose. In this respect it is remarkable to see what role water was to play in redeeming the desert and wilderness as the gathering place of latter-day Israel. As the prophets described it: The wilderness shall be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon and they shall see the glory of the Lord and the excellency of our God. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf be unstopped and the lame man leap and the tongue of the dumb speak and then the wilderness shall water cover it and the thirsty land become springs of water.”

-The ransomed of the Lord have returned and come to Zion with songs of everlasting joy upon their heads. And the desert has blossomed and so forth.

-Introduction of irrigation could be one of the “new things” the Lord inspired his servants to teach unto his people when they entered the valleys of the mountains which made possible the fulfillment of his promises to

cause the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose. To make a way in the wilderness and in the desert. (*also I say these roads I drive across the country are a way made to get through the wilderness.)

-The people in the west from Utah have become so prosperous that they have been able to send their posterity all around the world to preach the gospel. This is God's blessing.

-“I will open rivers of high places”: this could be referring to reservoirs which are built so we could use water as needed. This fulfillment of prophecy has so changed the wilderness that it's been possible to plant types of trees and flowers that otherwise would not grow. “That they may see and consider and know and understand together that the hand of the Lord hath done this and the holy one of Israel hath created it”. All this therefore may be regarded as the work of the holy one of Israel as a part of the gathering in the latter-days.

-Jim Bridger said he would give 1000 dollars to see an ear of corn grow in the west. They all thought that land wasn't worth “a pinch of snuff.” It was barren desert before the Saints came. It was no good. No agricultural use at all.

-Joseph Smith prophecies that the Saints would be chased all the way out to the Rocky Mountains and that many would die on the way, and some would apostasies, and some would get there to see the Saints become a mighty people.

-Trust the prophets' interpretations of the scripture like a light in a dark place. Someday there will be light all around but right now all we have is the prophets for lights.

-The coming of Moses to the prophet Joseph Smith is a great fulfillment of prophecy. It is also very important to tell the world about since it's someone with a great message that committing of the gathering of Israel is big news.

-Abraham was told in scripture that through his seed, which is his Priesthood, all the world would be blessed.

-D&C 27:5-7 speaks of Christ coming to drink the fruit of the vine with us with Moroni and John the Baptist and others. That event will happen.

-This church is a missionary church. It is how we ‘call on him that has not believed’ they reach all the world. ‘How can they preach except they shall be sent’? How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things Rom. 10:14-15. And how is the whole world going to hear about

this important message if we don't do missionary work? How is scattered Israel going to be gathered unless we share?

-Paul said how shall they preach except they be sent. He knew that you can't self-appoint yourself to preach the gospel.

-Rev. 14 this prophecies that the gospel would be carried to all the inhabitants of the earth it is a great work we have to do.

-We are privileged to live in the day of the preparation of the Kingdom for the advent of the King.

-Spirit bodies look like our bodies. Physical bodies are only housing for spirit bodies to live in. (Spirits and bodies are eternal, thanks to the Messiah Jesus Christ.)

-All are literally posterity of Heavenly Father and have capacity to become like him.

-Jesus said "our Father which art in heaven" emphasizing that not only he is a son of God, but everyone is.

-Prov. 8 speaks of rejoicing before the world was. Hence there is pre-mortality.

-Prov. 8:22-31 this is pre-mortality scripture. Speaks of at death returning to the spirit world.

-Eccl. 12 speaks of how when we die our spirit goes back to God. How could it go back if it was never there in the first place? This proves pre-mortality.

-The LDS stand alone in their capacity to explain the answer to the question "from whence is man?"

-Job speaks of spirits shouting for joy in pre-mortality they did this knowing they would get to come to mortality and the wonderful opportunity it would be to grow and the wonderful capacities we would have.

-the first estate has been kept by us here on earth, the second estate if we keep, will bring us glory forever; purpose for being on this earth is testing.

-many devils, legion, inhabited the man spoken of in the bible, they wanted bodies so badly that they were even willing to go into swine when Jesus was casting them out of a human body.

-Melchizedek Priesthood is needed for exaltation as we see in the Doctrine and Covenants for it says who receive that Priesthood, the higher priesthood, they are Christs' and Christ is Gods'. This is the Church of the firstborn, those who get the Celestial Kingdom. It is not necessarily the case that all holders of the Melchizedek Priesthood are members of the Church of the firstborn, but that is one of the necessary parts of it.

-in some cases, one can be saved as an angel in heaven and yet not be exalted. See D&C 131

-the latter-day student sees his education as part of the preparation for his exaltation. the LDS' education is second to none in the nation or the world. Utah compared to other states stands first in the percentage of the total population aged 3-34 enrolled in school. Utah stands first in the percentage of the total population enrolled in school at every age level except ages 16-17 where Minnesota ranks first. Utah stands first in the average years of school completed for all of its citizens age 25 and older. Utah stands highest in the net migration to it's institutions of higher education. It is among the highest of medical schools. Utah is found to have no major deficiencies unlike other states. Why has Utah done so well? It's not the richest or oldest or best located for educational development, this is because the majority of the LDS are there.

-Brigham Young said education is the power to appreciate life.

-Cancer and mortality rate in Utah is lowest in the entire country and lowest in the use of alcohol and cigarettes, about half as much as everywhere else in the US.

-Jesus was attacked by Satan from the beginning as was Joseph Smith. Satan attacked Joseph Smith at age 14 when he prayed. Satan was not attacking other boys at age 14 when they prayed. There were no divine manifestations to Joseph Smith yet up to this point, so Satan had to know from a pre mortal knowledge, which he keeps with him, that Joseph had a work to do for God.

-the reason Joseph Smith will be evil spoken of in all nations is because of Satan's determination to destroy the work of the Lord.

-Franklin D Richards said that Jesus Christ is called the very eternal father of heaven and earth because he is the CREATOR of heaven and earth.

-Spiritual bodies are begotten bodies from Heavenly Father. **Spirits can think feel rejoice make decisions etc.**, the body is just the house for the spirit.

-In Utah, there are more college graduates by its ratio than any other state in the nation.

-LDS youth take their school very seriously as a part of their eternal progression which will lead to joy; they also teach free seminary classes in Utah and where they can.

-Those persecuting Jesus was mainly from the religious leaders of that time. Same with Joseph Smith.

-You can't just say the Church is persecuted because of polygamy; Joseph Smith was persecuted from age 14 when he first started telling of the revelation he had seen from God. Persecution happened to the church way before polygamy.

-there are 3000 books written on George Washington in possession of the US library, but there are 20,000 written on Joseph Smith in the Church library. This is proof that the wisdom of the wise shall perish.

-1949 vol 2 Improvement Era: Leo Tolstoy speaks of how if Mormonism goes unchanged for 3 more generations it will be the greatest power in the world. The religious social and economic teachings of the Church will help the people get along, and it helped start America, and would not die out like other movements.

PART 2: MISSIONARY METHODS & QUOTES





Introduction

Missionary work is hard, but can also be fun and rewarding. Joseph Smith declared it to be the greatest work we can be engaged in. Let's investigate ways to do this effectively, from perspectives, to scripture mastery.

The restored gospel is the single greatest opportunity for peace on Earth. The good news that Jesus Christ is our Savior needs to be spread through all the Earth. This work will be in mid-swing when He, Jesus Christ, comes again to rule on Earth for 1,000 years.

As this day approaches, the need is ever greater to proclaim not only that Christ the Lord lives, but that He still speaks to his people through modern authorized priesthood holding prophets who will guide us through these last days. Without that guidance, even the elect may be lost.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's kingdom of the earth today. The tool we use to gather scattered Israel is The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

Who will hear it? The pure in heart.

Who will declare it? The saviors on mount Zion.

The world looks to you for answers. Do you have them? Will you share them?

Key Quotes on Missionary Work

"A man filled with the love of God, is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race" (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 426)

"I promise you that as you consistently give the Lord a generous portion of your time, He will multiply the remainder." President Russel M Nelson

"For though argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief. What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish." -C. S. Lewis

"While it is true that we should not cast pearls before swine...this does not mean that we should not share them with people who will appreciate their value." (Elder L. Tom Perry)

– "It has always been important not only to teach but to defend truth, and in our time that need seems to be growing," ([The Need to Defend Truth by Elder Christofferson to Religious Educators](#))

"Every member a missionary" President David O. McKay

"If you're not a full-time missionary with a missionary badge pinned on your coat, now is the time to paint one on your heart" (Elder Anderson [Apr. '13 Conf. Report "It's A Miracle"](#))

"I invite all members... to obtain a copy of Preach My Gospel... It is a guidebook for missionary work—which means it is a guide book for all of us." (Elder Ballard [Conf. Report "Following Up", May '14 p. 80](#))

-"If we are to build that Zion of which the prophets have spoken and of which the Lord has given mighty promise, we must set aside our consuming selfishness. We must rise above our love for comfort and ease, and in the very process of effort and struggle, even in our extremity, we shall become better acquainted with our God." (President Gordon B. Hinckley, [Conf. Report Oct. 1991 Our Mission of Saving](#))

- "Acquire the language of the Spirit. . . . The language of the Spirit comes to him who seeks with all his heart to know God and keep His divine commandments. Proficiency in this "language" permits one to breach barriers, overcome obstacles, and touch the human heart." -Thomas S. Monson, "To the Rescue," Ensign, May 2001, 50

-"O Cromwell, Cromwell! Had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my king, he would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies. " – Shakespeare, King Henry the VIII

-“When I think of you and what you are going to do in God’s kingdom, I think of that marvelous experience in 3 Nephi 17, when the Savior gathered the children around Him. I want you to picture that scene in your minds because you are in that scene. The parents bring their precious children to the Savior. He gathers them around Him; He is at the center. He prays for them and their parents in a miraculous way, and He blesses the children one by one. Then angels descend from Heaven “as it were in the midst of fire”¹⁶ and minister to the children, and that holy fire encircles the children. In a powerful sense, this is what we do in seminary and in institute. Indeed, this is the Church Educational System. Parents bring their children to us. The Savior is at the center, the heart of everything that happens to the children. He prays for them and for us; He is our Advocate with the Father. We are the angels—you are the angels—who come to minister to those children in holy fire. That, my dear brothers and sisters, is who we need to be.” (“Encircled About With Fire by Elder Kim B Clark of The Seventy; Seminaries and Institutes of Religion Satellite Broadcast • August 4, 2015; <https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/article/satellite-training-broadcast/2015/08/encircled-about-with-fire?lang=eng#note13>)

-Elder David A Bednar’s address “To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood” where he encourages us to use social media to flood the earth with the gospel, rather than just a trickle.
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/to-sweep-the-earth-as-with-a-flood?lang=eng>

Missions are a Commandment: Words of the Prophets

Naturally young women aren’t commanded to serve missions as they often have the higher work of family creation to participate in. However, for young men, it is a clear duty, just as binding as the law of the sabbath, or the law of tithing, on their eternal salvation. Men can repent of sins such as not serving a mission, but like all sin, the way of sin is always hard, and it is not wise to play games with God. Fear God, and keep his commandments.

“the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve are united in saying to our young sisters that they are not under obligation to go on missions. I hope I can say what I have to say in a way that will not be offensive to anyone. Young women should not feel that they have a duty comparable to that of young men. Some of them will very much wish to go. If so, they should counsel with their bishop as well as their parents. If the idea persists, the bishop will know what to do. I say what has been said before, that missionary work is essentially a priesthood responsibility. As such, our young men must carry the major burden. This is their responsibility and their obligation. We do not ask the young women to consider a mission as an essential part of their life’s program. Over a period of many years, we have held the age level higher for them in an effort to keep the number going relatively small. Again to the sisters I say that you will be as highly respected, you will be considered as being as much in the line of duty, your efforts will be as acceptable to the Lord and to the Church whether you go on a mission or do not go on a mission.” (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“It does not matter if it interrupts your schooling or delays your career or your marriage—or basketball. Unless you have a serious health problem, every Latter-day Saint young man should answer the call to serve a mission”



(Elder Boyd K. Packer in Conference Report, Apr. 1984, 61; or Ensign, May 1984, 42).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“There is increasing evidence that some young women are being strongly encouraged to serve full-time missions. Though capable and effective, young women do not have the same responsibility to serve full-time missions as do young men who hold the priesthood. We are grateful that some desire to serve as full-time missionaries, but they should not be made to feel obligated to do so. A young woman should not be recommended for a mission if it would interfere with a specific marriage proposal” (Church Bulletin, 1993, no. 2, p. 2). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“To young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and to you young men who are becoming elders: I repeat what prophets have long taught—that every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much. Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary.” (President Monson’s challenge during the October 2010 general conference)

-“Missionaries are marvelous. They’re called of God by prophecy. . . . They represent the fruits of all that is good within the Latter-day Saint family.” (President Monson)

-“Your mission will be a sacred opportunity to bring others to Christ and help prepare for the Second Coming of the Savior” (Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles “Preparing the World for the Second Coming,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 50)

-“We do not preach and teach in order to ‘bring people into the Church’ or to increase the membership of the Church. We do not preach and teach just to persuade people to live better lives . . . We invite all to come unto Christ by repentance and baptism and confirmation in order to open the doors of the celestial kingdom to the sons and daughters of God [see D&C 76: 51–52]. No one else can do this” (Elder Oaks, “The Purpose of Missionary Work,” missionary satellite broadcast, Apr. 1995).

-“After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel” (Joseph Smith, quoted in Preach My Gospel, 12).

-“**Teaching the gospel is more important than other good deeds.** You are in the greatest work in the world, and nothing in this world can compare to it. Building homes and bridges is nothing. Building worlds is nothing compared to the lives you are building. The saving of mortal lives isn’t any important accomplishment as compared to what you are doing. You might go out here to one of these cemeteries and raise the dead, even a thousand or ten thousand of them, and you haven’t done anything compared to what you are doing when you are saving people” (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball[1982], 547).

-“I am convinced that missionary work is not easy because salvation is not a cheap experience. Salvation never was easy. We are the Church of Jesus Christ, this is the truth, and He is our Great Eternal Head. How could we believe it would be easy for us when it was never, ever easy for Him? It seems to me that missionaries and mission leaders have to spend at least a few moments in Gethsemane. Missionaries and mission leaders have to take at least a step or two toward the summit of Calvary. . . . I believe that missionaries and investigators, to come to the truth, to come to salvation, to know something of this price that has been paid, will have to pay a token of that same price” (Elder Holland, “Missionary Work and the Atonement,” Ensign, Mar. 2001, 15).

-see also <https://www.lds.org/manual/missionary-preparation-teacher-manual?lang=eng>

-Reasons to serve a mission from Church Aaronic Priesthood Manual:

1. Because Heavenly Father has commanded us to do so
2. To help people come unto Christ and his church
3. To help people receive the saving ordinances, such as baptism
4. So people can repent of their sins and be forgiven
5. To warn people of the consequences of sin
6. To gather the faithful out of the world
7. To give us a chance to serve and grow
8. To set up the kingdom of God and prepare for the Second Coming

(See <https://www.lds.org/manual/aaronic-priesthood-manual-3/lesson-25-every-young-man-should-serve-a-mission?lang=eng>)

—“The question is frequently asked: Should every young man fill a mission? And the answer has been given by the Lord. It is ‘Yes.’ Every young man should fill a mission. ...

“... Every man should also pay his tithing. Every man should observe the Sabbath. Every man should attend his meetings. Every man should marry in the temple” (President Spencer W. Kimball, “When the World Will Be Converted,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1974, p. 8).

—“Some of you say in your minds, ‘Oh well, you just don’t understand my case. My situation is different. I plan to be a great lawyer, or doctor, or athlete, or some other great person. Surely neither you nor the Lord would expect me to leave my studies at such an important time. A mission would interfere with my future plans.’ Others are thinking, ‘Yes, I know about missions, but if you had a girlfriend like mine, you’d never leave her. What will happen to her while I’m gone?’ Yet others of you are thinking, ‘Missions cost so much. I just got this job. I just purchased a car and a stereo. It’s just the time of life when I’m starting to get things together for myself. I can’t drop all that now. I just can’t afford it.’ Then there are also those who are thinking, ‘My situation disqualifies me. I have fallen into transgression and am not participating in the Church. I had always planned on being a missionary, but I slipped and now I don’t live the standards required of a missionary...’ “If I could speak separately to each of you young men, ... I would say with all the power of speech I could generate, ‘Just who do you think you are? What right do you have to match your wisdom with that of God, who through His prophets has issued a firm decree, a solemn mandate, that the restored gospel must be declared to all the world by the voice of His disciples? This means you!... [missionary service] is a marvelous gift of time, a time given when you can experience glimpses of heavenly life here on earth. It is a time of cleansing and refreshing. It is a special time when the Holy Ghost can seal upon you the knowledge of the great plan for your exaltation. It is one of your best opportunities to become a celestial candidate. **The highest of all service to others is to teach them truth and bring them into the kingdom of God**” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1981, p. 72; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, p. 50).” (Elder William R. Bradford of the Seventy in Conference Report, Oct. 1981, p. 71; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, p. 50).

—“Men and women who turn their lives over to God will find out that he can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace. Whoever will lose his life to God will find he has eternal life” (President Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations,” *New Era*, May 1975, p. 20).

—“The Lord wants every young man to serve a full-time mission. ... Not only should a mission be regarded as a priesthood duty, but every young man should look forward to this experience with great joy and anticipation. What a privilege—what a sacred privilege—to serve the Lord full time for two years with all your heart, might, mind, and strength. You can do nothing more important. ... Prepare well for a mission all your life, not just six months or a year before you go. We love all of our missionaries who are serving the Lord full time in the mission field. But there is a difference in missionaries. Some are better prepared to serve the Lord the first month in the mission field than some who are returning home after twenty-four months. We want young men entering the mission field who can enter the mission field ‘on the run,’ who have the faith born of personal righteousness and clean living that they can have a great and productive mission. ... Give me a young man who has kept himself morally clean and has faithfully attended his Church meetings. Give me a young man who has magnified his priesthood and has earned the Duty to God Award and is an Eagle Scout. Give me a young man who is a seminary graduate and has a burning testimony of the Book of Mormon. Give me such a young man, and I will give you a young man who can perform miracles for the Lord in the mission field and throughout his life” (President Ezra Taft Benson *Ensign*, May 1986, pp. 44–45).

-see also <https://www.lds.org/manual/aaronic-priesthood-manual-3/lesson-25-every-young-man-should-serve-a-mission?lang=eng>

Tip: Baptism Form on the Spot

Micah English suggested this tip: fill out baptism form on the spot when they say yes to commitment

Some Things I Would Do Better Were I Called on a Second Proselyting Mission

Here are some best practices, some of which I did well with, others I wish I would have focused more on:

Drop the rocks:::

If people aren't progressing, stop teaching them. Have faith that you'll find people who are ready.

Don't let people who have no intent of following the program keep you in drawn out debates or lessons or begging to join.

Don't spend time with dinners etc. which aren't contributing to the work directly.

If people are going on unrelated rants, make a distraction to get them off track, and get back in the correct track.

Follow up relentlessly with those who've allowed you to do so, but after several attempts, let them go. Many just say yes to get you off their case and aren't really interested.

Contacting:::

Didn't more time in planned contacting in public places where many people will walk by. Yes we speak to everyone in our path, and we tract neighborhoods knocking door to door, but we also should go to parking lots, malls, high density places to find people.

PMG:::

Rely on PMG scriptures to answer questions. If these passages aren't satisfying the answers of your people, they likely aren't people we need to focus on.

Have tabs to pages listing PMG references in your scriptures with brief descriptions of what is in that text.

Focus on learning those passages well.

Don't worry about chronological reading of text.

Companions:::

Be a bit flexible to get along with companions. Yes we want complete obedience, but we also don't want the spirit of contention.

Treasure your companions, value the fact that they're there at all, make a vested interest in what they're interested in. Have fun not only in the work, but for companions of that spirit, match them in a fun way they understand.

Investigators:::

Have a picture in the area book for each investigator.

Missionary Work to They That are Sick

The savior made this clear they that are sick need no physician. Our errand is to those who need us . We spend time with sinners.

Yes we can skateboard. We must protect our sheep but can in our ministry reach out to the lepers.
Yes we can have various music so long as it is edifying.
But great caution must be used and skill, not for the novice.

Appreciating Other Faiths

principally excerpts/highlights from <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>
-for official church doctrine see lds.org or ldsnewsroom.org or mormon.org

-Current church leaders words trump former church leaders' words

-When we come across something potentially offensive from what an LDS church leader has said, it's helpful to get a background knowledge about why they are saying what they are, and to get a general understanding of LDS doctrine and beliefs.

-“We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may” (Articles of Faith 1:11).

-“We can and should demonstrate respect toward those whose beliefs differ from ours.” Latter-day Saints accept all sincere believers as equals in the pursuit of faith and in the great work of serving humanity.” TSM current LDS church president see <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

- President Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the First Presidency, the highest governing body of the Church, declared: “We honor and respect sincere souls from all religions, no matter where or when they lived, who have loved God, even without having the fullness of the gospel. We lift our voices in gratitude for their selflessness and courage. We embrace them as brothers and sisters, children of our Heavenly Father. ... He hears the prayers of the humble and sincere of every nation, tongue, and people. He grants light to those who seek and honor Him and are willing to obey His commandments.” see <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-Krister Stendahl, emeritus Lutheran Bishop of Stockholm and professor emeritus of Harvard Divinity School, established three rules for religious understanding: (1) When you are trying to understand another religion, you should ask the adherents of that religion and not its enemies; (2) don't compare your best to their worst; and (3) leave room for “holy envy” by finding elements in other faiths to emulate. see <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-early Church apostle Orson F. Whitney, “God is using more than one people for the accomplishment of his great and marvelous work. The Latter-day Saints cannot do it all. It is too vast, too arduous, for any one people.” see <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-“[we] need not diminish the mandate of Christ to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” Therefore, it is necessary to maintain a separation between charitable efforts and doctrinal tenets, while at the same time-sharing mutual concern for those in need. People of good faith do not need to have the exact same beliefs in order to

accomplish great things in the service of their fellow human beings.” see

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-befriend those different than you. Jesus spent time with people who had different values than himself. He knew that was part of being one of God’s people, that you live “in but not of the world”. Among all types of people, but not breaking our agreements with the Lord on how we will eat, sleep, etc. Jesus spoke of a man who helped another wounded on a roadside, the good Samaritan, who helped the man on the dangerous road despite the possibility of getting shanked.

-we’re counseled to choose positive influences for who we will have as our closest friends. People who will help us live our standards, not mock us or try to persuade us to do things we do not believe in doing.

-The Holy Ghost has a distinct role of warning us of danger when such is present, rely on that guidance (President Packer recent General Conference Address 2013?)

– Joseph Smith taught that only those who persist in rejecting truth will remain in hell. All the rest will be lifted out of hell. This is one of the most liberal views on salvation ever taught.

-The following is a set of ideas presented in “The Crucible of Doubt” by Teryl Givens about people not in the church who do great work for God, that even during the great apostasy, though priesthood was lost, the church sort of hid in the wilderness, believers existed and tried to worship God and find truth even though they didn’t have the priesthood: Joseph Smith said that the restoration of the church was that it was coming forth “out of the wilderness”. In the book of revelation, it says the dragon chased the woman into the wilderness where it hid for a time. This was like the apostasy. The Catholic church held onto the doctrine that the living and the dead have lots to do with each other. The



doctrine of purgatory is like our doctrine of the spirit world. The church came out of the wilderness. It didn’t disappear entirely, God still blessed people and revealed things to people, just the ordinances and priesthood authority were gone. Yes, we have more than them, and what we have is essential, and all will eventually hear it. But what they have is still important. God didn’t take a nap for 1600 years, he was always reaching out to those who would listen. Like Elijah hiding in the cave. Like wandering Mormon. D&C 49:8 8 “Wherefore, I will that all men shall repent, for all are under sin, except those which I have reserved unto myself, holy men that ye know not of.” These holy men may well have been the reformers and good people of the dark ages, who didn’t enjoy formal church organization authority and doctrine, but who tried to uphold the teachings of the scriptures in public and in private. JST Rev. 12:4-5, 7: “4 And there appeared another sign in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman which was delivered, ready to devour her child after it was born. 5 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore years. 7 And the dragon prevailed not against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.” This suggests that the church wasn’t entirely extinguished, that though the authority and ordinances needed for salvation were gone, good people who loved the scriptures were still blessed. Consider the inspiring poetry, art, and music God spoke to them through, which still speaks to us. Its unwise to tell others that the restored church has a monopoly on truth.

Some Thoughts on joining the church:

One said, “On deciding to join the church, leaving behind the Roman Catholic church, holding back due to logical questions, and not being able to just follow feelings since one can even has good feelings while reading parts of the Quran”

My brief response:

... the Quran has lots of truth, that's why much of it feels good, it just doesn't have the complete perspective & authority to accompany that complete perspective.

as for logical issues with the church, that's hard because often the logic of man is foolish compared to the wisdom of god, and since his ways are higher than ours, that can get tricky. but a good through investigation is defiantly the way to go; from what I understand, Brigham Young, the prototypical member of the church, took 2 years to investigate it before he concluded it was correct to join. Here's a hint, he based those 2 years investigation by studying the book of Mormon.

It sounds like you have a long journey of searching. god bless you brother for wanting to find answers to important questions. I am a member of the church and have had many of my questions answered. the ones that aren't answered I've been blessed with comfort about, so i can handle being in the church without every question being fully flushed out.

I studied biblical Hebrew at BYU for the past 5 years and found many delightful things from doing that. the dead sea scrolls are also an excellent resource, and have many things supporting the church in them. if you want to research this, look at publications by Donald parry, he is a church member and is on the international council of interpreters working on translating the dead sea scrolls, he teaches Hebrew at BYU, and he adores the old and new testament.

Also regarding the Roman Catholic church and the latter-day saints of Jesus Christ church, read James E Talmage chapter 40 I think it is, in his book 'Jesus the Christ', the chapter is called 'the long night of apostacy', it's about the loss of priesthood authority in the early church, and the need for it to be restored in a modern church by Jesus and the original apostles, which is what we see in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints. You can read that text free by searching for it at churchofjesuschrist.org

[Carrying the Gospel to the "Heathen" Nations](#)

The scriptures speak of heathen nations. Elder Orson Pratt defined the Gentile nations as those who embrace Christendom, and heathen nations as those which have not accepted Christianity (see pg. 18-19 of Prophecy Key to The Future by Duane S Crowther). The D&C 90: 9-12 says that the gospel will go to the Gentiles then Israel then the heathen nations, "That through your administration they may receive the word, and through their administration the word may go forth unto the ends of the earth, unto the Gentiles first, and then, behold, and lo, they shall turn unto the Jews. **10** And then cometh the day when the arm of the Lord shall be revealed in power in convincing the nations, the heathen nations, the house of Joseph, of the gospel of their salvation. **11** For it shall come to pass in that day, that every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own language, through those who are ordained unto this power, by the administration of the Comforter, shed forth upon them for the revelation of Jesus Christ. **12** And now, verily I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment that you continue in the ministry and presidency."



The gentile gathering is almost complete, the Jewish gathering is in preparatory stages as the Jews gather to Jerusalem to later hear the fullness of the gospel. Nations which currently we have but little influence in are yet to come. The Arabs, the Chinese, the Indian, these are a few examples of nations which we have yet to reach by and large. See Crowther's book 'Prophecy Key to the Future' or my notes on such for words of the prophets indicating that we will indeed preach to these nations and find great spiritual harvest there.

Perhaps you could say some of these nations aren't the blood of Israel, but rather that of Ishmael or some other unrelated group. Yet the truth stands that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the WORLD, and that ALL people are beloved to God. Further, we don't know where the blood of Israel has scattered.

There was a great scattering, and we're seeing much of it being found in places before thought unlikely. It is the work of the saints to redeem the human race by proxy temple work, all the way back to Adam. This certainly includes those living afar off, and wherever temple work is, living work of preaching the gospel is soon to follow. Remember the prophecies of temples to dot the earth. We are already building a respectful reputation among Indian scholars, many of whom admire the contribution Joseph Smith has brought to the religious community, as reported by Teryl Givens in a lecture. Africa is currently fertile grounds for the growth of the gospel, and surely that will spread to the regions of Egypt and other eastern countries. How is and isn't the blood of Israel we know not.

Elder McConkie once said those who join the church are almost without exception the literal blood of Israel. There is also the doctrine of adoption, wherein when someone joins the church, their blood changes to include that of the blood of Israel, and they become inheritors of all promised to that household of faith. They come to know the true God, and worship him, and receive his true blessings. President Kimball suggested learning Chinese, and we might well learn Arabic, Hindi, and other languages of not only the European and American worlds, but of the eastern worlds as well, as the work of God, according to prophecy, grows to cover the earth.

President Spencer W. Kimball encouraged the saints to learn Chinese, foreseeing a great work to be done there.

[Give an Answer to EVERY Man](#)

(Picture source unknown)

“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:” (1 Peter 3:15)

Give an answer about your hope to EVERY man? Let's make a short list of who that could imply.

Yourself

The first person to teach is yourself. The first questions to answer are those of your own. Catalog your findings in some way which you'll be able to review them as time goes by, and use them as a resource in teaching others.

-your spouse (find nice ways to explain your religious views)

Children

Find ways they can understand. I cringe to see families who quickly read a few verses of scripture at the end of the day to their children without offering any explanations, they consider that their duty regarding the teaching of their children has been complete. Children aren't designed to be independent learners.

Neighbors

In America many from around the world are flocking, so our neighbor has expanded not only in number, but in type. The scripture says “give every man that asketh...” The “that asketh” portion is enlarged as our neighbors grow in number and type. Living in closer association with them means they are more likely to ask, and we are obligated by the Lord to answer. In this day of social media, ‘who is our neighbor’ becomes perfectly limitless.

Foreigners

Another passage says that the gospel will be preached to everyone in their own tongue.

With global instant communication, we don't even have to wait for people to move in next door to begin befriending them, which will lead to joy and opportunities to share our beliefs.

I hear some people complain that not all in the US are perfect at English. Who are we, as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to turn our backs on the increasingly large communities amongst us who are from a different land, and speak a native tongue which is not our own? It is our duty to carry the gospel to these persons as quickly as possible, and learning their languages will not only carry the gospel further to their hearts, but it will give them increased opportunities to embrace the gospel without having to wait for someone native to their own country who happens to have learned the gospel. When Christ asks “which of these was neighbor to

him”, will it be the person who isolated them because of their language, or the person who learned their language, and embraced them where they were instead of leaving them in isolation for 5 years waiting for them to learn the local language?

Learning a second or 3rd etc. language may be out of reach for some, but for many, especially given the advancements in educational technology and increased availability of literature, it isn't. Language learning can be scary, but the path of discipleship often is, especially when we aren't considering that God will help us immensely. Looking back, you may find it wasn't so hard as it appeared. Is it God or the Devil who wants you to be afraid? Give learning a try, and line upon line, precept upon precept, prayer after prayer, you can find success.

People of Other Faiths & Walks of Life

Do we understand the doctrines of the faiths of our neighbors so we can give them a holistic view of our faith in light of their faith? Joseph Smith told people not to leave behind what they have, but to come and see if we can add to what they have. We don't tear down their religion, but build on common ground. As you now see, you must learn not only your religion, but theirs.

The protestant, the Catholic, the Muslim, the atheist, the Buddhist, the capitalist, the communist, the working man, the business man, the political man, the list could go on and on. Suffice it to say that any of these could ask us a reason for our hope, and may God help us to prepare to answer each of them in a way they can understand. The restored gospel will appeal to any one of these people, as it is calculated to satisfy the human soul in all it's varieties.

May we understand what is important to each type of people, and to each individual person we meet, be it in person or through social media. Perhaps only when we have begun to ask them questions about who they are will they ask us questions of who we are. Remember the scripture which says speaking of the disciples' feelings about Christ, "we love him because he first loved us". The duty of a Christian is to 'first love them'. This just so happens to be a very delightful duty, and gives us permission to use much of our time to enjoy life with our neighbors. In the Book of Mormon, captain Moroni always speaks of the opposing team as "our brethren", never as "the enemy". He wipes out all of the "us and them" mentality by reminding us that we are all one big family. Most people who are willing to befriend others who are different than themselves at face value end up being shocked at just how similar they have been all along. Cultures vary, but core human traits feelings longings pains and all the other important things, are the same for all.

Family Mission Plan Example

Introduction:

Every family has a mission. Work together to discover this mission. Part of that mission will of course be spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Categories:

Memorize

Learn

Be Friendly

Pray

Finance

Memorize

1. The 10 commandments
2. The Beatitudes (9)
3. The Articles of Faith (13)
4. The "Doctrinal Mastery" Passages (100)
5. Learn these in another language also.

Learn

1. Scripture Stories (these serve stories)
2. Other Scripture Stories
3. The Commandments
4. Preach My Gospel: Passages
5. Find favorite scriptures

Be Friendly

1. Say hello to neighbors
2. Invite Neighbors to Play
3. Make time to be social

Pray

1. To be an example of a
2. To help people find the
3. For love
4. For faith
5. For your friends

Finance

1. Money to go on mission
2. Money for college
3. Purchase books
4. Create apparel etc. with gospel messages



as the primary resource for bedtime

& Scriptures

follower of Christ
gospel

[Angels to Buoy up the Servants of the Lord](#)

Marvel at what God is doing, and how he uses weak things like me to help in his work

In Holy Faith we do things which would be an impossible to accomplish alone; We do things knowing that if left to ourselves, we will fail, yet we do the things not thinking that we waste our time and failing but thinking that we succeed counting on relying on expecting waiting for the help of God and His Holy Angels and they do help us; they help us do the strange work of God, that work which so often defies logic and confounds the wise; his angels help us get places quickly when we've been engaged in doing the work of the Lord and needed to take flight in safety and the angels have helped us to complete assignments and shorter amount of time as we've been engaged in the Lord's work which takes up other parts of our time; We have many duties and God helps us get them all taken care of and do his work, a thing which could not be done by mere power of a mortal; Angels are helping us to have our needs to be met so that we can do this work; The work of the Lord takes many forms, and those feeling called to one should go there, and those feeling called to another department should go there. Our witness of miracles in the path of duty for Christ are so many that we can't begin to count them. Well did the Prophet Spencer W Kimball love the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour"

For more on angels, see Donald Parry's book "Angels" and Dwayne Crowther's book "Life Everlasting"

["Time Travel" - A Privilege and Cross of the Saviors](#)

Note: Literal Time Travel is impossible, I think even for God. It would alter the agency of man. Of course visions of past and future are possible, and God does know the end from the beginning. This essay is about helping others and putting yourself in their shoes, and the joy and sorrow that can entail.

Topics: missionary, friend, sing, salvation, sorrow, darkness, confusion, consecration, leader, stranger

There comes a point in the path of duty according to the holy law of consecration wherein you will be willing to relive the past of yourself or others, it being the present of others

-You will keep specific elements vague in most cases, but for the sake of those walking where you once walked, you will remember the sorrow, the joy, the discovery, confusion, every element, and you will celebrate their lives, celebrate where they are in the path of life, celebrate what they are feeling, embrace their struggle, and sing with them.

-You will disassociate these feelings with your personal life, but you will nonetheless travel into the place of the initiate once more to go this time as an assistant, but with them there you are none the less.

-You feel what they feel, you put aside the answers and allow yourself to embrace the struggle, for their sake. And with you, they will climb to salvation, though perhaps not without you.

-My name is Stranger. You used to be me. "Once I was a stranger." They took me in. Now I take you in.

-Don't question my faith because I'm willing to spend an hour as an angel with the lords who now suffer. What I do may seem strange to an outsider, but it may be the only means possible to reach a select few I've been called to find. Friendship is always the first step to brotherhood. Brotherhood is always the first step to Godhood. All this being said, let it be understood that we never no never break the laws of God. Though what we do in the rescue may break some stipulations and assumptions, it will never break the laws of God.

-When traveling time as described above, we do not need to excuse ourselves in bad behavior; we can travel cultures to reach those living therein, but we cannot partake of the sins thereof.

[Not Just a Servant, but a Friend: Ministering as The Fun Commandment](#)

We are learning in the church that ministering to others more often means being their friend than preaching to them. We show them how we are happy and satisfied human beings, and often leave it up to them to put 2 and 2 together and realize that we are Latter-day Saints ("hm that castle-like picture on their wall with the golden trumpeting angel on top, where have I seen that before?"). We show them that "this is me" and that "I am glad" and that "I love YOU" (you may be one of the few or only person in this world who does).

Living our religion at its core only entails 2 things: keeping the commandments of God, and cultivating a genuine love for fellow human beings. Do we really love people? Better yet, do we "like" people? In other words, do we just serve them because we should, or is it from a well of genuine concern for their happiness?

Do we share not only their burdens but their joys? We used to say as we home-taught, "if you need anything let me know, I'm here for you." But what we now say as we become more truly ministers is, "lets hang out just because I think you're neat!" In today's world I think the need is more often for a friend than for a slave. For example, instead of "let me know if I can do anything to help!" (Master says I must serve you. Tell me quickly so I can do it and be on my way. This isn't my ideal idea of an evening so keep it short.) go for "Will you play with me?" (I want you to be a part of my life. I understand the doctrine of Christ which says we are all brothers and sisters, and I find joy in finding common ground with you).

Further, my experience is that we must offer things rather than waiting for people to ask for things. In today's culture, we are very independent, and the concept of getting help from "an outsider" is very foreign to us. First of all, we're trying to not be outsiders. The word fellowship is interesting. At a university, the title fellow often connotes that you have significantly contributed to the organization of the field of your expertise. Perhaps when we become a fellow to our neighbors etc., we are contributing in a most significant way to their wellbeing. And the happy result is always that it brightens our own souls when we do this.

I also think we should ask others for help, even those we minister to. Allowing someone to serve you, even asking them to serve you, is a way of showing trust and love. People need to feel like they are useful in this world. They can be if you ask them to be. Many are laborers willing to help, wanting to help, waiting to help (Haha! a reference to "My Fair Lady" with Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn, an excellent missionary/charity movie), but they need help finding how to do that. Friends help each other.

Thou Shalt Party

Missionary work is often the most fun commandment. Its the permission to relax and have fun with friends. After all, if we have no friends, how will we share the gospel? If we don't have relationships with our children, how can we show them the gospel in action?

This doesn't mean we sit around all the time shooting the breeze. In fact, the Bruce R McConkie family did hardly any sporting aside from the occational hike. They bonded by working together, discussing the gospel, and so forth.

This being said, it seems clear that enjoying time with loved ones is par for the missionary course.

Here are some ideas for enjoying time with others:

1. Have picnics. This means the cost of the food is low. Further, if you live in a rural area, you can visit friends in town by picnicking in local parks.
2. Healthy snacks/treats. They're out there, you just have to find them and be willing to pay a bit more for them. It's worth it!
3. Free time to chat. You don't need constant games and activities. Shooting the breeze and walking around is quite fun, and children can always find ways to entertain themselves. As President Boyd K Packer famously said, "no one owes children entertainment." We simply can't keep up with the Jones on all things cool fun entertainment, so why even try? It's good to want your children to have fun, but you shouldn't break your back arranging that.
4. Restore wholesome dance. Dance is a dying breed. We are living in a famine of wholesome song and dance. Reviving these things can bring great joy.
5. Social media groups can be useful in finding likeminded individuals to associate with. This being said, we must always remember our other neighbors too. The ones we live by, the ones we work with, etc. And to the extent possible, those different than ourselves within reasonable limits (don't put yourself or your children in a situation with overwhelming temptation.)

A few more thoughts on befriending others:

-befriend those different than you. Travel from your planet to another' to investigate the alien species, to learn to love it and help it rise with you. Each person is like a different star in the cosmos, and yes! We can travel to them!

-Jesus spent time with people who had different values than himself. He knew that was part of being one of God's people, that you live "in but not of the world". Among all types of people, but not breaking our agreements with the Lord on how we will eat, sleep, etc. Jesus spoke of a man who helped another wounded on a roadside, the good Samaritan, who helped the man on the dangerous road despite the possibility of getting shanked.

-we're counseled to choose positive influences for who we will have as our closest friends. People who will help us live our standards, not mock us or try to persuade us to do things we do not believe in doing.

-The Holy Ghost has a distinct role of warning us of danger when such is present, rely on that guidance (President Packer recent General Conference Address 2013)

[The Need to Defend Truth by Elder Christofferson to Religious Educators – Lecture Notes](#)

Full text at: https://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/elder-christofferson-addresses-growing-need-defend-truth?cid=HP_TH-1-2-2018_dPFD_fMNWS_xLIDyM

– “It has always been important not only to teach but to defend truth, and in our time that need seems to be growing,”

-truth is unaffected by our preference or opinions or lobbying, it is a fixed reality

- moral relativism doesn't work if we are to have a just society; robbing isn't ok just because you believe it is or because you grew up in a group who thought it ok. Another example, is it right for a man to sexually harass a woman because he finds it in accordance with his personal standard of right and wrong?
- not judging has become an almost unchallengeable standard for our behavior, but we all make -judgements for ourselves and those around us
- teach the truth of moral concepts; what they are, how far they extend
- we prize truth on any subject from any source, but eternal truth we must obtain from God
- 56% of Americans say it is not needed to have religious belief to be a good person; God not a prerequisite for morality and being a good person; while it's true that atheists or non-religious persons are most often good people, we know good people aren't good without God; even if unaware, people have the light of Christ, and thus has a sense of right and wrong which we call conscience.

Technology to Tell the World of A Savior by Elder Stevenson – Lecture Notes

Scientific discoveries that "stagger the imagination," and further: "Discoveries latent with such potent power, either for the blessing or the destruction of human beings, as to make man's responsibility in controlling them the most gigantic ever placed in human hands. ... This age is fraught with limitless perils, as well as untold possibilities."

DAVID O. MCKAY

Risks Associated with New Technologies

- Wasted time
- Less face-to-face interaction
- Inappropriate content
- Idealized reality
- Debilitating comparisons

Throughout Every:
Nation, Kindred, Tongue, and People

PRINT	RADIO	TV	WEB	MOBILE APP	SOCIAL MEDIA
1830	1929	1949	1996	2007	2010

-President David O. McKay began speaking of things to come, things which would spread the knowledge of a Savior throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Listen to these prophetic words about scientific discoveries that “stagger the imagination” and further: “Discoveries latent with such potent power, either for the blessing or the destruction of human beings, as to make man’s responsibility in controlling them the most

gigantic ever placed in human hands. ... This age is fraught with limitless perils, as well as untold possibilities” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1966, 4).

-Spencer W. Kimball, who in 1974 described his vision of a day to come: “I believe that the Lord is anxious to put into our hands inventions of which we laymen have hardly had a glimpse” (“When the World Will Be Converted,” Ensign, Oct. 1974, 10).

-Speaking of competitive social status on social media sites: “But they measuring themselves ... and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12).

-First, LDS.org, established in 1996, which today receives over 24 million new visitors a year and over 1 million average visitors each week. Many members find curriculum for teaching and past general conference talks here. Second, Mormon.org, a website designed to introduce the gospel to our neighbors and friends who are not members of the Church. This site receives over 16 million unique visitors a year.

-Elder J. Devn Cornish recently provided timely counsel as well:

“We torture ourselves needlessly by competing and comparing. We falsely judge our self-worth by the things we do or don’t have and by the opinions of others. If we must compare, let us compare how we were in the past to how we are today—and even to how we want to be in the future” (“Am I Good Enough? Will I Make it?”

–“I believe the time has come for us as disciples of Christ to use these inspired tools appropriately and more effectively to testify of God the Eternal Father, His plan of happiness for His children, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world; to proclaim the reality of the Restoration of the gospel in the latter days; and to accomplish the Lord’s work” (Elder David A. Bednar, “To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood”).

-“Let each of us do our part to share our “knowledge of a Savior” to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The best way to do this is one step at a time and in a unique way that works best for you or your family. May each of you have the courage to blog, pin, like, share, post, friend, tweet, snap, and swipe up in a way that will glorify, honor, and respect the will of our loving Heavenly Father.”

Note: See also Elder David A Bednar’s address “To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood” where he encourages us to use social media to flood the earth with the gospel, rather than just a trickle.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/to-sweep-the-earth-as-with-a-flood?lang=eng>

Mission Oriented Finance

We must have as our chief objective to do missionary work. This is, as Joseph Smith taught, our greatest duty in life. This includes having children, and it includes going on full time proselyting missions. These things aren't horrendously expensive, but they do require maturity and sacrifice in budgeting and foresight. The scriptures denounce the pursuit of wealth, and insist that we focus rather on building zion, "Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich." (D&C 11:6-7). This theme is repeated throughout the scriptures.

Children are a key component of missionary work. We raise them and bring them up in the ways of Christ. They go on to do much more than we could have alone. They exponentially increase our outreach to the world in the cause of Christ. Children aren't as expensive as people think. They are if you live in restaurants etc., but God will provide if you humble yourself. There are some basic guidelines for how much square footage is typically considered reasonable for housing children in the foster care websites. It's all about bunk beds. When compared to our ancestors, we are truly living like kings. Lets not get too carried away with this, and point our resources toward missions rather than mansions.

The house is one of the greatest expenses, keeping people chained down for decades. If we live in modest houses instead which are sufficient for our needs but not elaborate, we can pay them off more quickly, and unchain ourselves so we are free to save for then go on full time proselyting missions.

If you find yourself in a position to serve a full time mission, finances at the ready etc., but you have not received a call, talk to your bishop and stake president. They can typically arrange some sort of mission for you. But if all else fails, you can up and move to some slums or something where your services will be needed. We must be anxiously engaged in a good cause, not waiting to be commanded in all things.

Homeschool: A Secret Missionary Weapon

This is one of the greatest missionary tools ever. You can keep your children at home, your missionary training center. We don't need to throw our children to the wolves, we can help them stand in holy places. We can be in but not of the world by schooling from home.

The movement to homeschool is growing swiftly, but the freedom to do so is also in great danger. Do it while you still can.

Custom design curriculum with religious themes which shine the gospel truths. There are curriculums which do this available for purchase at very reasonable prices, such as the Life School curriculum which my family has enjoyed using for several years (<https://www.lifeschoolk12.org>). To put it simply, public schools are militant socialist reeducation camps, and they intentionally remove the true religious history from education.

The academic and social benefits of homeschooling cannot be understated. They score higher on tests like the ACT and SAT, and they don't have a grade inferiority complex, but interact with adults more on a regular basis, so they can look anyone in the eye as they speak to them.

Kids don't need tons of friends. Siblings are the core friend group. There is no need to expose children to the corrupt attitudes and undisciplined nature of peers from your community. Academics can be relearned (sometimes), but the negative attitudes of peers are not so easily removed. Many cannot, and none should be compelled to, battle the atheistic culture of our time as children and youths. Kids really can and do thrive socially from a proper home education.

I've written much more on homeschooling in the recreation book under the education section, those interested will surely wish to review those materials.

Celebrating Religious Holidays

Children love holidays. They define calendars by them. They hope and yearn for them. What if we used them as powerful teaching tools? Throw out useless (pagan) holiday symbols and practices, and work toward religious celebrations.

Should we celebrate Jewish holidays? Most of them are biblical, and they point to the Messiah, so yes! Further, remembering and respecting the Jews is something we are commanded to do in the Book of Mormon.

The Pennsylvania Jewish Community Center had this helpful list of Jewish holidays with brief descriptions:

Shabbat

The day of rest and weekly observance of God's completion of creation.

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year—a holiday observed with festive meals and a day spent in prayer or quiet meditation.

Yom Kippur

The Jewish Day of Atonement—the most solemn day of the Jewish year. A day devoted to self-examination, and the chance to begin the New Year with a clean slate.

Sukkot

A celebration of the fall harvest, this holiday also commemorates the time when the Hebrews dwelt in the Sinai wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.

Shemini Atzeret

Literally the "8th day of assembly," this holiday marks the end of Sukkot with an annual prayer for rain.

Simchat Torah

The day marking the end and the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle.

Hanukkah

A festival celebrating liberation from oppression, freedom of worship, and finding light in the darkest of times.

Tu B'Shevat

The Jewish "New Year of the Trees," celebrated with observances that connect us to our environment and the natural world.

Purim

A day celebrating the saving of the Jews from a diabolical plot of destruction, as recounted in the Book of Esther.

Passover

A festival of freedom that marks the Hebrew exodus from Egypt long ago.

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)

The day Jews all over the world mourn the loss of six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust.

Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)

A day commemorating the soldiers who have fallen fighting for Israel's independence and defending its security.

Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)

This holiday celebrates the independence of the Modern State of Israel.

Lag B'Omer

The holiday that marks the 33rd day of the 49-day "Omer" period between Passover and Shavuot.

Shavuot

The celebration of the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people, also known as the Festival of First Fruits.

Tisha B'Av

An important fast day commemorating the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

Tu B'Av

A Jewish celebration of love.

(see <https://pjcc.org/jewish-life/jewish-holidays-explained/>)

Street Contacts: Talk to EVERYONE!

This essay is mainly directed toward full time proselyting missionaries, but it has some application to church members in general. We should be congenial and friendly toward everyone, and strike up conversations with strangers wherever possible, as these often lead to friendships, and missionary opportunities. Prophets have spoken of our duty to do this.

You might well draw a set of stairs, with the first being contacting new people, the next teaching people, and the last being baptizing. Without the bottom rung, you will never reach the top.

As a full-time missionary, you'll want to have both set aside time for contacting new people, and you'll want to have a policy of talking to whomever the Lord puts in your path (or sight).

My missionary trainer chastised me for talking to EVERYONE. He said to the mission president, "but President, he talks to *everyone!*" The wise mission President responded by just gazing back at the missionary. "Oh yeah" the Elder replied. This was precisely what the President had been teaching his missionaries to do! The D&C calls for missionaries to lift up their voices, and spare not! It says that missionaries cannot go amiss, to the north east south or west, that the field is while, already to harvest.

If you're not a full time missionary but still missionary minded, you'll want to smile and say hello to those you pass by. Where possible, you can be creative and brave to strike up conversations with people. Your circle of friends should always be expanding.

A wise mission president gave missionaries a promise that whenever an appointment would fall through, going to that destination would not have been in vain. He told them that if their appointment fell through, the next person they see would be who the Lord had in store for them. I saw this miraculously fulfilled many times on my mission.

Keep your contacts in order via the Area Book. These must be in good order. This is one of the primary duties of a missionary. Where possible, add a photograph to each entry. Area Books are increasingly electronic, but my understanding is that there is still no feature to add photos. As this is the case, missionaries can have a binder of pictures of investigators, aside from their electronic area books.

Find excuses to talk to your neighbors. Take interest in their pets. Ask them how to take care of a pet. Mutually enroll in youth sports. Enroll in local clubs. 'Clean out the freezer' and offer them food (or just bring

them food anyway). You can find a way, some way, somehow, and remember to pray for them by name. Look for a local phonebook or other directory to help you learn the names of non-member neighbors. Use the ward directory to learn the names of those in your ward.

Role Play

Role play is a very effective learning tool.

When people say they understand but they can't effectively teach it, they don't really understand it (or at least they won't be effective in putting that knowledge into use in the real world).

Use family home evening and other opportunities to role play.

Here are some things to role play:

Teaching lessons from preach my gospel.

Reciting scriptures.

Singing songs in groups and alone.

Responding to temptation, such as invitations to drugs, alcohol, unchastity, vandalism, obscenity, non-temple marriage, etc.

Inviting others to come to church, to come play, etc.

Members Working with Missionaries

Members attending lessons to investigators with missionaries can be helpful to build a bridge for the investigator to come to and join the church. The presence and added testimony of a local church member shows the investigator volumes about the church.

One precaution is that the members should not seek to dominate the teaching, or to overwhelm the investigators in any way. Missionaries are those set apart to lead in this work. Members may feel an investigator isn't ready for baptism, but that is not for them to decide.

Members should pray not just for missionaries to be lead to those ready for the truth, but that they themselves can be lead to them, at which point they can contact missionaries for assistance.

Converting Your Children: A Sacred Duty

Long has it been taught that raising children is key in missionary work.

Parents have a duty to teach the gospel to their children morning mid-day and night (see Leviticus).

This is one reason I advocate homeschool, so truth and the gospel can be freely mixed into all subjects, and not just at the end of the day.

Parents must be relentless in making their home a sanctuary of faith (see President Nelson's remarks at the priesthood session of the April 2021 General Conference)

Play is a Key:

Keep work at work, and make home time the most important time. Really! Don't go for the evening and weekend work unless you have no other choice. Don't be a finance/temporal success driven person.

May children adore their parents because their parents first adored them.

I have written of this further in my book on parenting.

For more on helping children, see my family studies, which have several sections devoted to both parenting methods, the importance of childbearing, and the role of parents in Gods plan.

Religious Community: Knowing Their

The religious community we don't have communities of religiously do is make these pocket subcommunities where to do this. Share your faith and make it. Many (most) will not share few might, so share your faith, and never

Use the gospel tools app to learn Say their names to them as you walk by. who moved to a strange new area. To purchased a yearbook from the year everyone as they passed in the halls. They didn't know who he was, but they soon did! Who can resist a friend? Peoples' names are what are most important to them.

If you struggle to remember names, write down the names you hear, practice them, associate them with something, learn personal details about the person, and make an effort to greet them several times until the name sticks. Someone has said that it is hard to pray for people whose names you do not know.



Names

have currently is our local wards. We committed people, so the best we can wherever we live. The church ward is testimony there boldly, as it is what you your convictions in your wards, but a stop building.

the names of everyone in your ward. I remember one account of a student help him get to know people there, he before, and said "hello _____" to

Visit & Comfort the Sick & Afflicted



Jesus went about doing good, and a good missionary will do the same throughout life. Here are some ideas:

The Just Serve website by the church lists local needed service projects.

Find a treatment center or mental hospital to volunteer at.

Find a food or homeless shelter to volunteer at.

Become a foster parent. Sometimes these children even need adopting.

Attendance of family reunions, family funerals, etc., are additional important ways that we serve each other.

The crucible of the Lord's way is the family. The family is where God expects you to do 99% of your ministering to others. Keep the doors open to children coming into your home, do not limit your family size. Do whatever you can to build the faith of your spouse and children. Do not keep your services and ambitions limited to those of your household, but have a plan to continually expound your household, and to reach out on the community and global levels, but these only as the most important work is taken of in the home. Several times in the D&C, early brethren, including Joseph Smith himself, were chastised for not having their families in order, for having many things out of place in their family structures, for neglecting the teaching of their children. I have written of this in further detail in my books on marriage, parenting, exaltation, etc.

Remember that there are many sick today emotionally, starved of social support and friends. Going to visit with others can be the connection which draws them back to the church, or motivates them to stay in the church.

[Give in the Lords Way: Not Panhandling](#)

While it is not to us to judge others for their poverty, or to say it is their fault and they deserve to be poor, it is also not our duty to give money to panhandlers. It is a common phenomenon for people to beg money on street corners, but this is not the Lords way. The Lords way is to teach others how to care for themselves, while giving small help during that process. The Lords way is not to just give people money. Naturally in times of crisis such as the death of a loved one, family members and friends may chip in to help fund unforeseen costs. But all responsible citizens should be saving reserves for such emergencies, and should have insurance where possible to help with unforeseen events. The Lords way is to pay tithes and offerings to the bishops storehouse, as it is the calling of the bishop to oversee the needs of the poor in his jouris diction. We know that the funds donated to the church do not go to any but those in need, and to build church facilities. No bishops are paid for their services, the church has a lay ministry of unpaid members. Only a small stipend is afforded those in life long callings in the high ranks of the church. Even full time young and senior missionaries are expected to fully fund their own missionary efforts.

See Elder Dallin H Oaks' book "The Lords Way" which gives more detail on this.



[Foreign Language Study for Missionary Work](#)

Many general authorities take the pains of studying foreign languages. Language study of spoken language and ancient language serves missionary purposes.

Ancient language study serves to access a more pure translation of scriptures, in languages such as Hebrew Greek Latin and German.

Ancient language also serves us to be equipped to work on genealogy, finding and reading records of old.

Studying modern language allows us to fulfil the prophecy in the D&C that the gospel would be brought to all nations in their own tongue.

We should pray for the gift of tongues in our pursuit of foreign language skills, and even language skills in our native language.

Those who sincerely embark in language study for the purpose of preaching the gospel see the Lords hand working clearly in their lives.

The number one key in foreign language study is reading scriptures, verse by verse, in your native and foreign language. Doing this, particularly with The Book of Mormon, opens the windows of heaven, giving the gift of tongues. The Preach My Gospel manual also has a chapter dedicated to foreign language study methods.

Refer to my other works on language for resources of key grammars, methods, charts, etc. to help in more language study.

Memorizing Scriptures



A Seventy came to visit a ward and listed on the board from memory scores of scriptures on obtaining a change of heart. I'll never forget that.

In addition to other suggested scriptures to memorize and those which are meaningful to you, memorizing scriptures from Preach My Gospel, and the Doctrinal Mastery list of 100 scriptures are particularly helpful.

In addition to using reference inserts, I recommend compiling PMG & DM scriptures all in one booklet for word-for-word memorization. I have such a booklet but cannot sell it for copyright reasons. Contact me for more information about such a resource.

I also recommend the amazing flashcard program Quizlet.com and the Quizlet app for memorizing these scriptures. These programs are free unless you want extra features. You can find PMG & DM decks I've compiled under the username quizrichardson at Quizlet.com. One benefit of Quizlet is that cards can be read aloud by the program. There is also a night mode on Quizlet (with the \$1/month subscription) to help soften the glow.

A few more words in favor of flashcards. Repetition is a proven key to both memorizing and understanding information. When in college I used to walk through the library with piles of flashcards for hours on end, and thereby made it through several foreign language classes which otherwise would have quickly overwhelmed me.

There is also an official church app for the doctrinal mastery scriptures which is quite helpful. There is also typically a set of flashcards available from church seminaries to learn key scriptures.

Another useful idea is to make audio recordings of lists of scriptures (from PMG, DM, or otherwise) which you wish to memorize. Audio can be used during a commute, during cleaning, gardening, exercising, etc.



The teachers time isn't more valuable than the hearers time. At work you get paid for your learning time too. You go sit down to hear someone teach, that's your time you're giving. The teacher's time and the hearer's time are both equally valuable.

It could be said that the teacher does take much more time to prepare than the learner, but we presume that the learner has been learning as well.

A good solution is that we all teach each other what we specialize in.

What of the many jobs in the church that are paid? Perhaps these lawyers builders etc. should be paid, just not the positions related to preaching such as missionaries, and ecclesiastical leaders. Perhaps the doctrine to be studied is that of *consecration*, that we should transition to the celestial order of Zion, and move on from our current systems.

What we are doing now isn't enough, that's why this is the ON-GOING restoration. We are trying to build the New Jerusalem, we aren't there yet.

It's not just about not getting wealthy, its any gain: the word the scripture uses is "gain." Any gain. Even making your name popular is dangerous as it can lead to gain. The righteous preacher always points the hearer to Christ and away from himself.

What if we do priestcraft then give away all the proceeds? We shouldn't do bad things, even if we have good intentions.

Cain: he brought an offering to the Lord as instructed by Satan. It wasn't the offering God had asked for. God didn't accept Cains offering. Cain became mad at God, this was Satan's plan to gain Cain.

Saul: he was commanded to kill all even the animals, but chose to save them instead to give to God, but was rebuked for this.

The scripture says that to obey is better than sacrifice. If we have a "great idea" for how to build God's kingdom, but that idea is contrary to God's laws, that idea is actually NOT a great idea.

What of General Authorities being paid? One D&C passage speaks of bishops being paid out of consecrated funds. (D&C 72, 42, 70, etc.) This is similar to the Levites who had their living expenses covered for operating the church. This is their stewardship: they consecrate all to the church, and are provided for in return. Bishops in the church are not paid, only those whose duties require full time consecration, and they receive only a modest living stipend.

It seems that the law of consecration will certainly be more fully implemented in the New Jerusalem / Zion. There will be a new economic system.

What of Seminary/Institute of Religion teachers being paid? It seems this mostly just happens in Utah. This is of interest as the scriptures say not to be paid for preaching. Perhaps missionary volunteers could fill these teaching roles rather than a small group having all the fun. I see no shortage of would-be volunteers for these positions.

This said, I'm not offended that the church does this differently than I might, I'm just expressing an opinion. The ministry of the church is largely a lay ministry, and it may be fine to have a small group of specially trained teachers. The hope for such teachers would be that their training is in the history and doctrines of the kingdom, not in fanciness and game show tricks.

What of selling gospel books? There does seem to be a difference between a book which has a religious theme but which is primarily academic work, and that of a book which is just preaching, or just analysis of scripture and prophets and gospel insights.

I feel that gospel writers can easily enough sell their work at cost rather than for profit. LeGrand Richards did this with *The Marvelous Work and a Wonder book*. Several have followed this pattern. Freely you received the Lord's thoughts on the gospel, freely share your thoughts on it. The scriptures teach us to share the gospel, then go back to work. Let's not limit deep gospel knowledge to the rich but impart freely to all regardless of their status.

On the other hand, some argue that a modest fee for one's research is appropriate. I can see this point of view, as one may be able to accomplish much more in their field of study if they aren't worrying about temporal affairs. This said, let us exercise utmost caution.

There is certainly something strange about the person who is paid to sit around reading scriptures all day, who then gets up and rebukes others for not studying the scriptures enough.

Government Schools are Priestcraft

See also the chapter "Priestcraft" in H Verlan Anderson's "The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil" book, where he shows how government schools fit the bill of priestcraft in many particulars. My notes on that are found in my volume on society.



More Areas We Could Avoid Bad Craft:

A friend recently pointed out to me that not only could we avoid gospel teaching for a living wage, but also government positions, and educators in general. A fascinating concept! The Book of Mormon does speak of

people all working, and in evenings etc. gathering to teach and learn, the teacher no better than the learner. In other words, the teachers (particularly the gospel teachers) still had a day job. Making these positions in religion government and education as service positions would clear us of the aspiring money chasers & profiteers. I know some of these aren't particularly high wage positions, but there seems to be a principle in this.

A Note of Concern about Asking for Money on Gospel Videos:

I'll keep the person I'm thinking of here anonymous to protect their identity as this is a sensitive topic which I have mixed feelings about:

She asks for money for giving her lecture series. The book of Mormon calls for us to give gospel teachings freely. I will say that she seems to be sincere and doing this for educational purposes rather than financial gain, but I do get a little uncomfortable whenever someone asks for money to fund their gospel study, even when they're doing the service of teaching what they learn. When someone wants to be paid for historical scholarship, I can appreciate that more when its not coupled with condemnation of prophets, emotional pleas to repent, and so forth. This is obviously a gospel lecture series more than an academic endeavor. I'm fine with her preaching her gospel, but am leery when she asks to be paid to do so. I'm not condemning her on this, but am raising a warning when I say there is danger whenever someone wants money for preaching the gospel.

[Resources for Teaching the Gospel](#)

Living Scriptures Movies: Cartoons of Book of Mormon Scriptures

Torch Lighters: Cartoons of heroes of the reformation, etc.

For a more detailed list of uplifting movies, see my book on recreation. See also the Zion Tube website by the Joseph Smith Foundation, which lists many suggestions categorized by "good, better, bt."

[Funny Missionary Memes by Mormonr.org](#)

my mission companion and I, after the third time running from rabid dogs

me n the boys fleeing the bookstore after
putting Book of Mormon's in the nonfiction,
self-help, and politics sections:



god restoring
a whole gospel
and church and
everything in
the last days



my minsitering





FAITH: UTAH

President Russell M. Nelson is now longest-living apostle in Latter-day Saint history

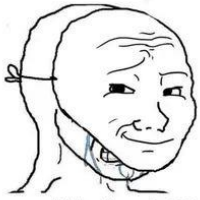
Church president will celebrate his 98th birthday on Sept. 9

By Trent Toone | ttoone@deseretnews.com | Aug 8, 2022, 6:39pm EDT

the three Nephites:

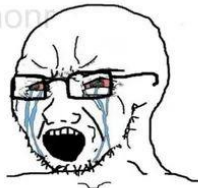


Average South American Missionaries:



We had 23 baptisms in one week once

@themormon



No fair! Our mission president told us 10 was the max we could do!

Average Eastern European Missionaries:



One time a member came to one of our meetings



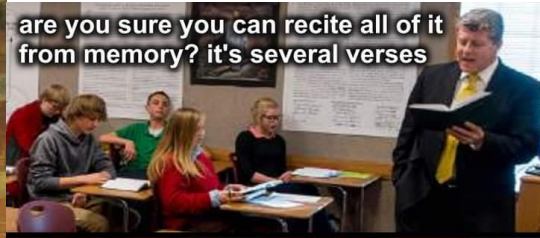
Nice

Mom introducing me to our ministering families once I turn 14 (she's my companion)

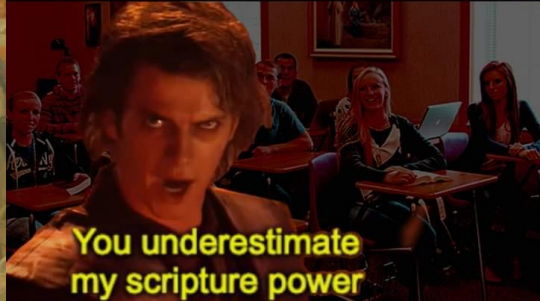




1 He told me that if I took the ^ablue pill, the story would end, and I would wake up in my bed and believe whatever I wanted to, but if I took the ^bred pill, he would show me how deep the rabbithole went.



are you sure you can recite all of it from memory? it's several verses



You underestimate my scripture power



Always has

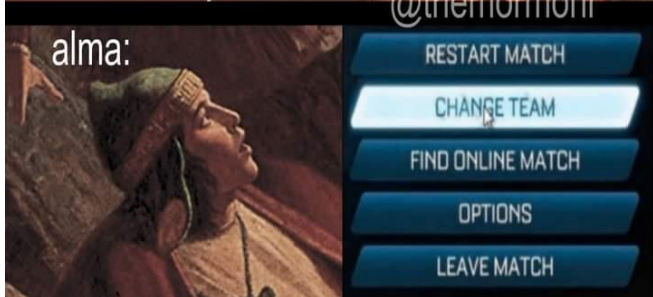
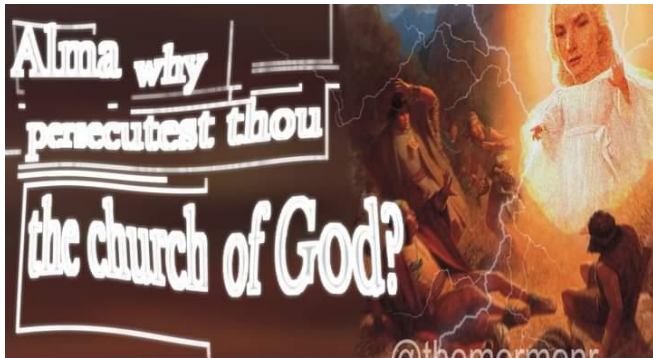
Wait, Jesus loves me?



how all the best missionary discussions start

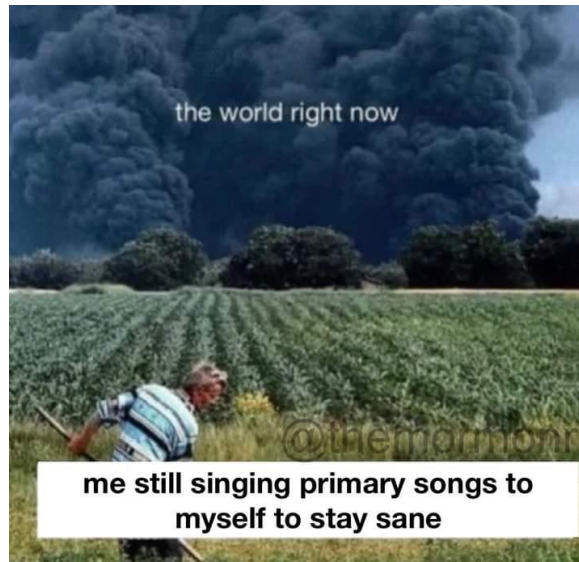


I don't believe you. Continue.



when you come to a "Bountiful" land by the sea with much fruit and also wild honey but your younger brother comes back from the mountain and starts to "construct" a ship to cross the waters





The Gift of Tongues by Ogden kraut – Book Highlights

(also in faith and education books)

<https://youtu.be/PK5xjR3YLmM>

(Many of these are quotes not just Kraut speaking)

When someone says something mean to you respond by silence it is the most powerful reply

The Latter-Day saints should be known as a people of excellent linguists as this is the spiritual gift promised to us

Anyone with the spirit of God can gain the gift of tongues

The many languages is a curse and it will be lifted

On the day of Pentecost they spoke in tongues they had not first learned

Brigham Young had the gift of tongues to speak to the Indians and this prevented much strife

Brigham said it is better to feed the Indians than to fight them

Joseph spoke the language of Adam and said that we will speak that language in Zion Brigham also spoke this language

Brigham and Heber Kimball could speak in the gift of tongues whenever they please but Joseph did caution against the overuse of it and that doctrine would not be taught in it

One young woman was about to be stolen by Indians and some of their company killed they were afraid she prayed and then she rose up with great joy and prophesied and spoken tongues in the native language of the Indians telling them that they were wicked in their desires to kill and steal and that they weren't the only

strangers people driven from their lands that we were too and that this land does not belong to them it all belongs to the great spirit and that the great spirit is watching them and will kill them if they harm them and they shared some food with the Indians and the Indians shook their hands and left them alone

When constraints to speak by the gift of tongues a person should do it where they will offend the spirit

If there's no interpreter don't use the gift of tongues except in private and to God

Never use the gift of tongues for a sign to people and don't call a congregation together to hear you speak in tongues

Using the gift of tongues can bring you comfort

Various prophecies and promises have been made with the gift of tongues

Heber (Grant's) mother had prophesied of Heber becoming an apostle in the church

When someone speaks in tongues another person will be impressed with the interpretation of that and they must stand and give it

One occasion is reported where someone new that someone in the congregation needed to stand and prophesy and called out for them to do it and eventually the person did it

An account is related on one who gave a very spirited and lengthy discourse by the gift of tongues then another stood and had the interpretation of it

When Faith is low the gifts of the Spirit Will be Low

Joseph said gifts of the Spirit are food for our spirits and we need them

Accounts are shared of women speaking in tongues

Note this is like what Brigham said that prophecy is not in office it's a gift and that Eliza snow had it etc. and as I recall Eliza snow spoken tongues as well

An account is shared of one who spoke in an Indian tongue to an Indian telling him to get baptized which he straightway did

And account is shared where two people of different languages Converse freely

An account is shared of a Hebrew scholar hearing a young simple person speak perfect Hebrew and that person was speaking in tongues and was not able to Converse in Hebrew with the scholar after this and did not even know what they said and it was assigned to The scholar

One young missionary was set apart that he would have the gift of tongues for his mission language he arrived to his mission I think it was Samoa he did not understand anything the people were saying he was then to get up and bear his testimony and he did so for 15 minutes and the perfect language of the people From that point on this young missionary was able to understand perfectly and speak perfectly the language

One young missionary they're trying to learn Dutch only knew a few sentences but when he had to bear his

testimony he was able to do that fluently and understand what the person was saying that he was talking to later the gift left

Then when he was called on to speak he was able to speak fluent Dutch again

Note I remember on my mission with my first companion he was surprised that I could speak the language and so was I

There's been a lot of cases of people in various denominations who think they can just go without any study and have a gift of tongue to a foreign land and they always fail

Only those who keep the gospel by repenting and being baptized into Christ Church have the right to the Holy Ghost and gift of tongues

There was an unusual exception case as seen in the New Testament and it was rare and for a specific purpose

Song sang in tongues, at times in the language of Adam.

One person had the gift of tongues but would not use it so it was taken from him and given to someone else

One pair of missionaries who could not speak Dutch went into a home the woman could understand English and the husband could not but then the husband spoke to them and the missionaries understood they replied in English and he understood and when the Dutchman spoke to one of the missionaries that missionary understood and the other did not and when the Dutchman spoke to the other missionary that missionary understood in the other did not

One group of pioneers needed instructions about a difficult journey they were about to make and later only spoke English but they understood his instructions at that moment of urgency

Sometimes a person will get the gift of tongues and speak and then the interpretation comes to them and they say the interpretation

Note I remember a recent account of an apostle speaking and the translator wasn't all that good but someone in the congregation helps the translator and afterwards come to find out that person in the congregation didn't even speak English but they still understood the apostle speak English and were able to help with the translation

Sometimes the devil gives people the gift of tongues and they say all men are foul things in that language One time somebody spoke Chinese this way and someone present who understood Chinese supported that it was very foul

Heber Kimball's 2nd wife had MANY spiritual gifts and experiences, prophecy, tongues, many things (note this is evidence she wasn't living in sin, righteous authorized polygamy isn't sinful, it brings a person closer to God and Gods gifts!)

By the second century gifts no longer continued in the church due to the apostasy

Where the gifts are not the kingdom is not

These gifts are how the saints become perfected

Speaks of one who walked 7 miles to church regularly

When speaking in tongues you might not know what you're saying, others might.
One case this happened in church, the man confessed his sins and didn't know it, others did know it.

It's sin to dance among the wicked

If you don't have gifts of the spirit go look for the gospel because you don't have it

As with the early Christian church so with the LDS church, at first they had many gifts of the spirit, then they dwindled due to the dwindling faith
(Note this is strong evidence that we are NOT as righteous as the early church members!)

Spirits can speak many ideas at once
Says Orson Pratt

Kent Hovind on Godly ways to deal with Scoffers: A Bold Approach

These are notes I took on his 7th creation science seminar on questions and answers.

Proverbs 19:25 “Smite a scorner and the simple will beware.”

The philosophy of these professors is destroying people and we must stop them! We must show that their science is wrong.

When a scorner is punished he is made wise says Proverbs.

Proverbs 22:10 says “cast out the scorner and contention shall go out, yea, strife and reproach shall cease.”

In 1 Kings 18:26 Elijah made fun of the prophets of Baal.

Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, whited sepulchers. Matthew 23:27.

In Matthew 3:7 and Matthew 12:34 Jesus calls them evil, snakes, and vipers.

In Luke 13:31 Jesus calls Herod a Fox.

In acts 13:10 the apostle says “that child of the devil without enemy of all righteousness who perverts the ways of the Lord”

All throughout the Bible God calls people fools, brutish, simple, perverse, scorners, wicked, etc.

Yes we are allowed to use sarcasm with scoffers, we are just trying to be like our Heavenly Father.

(Sometimes you need to call it what it is.)

Kent Hovind on Not Wasting Time Preaching to Hardened Combative Atheists

These are notes I took on his 7th creation science seminar on questions and answers.

Most of the questions the scoffers are already answered and they're just trying to tie up your time.

Matthew 7:6 says “give not that which is holy unto dogs neither cast ye your pearls before swine.”

We don't have time to answer every skeptic. If you have land to plant a garden for your family and half of it is good soil the other half is rocky, you start with the good soil, and if you have extra time you can work on the rocky. Invest your time and energy where it might produce fruit.

If you're talking to an atheist who doesn't want to hear, you're wasting your time.

Note: I had to learn this lesson the hard way on my proselyting mission, I had some run-ins with some bashers, and I won the bash, but nothing really came of it. Going forward, I plan to use my time to teach those who actually want to be taught, and to the rest, just give brief messages of warning and testimony.