

A Study of Mormonism

With Steps to Recovery - Finding The Real Jesus

By Frank Codispoti | December 28, 2022

Preface

I think we can agree that it is important to take an open-minded clinical approach to research that's based upon facts you have personally and independently validated as true, and I encourage you to do just that. So, the question becomes, what is truth? Can truth be absolute?

Truth is defined as "*the belief that something has the attribute, quality, or characteristic of being in accord [or agrees] with fact or reality.*" Facts and reality are determined by what "is" vs. what "ought" to be. For example, the property of gravity "is". It's a physical law that can be scientifically and conclusively proven.

I think we can agree that determining facts and reality require indisputable evidence that supports a conclusion, and that conclusions are based upon the likelihood of something being true based upon deductive reasoning of available facts. Ultimately, through this process, we can find the truth. But is there such a thing as absolute truth?

Yes, absolute truth can be observed in many areas of science. Gravity for example is one of the four known fundamental forces of the universe. We can't live on Earth without it. The sun's gravity keeps Earth in orbit around it while maintaining us at a comfortable distance to enjoy the sun's light and warmth. It holds down our atmosphere along with the air we need to breathe. Gravity is literally what holds our world together.

So, can the principle as absolute truth exist in theology? Could there be one true God, or are there many gods? Does God exist in the first place? How would you arrive at the correct conclusion? Philosophical opinions are in abundance, and have led to the creation of cults, new religions, or variations of an existing religion by an influential and often charismatic leader.

The Judeo-Christian church's history started in 33 A.D. after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christian denominations like the Eastern and Western Orthodox churches maintain intrinsic Christian Biblical doctrines, but have elected to interject manmade creeds, rituals and practices not found in scripture.ⁱ On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a monk, and professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg, circulated his 95 theses or statements critiquing what he saw as teachings that led Christians astray.

Luther was responsible for what became the Protestant Reformation. Protestant Christian churches strictly adhere to mainstream canons of Christianity as they were originally taught during the time of Jesus. They acknowledge Judeo-Christian Bible, and recognize that there are no new prophets, prophecies, or revelations after the Apostolic period. Jesus himself said that "many false prophets will arise and will mislead many."ⁱⁱⁱ The Apostle Peter wrote that during their current time as well as in the future that "false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among

you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”ⁱⁱⁱ Joseph Smith Jr. is one of these false prophets. Remember, Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light.^{iv}

A Brief History of Mormonism

The year 1820 proved to be the real beginning of Joseph Smith Jr. and what the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints (LDS) believe was his “prophet’s call”. In that year, at 15 years of age, he was allegedly the recipient of a marvelous vision in which God the Father and God the Son materialized and spoke to young Smith as he piously prayed in a neighboring wood. The prophet records the incident in great detail in his book (*The Pearl of Great Price* Joseph Smith—History 1:1–25). He recounts that the two “personages” took a rather dim view of the Christian church, and for that matter of the world at large, announced that a restoration of true Christianity was needed, and that he, Joseph Smith Jr., had been chosen to launch the new dispensation:

“I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.....When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description,One of them spake unto me, callin me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him....I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right....and which I should join....I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt...” (*Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith-History 1:17-19)

During this same period Joseph Jr. was also becoming proficient in “Peep” stones. This was in part thanks to the traveling Magician who was looking for buried treasure with the help of his “Peep” stones. After time no treasure was found and the magician left town, but Smith had picked up his skills. And Joseph claim to use the “Peep” stones to locate some tools. Joseph acquired a reputation and was hired by Josiah Stool of Chenango county in New York State who heard about Joseph divining capabilities. Some of the details are recorded in *Pearl of Great Price* - Joseph Smith History:

In the year 1823 my father’s family met with a great affliction by the death of my eldest brother, Alvin. In the month of October 1825, I hired with an old gentleman by the name of Josiah Stool, who lived in Chenango county, State of New York. He had heard something of a silver mine having been opened by the Spaniards in Harmony, Susquehanna county, State of Pennsylvania; and had, previous to my hiring to him, been digging, in order if possible, to discover the mine. After I went to live with him, he took me with the rest of his hands to dig for the silver mine, at which I continued to work for nearly a month, without success in our undertaking, and finally I prevailed with the gentleman to cease digging after it. Hence arose the very prevalent story of my having been a money –digger. During the time that I was thus employed, I was put to board with a Mr. Isaac Hale, of that place; it was there I first saw my wife (his daughter), Emma Hale. On the 18th of January 1827 we were married, while I was yet employed in the service of Mr. Stool.....(Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:55-57)

Ideas regarding seer stones were likely taken from *The Magus* written by Francis Barrett and first published in 1801^v. Between about 1815 and 1840, the use of “Seer” stones was popular in New York,

Pennsylvania, and some surrounding areas. By the 1850s, usage had become less common and after 1880 they had virtually disappeared from the public conscience.

The primary use for the “Peep” or “Seer” stones was to find buried treasure, and Joseph used the brown Seer stone for this purpose. This stone was used by placing it at the bottom of a white top hat and using one’s hands to block light from coming in around the sides of the rim. When used in this manner, Joseph claimed that he could see things on the stone. Between approximately 1822 and 1827, Joseph worked in the company of several different groups digging on about 18 different properties in search of gold, silver, a chest of watches, and other treasures.^{vi} Joseph Smith was considered particularly skilled at the art, and received a relatively high wage for his skill. He was employed, by among others, Josiah Stowell.^{vii}

Although no treasure was found, Josiah was a believer in Joseph Smith Jr. and his abilities, and testified on his behalf when Smith who was brought to trial for these “Seer” activities by Josiah’s sons who felt that their father was being defrauded. The use of Seer and Peep stones and other magical objects to find missing items was against state laws in New York. According to the court records in 1826, when he was brought to trial for his usage of the Seer stones to try to find buried treasure, it was found that he often “knew all too well” where these objects were located.

Despite court records of Smith’s arrests for using Seer stones, Mormon historians have avoided every indication that Joseph Smith Jr. owned or used them. There are numerous Mormon church-based rebuttals suggesting Joseph Smith Jr. was not involved in any use of Seer stones or divination activities, and that these “stories” were contrived to discredit him. D. Michael Quinn’s book^{viii} confirms Smith’s use of them and includes photographs of actual Seer stones owned by Joseph Smith Jr.. It should be noted that D. Quinn was excommunicated from the LDS Church, in 1993, after refusing to keep silent about this and other unflattering research about Joseph Smith Jr. and the Mormons.

In 1823, when Joseph Smith Jr. was 18 years old, he claimed to meet the angel Nephi, later reported as named Moroni the glorified son of one Mormon, the one for whom the famous book of the name is entitled. Moroni is said to have appeared to Joseph three times, telling him to find Gold Plates on a hill in Palmyra, but he had to wait 4 years before taking them. Smith says that the angel sternly warned him not to show the plates to anybody.

Smith claims the angel Moroni delivered plates to him on September 22nd, 1827, when Joseph went to the hill called Cumorah in Palmyra New York as instructed by the angel. From 1827 to 1829 Joseph Smith was involved in translating the Gold Plates, which he said were written in “Reformed Egyptian”. Along with the Plates, Joseph received from the angel “Seer” stones, the Urim, the Thummim, and the breastplate which would allow him to translate the “Reformed Egyptian” into the Book of Mormon.

After Joseph Smith Jr. and Emma Hale eloped in fall of 1827 they returned to her parent’s home to retrieve her possessions. Her father Isaac Hale accused Joseph of stealing his daughter; Joseph asked for his forgiveness and promised to lead a more honest life. Isaac offered the couple a small house on his property.

Rather than helping on the farm, Joseph remained indoors. One day when his father-in-law stopped by the house to investigate, he found Joseph sitting at a table with a hat over his face uttering long Biblical

passages. He found his daughter Emma sitting behind a curtain writing down the words Joseph spoke. On the table in front of Joseph lay a square object concealed by a cloth. When Joseph removed his hat, Isaac could see the “Seer” stones were similar to the ones Joseph used to attempt to locate the buried “Spanish Treasure”.

Emma’s father Isaac demanded an explanation from his son-in-law. Joseph explained his vision of the angel in Palmyra, which alarmed him even more about their proceedings. Isaac asked to see the Gold Plates, and Joseph explained to him that for anybody but himself to look on the plates would mean certain death. Isaac felt certain there were no plates and Joseph was involved in an elaborate fraud.

One of Joseph’s supporters, Martin Harris, mortgaged his house to support the Golden Plates translation effort. Afterward, Harris’s wife, who considered Joseph Smith Jr. a fraud, left her husband. Martin Harris, claimed to have taken Smith’s “Reformed Egyptian” and its translation to Professor Charles Anton in New York City, and there received confirmation to the correct translation of the “Reformed Egyptian” on the Gold Plates. Joseph Smith Jr., quotes Martin Harris’s account in the *Pearl of Great Price*:

“I went to the city of New York, and presented the characters which had been translated, with the translation thereof, to Professor Charles Anthon, a gentleman celebrated for his literary attainments. Professor Anthon stated that the translation was correct, more so than any he had before seen translated from the Egyptian. I then showed him those which were not yet translated, and he said that they were Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic; and he said they were true characters.” (*Pearl of Great Price*...Joseph Smith-History 1: 64a)

On February 17, 1834, this claim by Martin Harris was strongly refuted by Professor Charles Anthon himself. Anton confirmed he met a “simple-hearted farmer who called upon him with a note from Dr. Mitchell requesting me to decipher” a paper^{ix}. He further comments that “I soon came to the conclusion that it was all a trick, perhaps a hoax.” Anthon saw the whole thing as means to cheat the farmer (Martin Harris) of his money:

“I received this morning your favor of the 9th instant, and lose no time in making a reply. The whole story about my having pronounced the Mormonite inscription to be "reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics" is perfectly false.... I began to regard it as part of a scheme to cheat the farmer of his money, and I communicated my suspicions to him, warning him to beware of rogues.”

[\(continue reading his letter...\)](#)

Despite this opposition to the claim that Joseph Smith Jr. translated “Reformed Egyptian” from Gold Plates that no one else saw, he writes this alleged statement coming from God in *Documents and Covenants*:

“Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr. and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments....And having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon....to lay the foundation of this church, and bring it forth out of obscurity....the

only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased...” (Doctrine and Covenants 1:17,29,30)

In the Summer of 1828 Emma gave birth to a son who died a few hours later and led her to depression. After this, Oliver Cowdery replaced Emma as scribe, and in 1830, the plate translation work was finally completed. Joseph Smith Jr. was now 24 years old. The Book of Mormon totaled 275,000 words. Once the translation was complete, Smith claimed the angel Moroni took the Golden-Plates back to heaven. The Book of Mormon was sent to the Palmyra printers on March 25th, 1830, and placed on sale in the Palmyra Bookstores. The Rochester Newspapers reviewed the book under the headlines: “Blasphemy”!

Joseph Smith Jr started his first congregation after the Book of Mormon was published. His first converts to baptize in Lake Seneca included his parents and brothers. Joseph and Emma traveled back to her parents' neighborhood in the Susquehanna Valley where they made some converts. But they did not convert any of his former associates in treasure-hunting. Joseph's father-in-law, Isaac Hale, thought that Joseph was the same charlatan as before and never converted. With the encouragement of the locals, Joseph was once more put on trial on the charge of "disorderly conduct" by a local Presbyterian minister. After the trial, Joseph and Emma left the Susquehanna Valley where she never saw her parents again.

By the early fall of 1830 Joseph had a holdout who had still not joined his church – his wife Emma. No one knows why Emma refused to join Joseph's church, or whether she believed in the existence of the Golden Plates or the translation. It was obviously embarrassing for Joseph to be proselytizing for his new church while he was unable to win the soul of his own wife. Under considerable pressure from Joseph, the original recorder of the Book of Mormon's first words finally became a Mormon herself.^x

The membership of the Mormon church significantly increased in 1831 when a preacher in Kirtland, Ohio, converted and took his entire congregation with him into the Mormons. The church in Kirtland grew so rapidly that it became the largest center of Mormons in the country. Joseph and his elders moved the headquarters of the new national church to Kirtland where Joseph exerted a tight control over his rapidly expanding movement. Joseph announced new policies for the church as revelations which he claimed to receive directly from God.

The church split up due to disagreements over polygamy and pedophilia which was widely practiced in the Mormon Church. Several of Brigham Young's 55 wives were as young as 15, and Joseph Smith's 26th wife had been 14 at the time they were “sealed for eternity.” Many of the older wives of Mormon patriarchs were also concurrently married to more than one living husband, which also struck onlookers as sacrilegious.

Hostility over this practice was a major driver of the Mormon expansion westward. Practitioners fled to the remote territory they called Deseret, where they could continue in peace. By the end of the 1880s, as it became obvious that Deseret was being organized into the State of Utah, then-Mormon President Woodruff had a revelation from God to abandon plural marriage “in obedience to the law of the land.”

Not every Mormon accepted Woodruff's revelation. To this day, several splinter factions operate more or less underground and adhere closely to the old polygamist ways. The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ still exists today, despite its leader, Warren Jeffs, being sentenced to life in prison in 2011 for

sexually assaulting two minors, one of whom was 11 when she was sealed to Jeffs who was then 49 years old.

When the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was formally organized in New York in 1830, it professed the highest of goals: to teach and promote their version of the Gospel of Jesus. From the very start of Mormon history, however, LDS church members found themselves involved in one violent confrontation after another with their neighbors, whom they referred to as “gentiles.” It wasn’t long before the first church adherents had to move their group several times.

The Mormon Wars, otherwise known as the Utah War or Mormon rebellion, occurred from March 1857 to July 1858. Tensions between followers of the Latter-Day Saint movement (Mormons) and Protestant Americans had simmered for two decades, including intense violent conflicts led by Rice Atchison as the militia general in the 1838 Mormon War (a.k.a. Missouri Mormon War). This conflict resulted in the death Joseph Smith Jr. in 1844. The Illinois Mormon War from 1844-1846 resulted in the Mormon Exodus to the Utah Territory under the leadership of Brigham Young who took over for Smith upon his death.^{xi}

These violent conflicts stem from a largely repeating pattern where LDS members form an insular community somewhere; buy and sell principally with each other, dominate the local economy, and the political scene. Then this is followed by harassment and violence from the area’s prior residents who disagreed to Mormon doctrines and rampant polygamy. This led to guerrilla warfare, which led to the expulsion of the Mormons to a new territory where it all starts all over again. Eventually they finally settled in the territory that became the state of Utah.^{xii}

The LDS church considers the Judeo-Christian Bible subordinate to their written doctrines which they consider “authorized scripture inspired by God” based upon claims that Joseph Smith Jr. was a prophet:

They consider the King James Bible as only part of the word of God as it is “*correctly translated*”, and have added “The Doctrine of Covenants”, the “Pearl of Great Price”, and the “Book of Mormon” to the canon of what they consider “*authorized scripture*”. (*Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* Article 8 - The Reorganized Church only accepts the “Book of Mormon” to be “authorized scripture”.)

The LDS church also recognizes the continuation Joseph Smith Jr.’s prophetic mantle to his successors, including Brigham Young, and succeeding presidents of the LDS. The Bible is recognized as God’s word, but with the caveat, “As far as it is translated correctly”, which de-facto subordinates it to other Mormon “scripture” with no translation questions.

So according to them, every succeeding LDS president is considered a prophet and able to modify scripture to suit themselves. The Mormon church also concludes that their “Doctrine of Covenants”, the “Pearl of Great Price”, the “Book of Mormon” and their prophetic revelations supersede the Bible because:

“Who knows that even one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution, so as to convey the same sense now that it did in the original?” (*Orson Pratt’s Works*, 1891 Pg. 218), and

“We believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God” (*Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* Article 8)

The Mormon publication called the *Doctrine and Covenants* is supposed to be a record of 138 new revelations received by Joseph Smith Jr supposedly from God revealing some of Mormonism’s distinctive doctrines such as baptism for the dead and celestial marriage.

The Book of Mormon claims the correct translation of the Bible is impossible since the Catholic Church has taken away the word of God:

“...many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. And all his have they taken away. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord.” (1 Nephi 13:26b,27)

The Mormon Church has always held the position that they alone represent true Christianity. Their leaders have consistently taught that after the death of the apostles, true Christianity fell into complete apostasy, making it necessary for a “restoration.” Mormon Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, on page 513 of his book *Mormon Doctrine*, writes, “Mormonism is Christianity; Christianity is Mormonism ... Mormons are true Christians.” In 1995 Mormon Apostle Dallin Oaks stated that the differences between “other Christian churches” and the LDS Church “explain why we send missionaries to other Christians” (*Ensign*, May 1995, 84).

Judeo-Christian Church History

The Bible and Christian church fathers confirm that special revelations ceased with the end of the New Testament. Anyone, including Joseph Smith Jr, or any LDS successor, who claim to have new visions, revelations, or inspired writings from God violate the biblically stated prohibition against such new teachings, and ignore the teachings of the church through the centuries. In other words, God said there would be no new revelations and that others would come claiming they had them:

In Revelation 22:18-19 Jesus said, “*I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.*”; and

Jesus warned us by saying to His disciples: Luke 17:1-2 that: “*It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to one through whom they come! It is better for him if a millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea, than that he may cause one of these little ones to sin.*”; and

In Matthew 24:23-24 Jesus warned: “*Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*”

According to Jesus Himself, Joseph Smith Jr. was not a prophet, nor have any of his successors been prophets. According to statements made by in the Judeo-Christian Bible that anyone can plainly read for themselves, God has not inspired any additional revelations beyond what’s written in the Judeo-

Christian Bible. For the past 21 centuries the Christian church has recognized no inspired writings later than the apostolic period because, as Jesus Himself said, there wouldn't be any.^{xiii}

With that said, do you believe that Joseph Smith's claims that his revelations were really given to him by God? At this point, it seems more likely that Joseph Smith Jr. wasn't a 15-year-old prophet, but a fraud.

Let's recap:

1. Smith claims to have seen a vision of God the Father and Son, then later, an angel names Moroni who gives him Golden Plates. He alone saw the vision and the Plates are never seen by anyone other than Smith. Then he claims the angel Moroni took them back to heaven.
2. Joseph Smith Jr had a long history in the occult using divinations and Seer stones to find things that were never found except for his tools which he likely knew where they were.
3. Isaac Hale, Joseph Smith's father-in-law, considered Smith to be a fraud. and saw him using the Seer stones while dictating the Book of Mormon to his wife from behind a curtain. She never saw the Plates and neither did he.
4. Martin Harris's wife considered Smith to be a fraud and left her husband during a period of time when divorce was very uncommon unless it was under grave circumstances.
5. Martin Harris gets duped and claims the "Reformed Egyptian" Smith translated into the Book of Mormon, now considered an inspired canon, was confirmed by Professor Charles Anton. Anton profusely denies he ever verified anything other than a farmer getting scammed.
6. Emma Smith took six months to finally agree to be a convert to the Mormon Church after severe pressure from Smith. Was the first scribe of the Book of Mormon savvy to Smith's elaborate scheme then caved to pressure from her husband?
7. None of Joseph Smith's treasure hunting buddies joined the Mormon Church. Perhaps they knew his reputation best.
8. The Rochester Newspapers reviewed the book under the headlines: "Blasphemy!". That is because what was written was not Christian doctrine well recognized by the other area inhabitants.
9. This is the same Joseph Smith Jr. who had become proficient in "Peep" stone seeing and known for his divination skills thanks in part to a traveling Magician who was looking for buried treasure with the help of his "Peep" stones. The same one who married Emma Hale, was found guilty of "glass gazing" (peeping Tom) based upon the original court bill of 1826 charging of him this offense.^{xiv} Rev. Wesley P. Walters found documentation for this suit recently, in 1971 in the basement of the courthouse. One of the witnesses testifying against him was Isaac Hale, father of his wife Emma.¹¹
10. Also, Joseph Smith was subjected to approximately thirty criminal actions during his life. Another source reports that Smith was arrested at least 42 times, including in the states of New York, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois.

Mormons consider that Joseph Smith was chosen by God to usher in the restored gospel. Non-Mormons view him as having founded another church apart from Christianity. Mormons justify following Joseph Smith despite major character flaws by saying they don't expect a prophet to be perfect, and their church embodies the true gospel despite the human foibles of its leaders, members, and prophets alike. Non-Mormons ask how Mormons can justify following a leader who has historically displayed such questionable integrity in his words and deeds.^{xv}

How much does the personal character of your leaders matter in any organization, especially a church? When it comes to God, it matters plenty. According to 1 Timothy 3:8-13:

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery [hidden truth] of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not [malicious gossips] slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The Catholic church did not pollute the original manuscripts, they corrupted church governance and practices that were not Biblical. In 1517, Martin Luther in his 95 theses or statements critiqued what he saw as teachings that led Christians astray. Never were any essentials to the Christian covenants ever taken away. In fact, the Protestant Reformation firmly established and affirmed the practice of following what the Bible actually says.

There is more evidence for the Bible’s authenticity than for any literature of antiquity.^{xvi} The New Testament was written in first century A.D. by eye witnesses or those who heard the account from them. There are some 25,000 original early manuscripts in existence, almost 6,000 of which (many being only recognizable fragments) are Greek texts and the others being early translations of the Greek New Testament. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied not long after the originals.

The Old Testament has been more accurately transmitted to us than any other ancient writing of comparable age. The textual evidence is greater for both the Old and New Testaments than any other historically reliable ancient document. The ancient scribes were very meticulous. There were only 1,200 variant readings in 500 A.D.

The Masorites produced an official text in 500 A.D.. There are other versions that confirm the accuracy of the Masoretic Text:

- Samaritan Pentateuch: 400 B.C.
- Septuagint Greek: 280 B.C.
- Dead Sea Scrolls: 0 A.D.
- Latin Vulgate: 400 A.D.

Mormon Doctrine Compared to Judeo-Christianity

There is a vast difference between Mormon and Christian terminology and the associated doctrines. Ex-Mormons who have left the LDS church and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior can immediately recognize these deceptive tactics Mormons deploy. They use the same vocabulary as Christians when discussing subjects like salvation, grace, and atonement, but the meanings behind them are “miles apart.”

Millions of Mormons have left The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) when they were exposed to the real Jesus of the Judeo-Christian Bible. I have included analogies with my other research that highlights serious conflicts between Mormonism and Christianity.

The following table states Mormon doctrine based on Mormon publications considered as Mormon canon, as well as Mormon doctrinal references by Bruce R. McConkie from his book, "Mormon Doctrine" that was researched by Exmormonsforjesus.org. McConkie was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) from 1972 until his death.

The table below illustrates what Mormons are taught from their doctrines compared to scripture references supporting what the Judeo-Christian Bible actually teaches.

What Mormons Believe		What The Bible Teaches
Mormon Beliefs About The God(s)		
1	<p>There are many gods, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163) See also, "And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light," (Book of Abraham 4:3).</p> <p>"Three separate personages-Father, Son, and Holy Ghost-comprise the godhead...To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods." (Pgs.576-577) (Additional documentation: "Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith" by Joseph Fielding Smith, Pg.346; "Pearl Of Great Price": Abraham, Chapters 4 & 5; "Journal of Discourses", Vol.2, Pg.345 & Vol.7, Pg.333)</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 8:5-6 is taken out of context. Paul was referring to on earth people calling things gods, that there are many gods, lords.</p> <p>There's only one God, and in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth in six days. There are not many gods, but one God (Elohim which is the plural form), existing in three persons – Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8; 45:5; Genesis 1:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:5 Deut.4:39; Deut.6:4; 1 Sam.2:2; 1 Kings 8:60, 45:5, 6; Mark 12:32; James 2:19</p>
2	<p>God used to be a man on another planet, (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, p. 321; Joseph Smith, <i>Times and Seasons</i>, vol. 5, p. 613-614; Orson Pratt, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, vol. 2, p. 345; Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, vol. 7, p. 333).</p>	<p>God is eternal and is spirit, He does not have a physical body. Psalm 90:2; John 1:1 As spirit, God is invisible to our natural human eyes (Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17), but He is nevertheless a living being, active in our lives and on the earth (Joshua 3:10; Psalm 84:2) This means He is able to be omnipresent and is not limited by physical location.</p> <p>Anthropomorphism is "the attribution of human characteristics or behavior to a god, animal, or object." The Bible frequently utilizes this approach, ascribing human-like physical qualities to God. It mentions his eyes (2 Chronicles 16:9), mouth (Matthew 4:4), arm and hand (Psalm 89:13), and ear (Isaiah 59:1). This frequent use of anthropomorphism does not</p>

		imply that God has a physical body, but it enables us to better understand His character and actions by viewing them through a lens that makes sense to us.
3	God resides near a star called Kolob, (<i>Pearl of Great Price</i> , p. 34-35; <i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , p. 428).	God is Spirit only and omnipresent - meaning He is everywhere at all times. The Bible specifically teaches that God is both everywhere at once and transcendent (above all) or outside of His creation, but can be active in any situation. (Isaiah 57:15 ; Isaiah 40:12) God resides in heaven, not on any planet. Psalm 33:13-14 God exists outside our created world. Yet God is also everywhere within our world: Psalm 139:7-10
4	“In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 349)	God exists as one God manifested in three persons-Father, (Matthew 17:4-5) Son Jesus (a.k.a. The Word who created all things. (John 1:1-4), and the Holy Spirit (a.k.a. the Helper John 14:26).
5	“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...”(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 345) “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Spirit has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit...” (Doctrine and Covenants, 130:22)	God the Son, Jesus, was born of a virgin named Mary. The Holy Spirit overshadowed her (Luke 1:35) adding 23 chromosomes to her egg from which Jesus was born fully God, and fully man. God the Father is Spirit, and we worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24 Jesus the Son, was born fully God and fully man so he had flesh and bones. Luke 24:39
6	“God exists and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 7:238)	Yes God exists, but we need not strive (make efforts to achieve something) to be one with Him. Ephesians 2:8-9
7	“As man is, God once was as God is, man may become” (Prophet Lorenzo Snow, quoted in Milton R. Hunter, The Gospel Through the Ages, 105-106)	Humans don’t become gods. Isaiah 43:10 ; 44:6 , 8 ; 45:5 ; Genesis 1:1-3 ; 1 Timothy 2:5 Deut.4:39 ; Deut.6:4 ; 1 Sam.2:2 ; 1 Kings 8:60 , 45:5 , 6 ; Mark 12:32 ; James 2:19 Humans have an eternal spirit that was breathed into man when God created him. Genesis 2:7 God the Father is Spirit, never was a man, and we worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24 Jesus the Son, was born fully God and fully man so he had flesh and bones. Luke 24:39
8	“Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has	God the Father was never a child. He is eternal. Psalm 90:2 Jesus, God the Son John 1:1-2 , was born fully God and fully man (see #5) Jesus rose from the dead Matthew 28:6-7 and Acts 1:3 , then ascended into heaven Acts 1:9-11 to be re-

	arrived at the point where He now is” (Apostle Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, 1:123)	seated on the right hand of the Father. 1 Peter 3:22 ; Hebrews 12:2 ; Matthew 26:64
9	“Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the Eternal Father was once a mortal man who passed through a school of earth life similar to that through which we are now passing. He became God—an exalted being—through obedience to the same eternal Gospel truths that we are given opportunity today to obey” (Hunter, op. cit., 104)	These are some of the false prophets Jesus and Peter warned us about: Matthew 7:15, 24:11 ; Mark 13:22 ; 2 Peter 2:1
10	When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one his wives, with him. He helped to make and organized this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days! About whom holy men have written and spoken—He is our FATHER and our GOD, and the only God with whom we have to do” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 1:50)	Adam is not our father, but was the first man created by God and placed into the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:15 Adam had a flesh and blood human body and a spirit breathed into him by God Genesis 2:7 which is the spirit that all men have. God walked in the garden to have fellowship with Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:8 Adam only had one wife, Eve, in the garden with him. Genesis 2:18-23 Michael is an archangel created by God before creation occurred Job 38:4-7 and not God. Angels are ministering spirits to sent to those who will inherit salvation. Hebrews 1:13-14
Mormon Beliefs of Pre-existence		
	Everyone pre-existed via God and His wives procreating spirit babies: “Pre-existence is the term commonly used to describe the pre-mortal existence of the spirit children of God the Father...All men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity; as spirits they were the offspring of celestial parentage.” (Pg.589) (Additional documentation: “The Seer”, Pg.158 & 172; “Achieving A Celestial Marriage, Student Manual” 1976, 1992, Pg.132)	Only Christ pre-existed. Man is of this earth: “And he said unto them, ‘Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.’” (John 8:23 ; John 3:31) Our spirits do not come from the womb of a heavenly mother (Zech.12:1). The first man made Adam was living soul, the last Adam (referring to Jesus Christ) was made a quickening spirit (1 Cor.15:45-47). We become children of God at conversion (John 1:12) by adoption (Eph.1:5 ; Gal.4:5).
Priesthood (Aaronic & Melchizedek) / Authority		
11	Mormons believe they alone have the authority to baptize, preach the gospel, and perform ordinances through their priesthood (which is not offered to women & prior to 1978 the Negro race was also excluded): “What is a key?...It is the right to enjoy the blessing of communication with the heavens, and the privilege and authority to administer in the ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to preach the gospel of repentance,	The Aaronic (Levitical) priesthood was ended by the death of Christ when he became our High Priest (Heb.10:19-21). The book of Hebrews speaks of the priests (plural) that were (past tense), in contrast to the priest (singular) who is now a surety of a better covenant because He lives forever (Heb.7:11-28).

	<p>and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins...The keys of the kingdom are the power, right, and authority to preside over the kingdom of God on earth (which is the Church) and to direct all of its affairs...Every man ordained to any degree of the priesthood has this authority delegated to him..." (Bruce R. McConkie "Mormon Doctrine" Pgs.410-411; also see Pg.594)</p>	<p>Further, no prophet, apostle or priest in the Bible was ever a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a "type" of Christ (i.e. he was a king-priest) and this order belongs to Christ alone. Believers now have but one priest representing them and need no other: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim.2:5)</p> <p>All believers in Jesus Christ (no discrimination as to race or gender) are (not have) a "holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5), a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9), because they belong to King Jesus; the purpose of this priesthood is to offer up "spiritual sacrifices" and proclaim His praises. The authority for believers comes directly from Jesus (Matt.28:18-19, John 17:18-20).</p>
The Jesus Christ of Mormonism		
<p>12</p>	<p>Atonement of Christ (Reconciliation) Christ's death brought release from the grave and universal resurrection: "And thus the Lord says that because of the atonement...man is raised in immortality unto eternal life, even as many as would believe;...If there had been no atonement, temporal death would have remained forever, and there never would have been a resurrection. The body would have remained forever in the grave, and the spirit would have stayed in a spirit prison to all eternity." (Bruce R. McConkie, "Mormon Doctrine" Pg.63)</p> <p>Since Christ purchased their resurrection from the grave, they can then be saved through works: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." (Third Article of Faith)</p>	<p>The atonement of Christ is not just resurrection: "...but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." (Rom.5:11) It is the means by which God reconciles repentant man to Himself in and through the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ:</p> <p>"But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him...we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..." (Rom.5:8-10, 4:7-8; 2 Cor.5:19, 21)</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Jesus is the brother of Satan this is revealed in the Pearl of Great Price, Book of Moses 4:1-4 and affirmed by Brigham Young in the Journal of Discourses, 13:282)</p>	<p>Lucifer who is now called Satan after his fall from heaven Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18; Luke 10:18, is an archangel created by God before creation occurred Job 38:4-7 and not the brother of Jesus who is God the Son and the second person of the Trinity. Angels are ministering spirits to sent to those who will inherit salvation. Hebrews 1:13-14</p>

14	<p>Jesus also married Mary and Martha and the other Mary at Cana of Galilee, “Whereby he could see his seed, before he was crucified” (Apostle Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, 4:259; 2:82)</p>	<p>Unlike the fictional movie The Da Vinci Code, Jesus was never married. Jesus was an invited guest along with His disciples at the wedding of Cana and not the groom. John 2:1-2 Think about it, when a wedding is over, the groom does not go on a trip to Capernaum with His mother and disciples. John 2:12</p>
15	<p>An insufficient Savior: “Man may commit certain grievous sins-according to his light and knowledge-that will place him beyond the reach of the atoning blood of Christ. If then he would be saved, he must make sacrifice of his own life to atone-so far as in his power lies-for that sin, for the blood of Christ alone under certain circumstances will not avail.” (Pg.93) (Additional documentation: “Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, Pgs.133-134; “What the Mormons Think of Christ”, Pg.19-20) The spirit-brother of Lucifer (Pgs.164, 192-193). Also - “The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer...this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.” (“The Gospel Through the Ages” by Milton R. Hunter, Pg.15) Became “a God” by obedience: “By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in his pre-existent state.” (Pg.129) (Additional documentation: “The Gospel Through the Ages”, Milton R. Hunter, Pg.51)</p>	<p>The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin: “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7; Rom.5:8-9; Titus 2:14; Heb.9:14)</p> <p>Jesus created Lucifer so he could not have been his brother: “For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” (Col.1:16; John 1:3) Jesus has always been God (Ps.90:1-2; John 1:1; Phil.2:5-7; Col.2:9; Heb.13:8).</p> <p>Obviously, the Jesus of Mormonism is not the Jesus of Christianity. The Apostle Paul feared that some would be taken in those who preached “another Jesus”: “<i>But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.</i>” (2 Cor.11:3-4)</p>
Mormon Beliefs - The Holy Spirit		
16	<p>God is everywhere present; but this does not mean the actual person of any one member of the Godhead can be physically present in more than one place at one time....Admitting the personality of God, we are compelled to accept the fact of his materiality; indeed an immaterial being, under which meaningless name some have sought to designate the condition of God, cannot exist, for the very expression is a contradiction in terms. If God possesses a form,</p>	<p>God is omnipresent meaning He is present anywhere and everywhere and exists outside of time (a physical property He created Genesis 1:14) for He is present at all times. The Bible reveals that God can be both present to a person in a manifest manner (Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 57:15) and present in every situation in all of creation at any given time. (Psalm 33:13-14) Click here for more information.</p>

	that form is of necessity of definite proportions and therefore of limited extension in space. It is impossible for Him to occupy at one time more than one space of such limits (Articles of Faith, 42-43) This statement contradicts the doctrine of the Holy Ghost in Articles of faith 115 which states the Holy Spirit is an immaterial Spirit and yet God.	
Mormon Beliefs - The Trinity (Godhead)		
17	The Trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. “That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man,” (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 35).	God is one Deuteronomy 6:4 ; 1 Corinthians 8:4 ; Galatians 3:30 ; 1 Timothy 2:5 . Manifested in three persons - Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit referred to as the Trinity. These are not three separate Gods. Genesis 1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7 ; Isaiah 6:8, 48:16, 61:1 ; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19 ; 2 Corinthians 13:14
18	Father God (Elohim) is a resurrected man with a physical body. Christ (Jehovah) is a separate resurrected man with a physical body. The Holy Ghost is a separate man with a spiritual body. They are three totally separate and distinct gods: “Three glorified, exalted, and perfected personages comprise the Godhead or supreme presidency of the universe...Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time, but each has power and influence that is everywhere present. The oneness of the Gods is the same unity that should exist among the saints...” (Pg.319) (Additional documentation: “Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, Pg.1-2; D.& C. 130:22)	God is spirit and does not have a physical body (John 4:24). He is omnipresent, not merely His “power and influence” (Joshua 1:9 ; Psalms 139:7-8 ; Proverbs 15:3 ; Jeremiah 23:23-24).
Mormon Beliefs – Salvation, The Gospel, To Be Saved, Grace Alone		
19	“We believe that men shall be punished for their own sins and not for Adam’s transgression” (Article 2, Articles of Faith)	All men and women born after Adam and Eve inherited the sin of disobedience and rebellion against God committed in Genesis 3 . This original sin is passed through Adam’s seed to all mankind making everyone born inherently evil. This is why everyone needs a Savior and to accept Jesus as Lord John 14:6 so His sacrifice can remit the sins we commit as well as the sin we inherited from Adam. Romans 3:23, 5:14-16

20	<p>“As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements - ‘obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,’” (<i>Articles of Faith</i>, by James Talmage, p. 79).</p>	<p>This statement is opposite of what the Bible teaches. He (Jesus) who knew no sin took upon Himself our sin during the crucifixion 2 Corinthians 5:21 All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. Everyone needs to accept Jesus as Lord John 14:6 so His sacrifice can remit the sins we commit as well as the sin we inherited from Adam. Romans 3:23, 5:14-16 Jesus forgives us of all our sins past, present and future. 1 John 1:9; Ephesians 2:8-9</p>
21	<p>“One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation,” (<i>Miracle of Forgiveness</i>, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206).</p>	<p>Actually, Satan is using the Mormons to propound to man through their heretic teachings that people can be saved by anything else other than grace Ephesians 2:5, 2:8-9 and belief in Jesus Christ.</p>
22	<p>Good works are necessary for salvation (<i>Articles of Faith</i>, by James Talmage, p. 92)</p>	<p>Good works are exuded by those who have received salvation Revelation 3:8 and infilled with the Holy Spirit. It’s grace and faith in Jesus and not works. Ephesians 2:8-9</p>
23	<p>“We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do,” (2 Nephi 25:23).</p>	<p>It is not our works, but grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 Our good works are a biproduct of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we received when we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. 2 Corinthians 5:17</p>
24	<p>“We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel” (Article 3, Articles of Faith)</p>	<p>It is not by our works, but grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 Our good works are a result of us becoming a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17</p>
25	<p>The extent of the Atonement is universal, applying alike to all descendants of Adam. Even the unbeliever, the heaven and the child who dies before reaching the years of discretion all are redeemed by the Saviour’s self-sacrifice from the individual consequences of the fall...of the saved not all will be exalted to the higher glories. No one can be admitted to any order of glory, in short, no soul can be saved until Justice has been satisfied for violated law...In the kingdom of God there are numerous levels of gradations provided for those who are worthy of them (James Talmage, Articles of Faith, pp. 85,91)</p>	<p>There are no levels of heaven. Paul tells us that if we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 The atonement through Jesus Christ is universally applied to all who have accepted Him as Savior John 14:6 regardless of age. Children before reaching the year of accountability all inherently have sin that was imputed to them from Adam. Psalm 51:5 David writes “I was in sin when my mother conceived me”. Peter states in Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”</p> <p>However, Romans 1:20 states that “His attributes have been clearly seen” and children younger than the age of accountability have no</p>

		<p>understanding of His attributes and are unable to clearly see them. 1 John 2:2 states that Jesus Himself is the propitiation or satisfaction for the sins of the whole world. The fact that Christ's death was sufficient for all sin would allow the possibility of God's applying that payment to those who were never capable of believing or perceiving His attributes. Further confirmation of this is found in 2 Samuel 12:21-23 where David said after his baby son died "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." Children who die before the age of accountability will be in heaven with the Lord.</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>"I want you to tell them and tell all the great men of the earth, that the Latter-day Saints are to their redeemer...Believe in God, believe in Jesus and believe in Joseph his prophet, and Brigham his successor, and I add, If you will believe in your hearts and confess with your mouth Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph was a prophet, and the Brigham is his successor, you shall be saved in the kingdom of God.....</p> <p>No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the Celestial Kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, Junior as a passport to their entrance into the mansions where God and Christ are---I cannot there without his consent....He reigns there as supreme, a being in his sphere, capacity, calling, as God does in Heaven ...” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 6:229, 7:289)</p>	<p>There is only belief in the Judeo-Christian God alone who manifests as three persons, Father, Son Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. God sent His Son Jesus to die for the world. John 3:16 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 1 John 1:9 The LDS statement that includes anything else is false.</p> <p>Joseph Smith and any of his successors were NOT prophets and have deceived all the LDS followers. All you need is the real Jesus. In Matthew 24:23-24 Jesus warned: <i>“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”</i></p> <p>Paul tells us that if we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 Nothing stands in a born-again believers way to heaven.</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>That salvation is attained through obedience to the law and doing good works (Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W Kimball, page 206) Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, page 188, it says there is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God.</p>	<p>The only message to receive is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that in order to be saved from hell, you must accept Jesus as Lord and Savior alone. Romans 10:9-10 You are saved by grace through faith. Not from any works or obedience to any law. Ephesians 2:8-9 Romans 8:2 Joseph Smith has nothing to do with salvation. This is an LDS Church heretical teaching.</p>

28	<p>Mormon Church systems and doctrines: “The gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan of salvation. It embraces all the laws, principles, doctrines, rites, ordinances, acts, powers, authorities, and keys necessary to save and exalt men in the highest heaven hereafter...the gospel is concerned with those particular religious truths by conformity to which men can sanctify and cleanse their own souls...The true gospel of Jesus Christ was restored to earth in the last days through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith. It is found only in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (Pg.331-334)</p>	<p>The Greek word for gospel is “euangelizo” which simply means “good news” or “glad tidings”. The gospel is the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection as atonement for our sins. The gospel the Apostle Paul preached is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, and he gave a severe warning against those that preach “any other gospel”: <i>“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”</i> (Galatians 1:6-8)</p>
28	<p>There are three kinds of salvation - general, individual and exaltation (becoming a god). (1) Unconditional or general salvation, that which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, consists in the mere fact of being resurrected...(2) Conditional or individual salvation, that which comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience...(3) Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation...This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pgs.669-670)</p>	<p>There is only one kind of salvation, and it is conditioned solely on faith in Jesus Christ as one’s substitute for and savior from sin: “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us...” (1 Thess.5:9-10) <i>“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”</i> (Acts 4:12)</p>
30	<p>Here again, salvation by grace alone is thought to be mere resurrection from the grave: “...all men will come forth in the resurrection because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ...In this sense, the mere fact of resurrection is called salvation by grace alone.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.671)</p> <p>Further, the late Mormon Apostle Bruce McConkie labeled salvation by “grace alone without works” as the “second greatest heresy” of Christendom. (“What Think Ye of Salvation by Grace?” BYU Devotional Address, 1/10/84).</p>	<p>It is God’s redemptive mercy through Christ Jesus and is not conditioned upon man’s “works”: <i>“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”</i> (Eph.2:8-9; John 6:28-29; Rom.3:24-28,11:6; Gal.2:16, 21; Gal.5:4; Titus 3:5-7)</p>
Mormon Beliefs About Justification		

31	Justification is obtained by obedience to the law and personal works: “As with all other doctrines of salvation, justification is available because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, but it becomes operative in the life of an individual only on conditions of personal righteousness.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.408)	God’s free gift of justifying the believing sinner on the grounds of Christ’s death; denotes the act of pronouncing righteousness, “acquittal”: <i>“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”</i> (Rom.3:24 ; Rom.5:1, 9, 18)
Mormon Beliefs About Sin		
32	Specific acts, but not man’s basic nature: “A man sins when he violates his conscience, going contrary to light and knowledge-not the light and knowledge that has come to his neighbor, but that which has come to himself.” (Pg.735) “...modern Christendom has the false doctrine of original sin...the common view is that all men are tainted with sin and denied blessings because of Adam’s fall...Protestant views about so-called original sin are similar. The church of England, for instance, teaches that original sin is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man, that naturally is engendered (sic) of the offspring of Adam...” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.550)	We are in spiritual rebellion until conversion (Col.1:21-22). It is not just that we commit sins, but that we are born with a sin nature: “ <i>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.</i> ” (Eph.2:2-3 ; Rom.5:12 ; Ps.51:5)
Mormon Beliefs About Satan		
33	<p>“Satan and Jesus are brothers, and both offered competing plans of Salvation to the father on the great star Kolob, Jesus plan was accepted, and Lucifer’s rejected” Found in the Journal of Discourses 13:282.</p> <p>And the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying; That Satan, whom thou has commanded...came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.</p> <p>But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.” Pearl of Great Price, Moses 4:1-2</p>	<p>This statement is heretical. Jesus and Satan were never brothers. God is God and angels are angels. Satan opposes God’s only plan for salvation John 3:16 which comes through Jesus Christ. John 14:6 Lucifer who became Satan after his fall from heaven for conspiring to be worshiped as God was an archangel created by God. Jesus Christ is the second person of the triune God. Matthew 28:19 and was responsible for creation. John 1:1-3 God never made this statement to Moses. Moses did not command Satan. God’s only plan for salvation John 3:16 which comes through Jesus Christ. John 14:6</p>
Mormon Beliefs About Heaven		
34	In Mormon theology, there are three heavens; the <i>Telestial</i> , the <i>Terrestrial</i> , and the <i>Celestial</i> :	This Mormon concept of the three heavens is being kingdoms or degrees of glory is a distortion and misuse of 1 Cor.15:40-41 .

McConkie states that “Most adults” will go to the *Telestial* kingdom and that it is composed of “the endless hosts of people sensual, and devilish; who have chosen the vain philosophies of the world rather than accept the testimony of Jesus; who have been liars and thieves, sorcerers and adulterers, blasphemers, and murders” (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, 778)

The Second kingdom (the *Terrestrial*) will be inhabited by Christians who did not accept the Mormon message, Mormons who did not live up to their church’s requirements, and men of good will of other religions who rejected the revelations of the Latter-day Saints (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, 784)

The highest or *Celestial* heaven is itself divided into three levels. Only this highest level is godhood or the possession of a kingdom for one’s self and one’s family to be gained. This particular estate has as its prerequisite the candidate’s having been sealed by celestial marriage in a Mormon temple while upon the earth. Even in the celestial kingdom, godhood is a by slow progression, and in the end each who becomes a god will, with his family rule and populate a separate planet of his own.”

“All the kingdoms of glory-whether celestial, terrestrial, or telestial-are sometimes called heaven.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.348) The celestial kingdom is highest of the three and is gained by complete obedience to the Mormon gospel. There are also three degrees within the Celestial kingdom and marriage in a LDS temple is necessary to obtain the highest of that world (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pgs.116-117; also see D. & C. 132:20). The terrestrial kingdom is basically for: (A) those who accept the Mormon gospel in the spirit world through “temple ordinances” for the dead, yet a lack or some particular circumstance kept them from being heirs of the celestial kingdom; (B) honorable men of the earth who do not accept and live the Mormon

When Paul says that he went to the third heaven, [2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#) he means that he went to the place where God dwells – the third heaven. The first heaven refers to our sky where the clouds and atmosphere (aerial heavens) are located ([Deut.28:12](#); [Ps.147:8](#); [Acts 14:17](#); [James 5:18](#)). The second heaven is the universe where the sun, moon and stars rotate ([Gen.15:5](#), [Deut.1:10](#), [Isa.13:10](#)). The third heaven is the habitation (or throne) of God ([Isa.66:1](#)), the abode of angels ([Matt.18:10](#), [22:30](#)), and where all those who have received Christ will go ([Heb.9:15](#), [24](#), [12:22-23](#); [Rev.21:1-4](#), [10-27](#)). When a born-again believer in Jesus Christ dies, they are immediately in the presence of God in the third heaven. ([2 Corinthians 5:6-8](#))

There are only two abodes: everlasting punishment or life eternal ([Matt.25:31-46](#)). The only message to receive is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that in order to be saved from hell, you must accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. [Romans 10:9-10](#) You are saved by grace through faith. Not from any works. [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)

You don’t get to heaven by any means apart from Jesus Christ. Not through a celestial marriage, or by Joseph Smith. There are only two abodes: everlasting punishment in hell or life eternal in heaven ([Matt.25:31-46](#)).

Think of the three heavens like this: “The first we see by sight, the second we see by night, and the third we see by faith”.

	gospel law; and (C) “lukewarm” Mormons (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.784). The telestial kingdom is the lowest glory; the majority of all adults from the time of Adam will go here. They are people who “ have lived after the manner of the world; who have been carnal, sensual, and devilish...liars and thieves, sorcerers and adulterers, blasphemers and murderers...” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.778).	
Mormons Beliefs - Eternal Life/Exaltation		
35	Exaltation to the “Celestial kingdom” where they become a god: “Thus those who gain eternal life receive exaltation;...they overcome all things, have all power, and receive the fulness of the Father. They are gods.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.237) “That exaltation which the saints of all ages have so devoutly sought is godhood itself. Godhood is to have the character, possess the attributes, and enjoy the perfections which the Father has. It is to do what he does, have the powers resident in him, and live as he lives, having eternal increase.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.321) (Additional documentation: D.& C.132:19-21; “Articles of Faith, Pgs.430 and 530)	The word exaltation is not found in the Bible. Eternal life is knowing the only true God, not trying to become one: “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent.” (John 17:2-3) It suggests a new quality of life (Romans 2:7; 1 John 2:25); it is a gift of God through Jesus (Romans 6:23), and is for all Christians (1 John 5:12-13).
Mormon Beliefs About Mankind		
36	“Man is a spirit clothed with a tabernacle. The intelligent part of which was never created or made, but existed eternally-man was also in the beginning with God” (Joseph Fielding Smith, Progress of Man)	God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. Genesis 2:7 When someone accepts Jesus as Lord they are filled with the Holy Spirit of God making their bodies a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Mormon Beliefs About The Fall of Adam		
37	Adam and Eve were given two conflicting commandments and were supposed to fall. The first commandment was “to multiply and fill the earth with posterity” and the second was “not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Without breaking the second commandment they could not fulfill the first for they would remain immortal and in this state could not have children. (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon	Nowhere does it say that two immortal, innocent beings had to become mortal, sinful beings before they could have children. God told them when they were created to “be fruitful and multiply”. (Genesis 1:28) Disobeying God and knowing sin was not a prerequisite for having children. Because of Adam and Eve’s sin of disobedience, Jesus had to die for the sin nature we received through Adam. (2 Corinthians 5:21).

	<p>Doctrine” Pgs.268-269); also - “And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the Garden of Eden...and they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.” (Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 2:22-25)</p>	
Mormons Belief About Eschatology		
38	<p>Mormons believe in a literal second coming of Christ, the Mormons teach that at his return the Jews will have been gathered to Palestine, the Mormons will be miraculously gathered together in Missouri, and the judgment of the Lord will be poured out upon the earth everywhere except on old and new Jerusalem. (Doctrine and Covenants 29:9-11) and Article 10, Articles of Faith</p>	<p>There will be a second coming of Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 All who are dead in Christ (already a born-again believer) will rise from their graves and the living believers raptured up to Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 All who have not accepted Jesus as Lord will go through the tribulation period where they will have one final opportunity to be saved from hell through Jesus. Revelation 7:9, 14</p>
Mormons Belief About The Virgin Birth		
39	<p>When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who was the Father? He is the first of the human family; and when he took a tabernacle (Body), it was begotten by his Father in heaven, after the same manner as the tabernacles of Cain, Abel and the rest of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve; from the fruits of the earth, the first earthly tabernacles were originated by the Father and son in succession.....Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven” (Journal of Discourses, 1:50-51)</p> <p>“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by the same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father” (Teaching of Ezra Taft Benson, 7)</p>	<p>Jesus pre-existed creation. The Holy Spirit (God) added 23 chromosomes to Mary’s egg and Jesus was conceived - fully God and fully man. Matthew 1:20-21 Adam from the Garden of Eden was not God. God made him. Genesis 2:7</p> <p>God the Father was never a human being, but always eternally God. God is spirit, He does not have a physical body. Psalm 90:2; John 1:1 As spirit, God is invisible to our natural human eyes (Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17), but He is nevertheless a living being, active in our lives and on the earth (Joshua 3:10; Psalm 84:2) This means He is able to be omnipresent and is not limited by physical location. Jesus was born of a virgin</p> <p>God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. Genesis 2:7 When someone accepts Jesus as Lord they are filled with the Holy Spirit of God making their</p>

<p>God (as a resurrected, physical man) came to Mary as such and begat Jesus in the same manner as any other man on earth would: “God the Father is a perfected, glorified, holy Man, an immortal Personage. And Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being; he was born in the same personal, real, and literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father. There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived, and born in the normal and natural course of events, for he is the Son of God, and that designation means what it says.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.742) (Additional documentation: “Family Home Evening Manual, 1972, Pgs.125-126; Journal of Discourses, Vol.8, Pg.115)</p>	<p>bodies a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20</p> <p>Mary “was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt.1:18); and it is clear that she is still a virgin after she is “with child”: “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matt.1:23)</p>
<p>Mormons Belief About Living Prophets</p>	
<p>40 Any Latter-day Saint who denounces or opposes, whether actively or otherwise, any plan or doctrine advocated by the prophets, seers, and revelators of the Church is cultivation the spirit of apostasy...Lucifer...wins a great victory when he can get members of the Church to speak against their leaders and to do their own thinking... When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done. When they propose a plan—it is God’s plan. When they point the way, there is no other which is safe. When they give directions, it should mark the end of the controversy. (Improvement Era, June 1945, p. 354)</p>	<p>This is how cults operate. Threaten to excommunicate people from a false church. People need to accept and learn about the real Jesus. Judeo-Christians have one Bible, one orthodox doctrine. They understand that there are no new prophets; no new words or books to add to the Bible; that stumbling blocks consisting of false doctrines and prophets would come; and that Jesus warned us not to believe them. Revelation 22:18-19 ; Luke 17:1-2; Matthew 24:23-24</p> <p>People can read and understand the Bible for themselves without LDS heresies that add and or completely change what’s been written.</p>
<p>Mormon Beliefs About Baptism</p>	
<p>41 Only valid when performed by one holding the LDS priesthood and serves four purposes: “Baptism by immersion under the hands of a legal administrator, one empowered to bind on earth and seal in heaven, is the initiatory ordinance into the church...Baptism serves four purposes: (1) It is for the remission of sins... (2) It admits the repentant person to membership in the [LDS] Church and kingdom of God on earth... (3) It is the gate to the celestial kingdom of heaven... (4) It is the means whereby the door</p>	<p>Baptism is identifying with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom.6:3-4; Col.2:12). The emphasis is on the believer, not priesthood authority. The Apostle Paul said: “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...” (1 Cor.1:17) Two things are clear from this statement: One, Paul did not consider baptism necessary for salvation, and neither did Jesus himself when the thief addressed Jesus as Lord, and asked Jesus to remember Him. (Luke 23:41-43) Secondly, it is</p>

<p>to personal sanctification [sic] is opened...” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pgs.69-70)</p> <p>Baptism precedes receiving the Holy Ghost: “Following baptism in water, the bestowal of the Holy Ghost takes place by the laying on of hands of the elders.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.438)</p> <p>It is necessary for salvation: “As with other doctrines and ordinances, apostate substitutes of the real thing are found both among pagans and supposed Christians...Some of the churches of modern Christendom deny the necessity of baptism and talk in terms of salvation coming by the mere act of confessing Christ with one’s lips.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.72)</p>	<p>not part of “the gospel”. See Acts 10:43-48 where the Holy Ghost fell upon Cornelius and his household before they were baptized.</p>
<p>Mormon Belief About The Baptism of the Dead</p>	
<p>42 A vicarious proxy-labor performed in LDS temples to enable salvation for the dead (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.72-73). Under this topic of baptism for the dead, Joseph Smith said the following: “And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation...” (D.&C.128:15)</p> <p>Makes Mormons, in a limited sphere, a savior: “Thus in the mercy of God, His erring, mortal children, who have taken upon themselves the name of Christ on earth, may become, in a limited sphere, each a savior in the house of his fathers, by vicarious labor and sacrifice rendered in humility, and, as represented in the baptismal ordinance...” (“The Articles of Faith”, James E. Talmage, Pg.152)</p>	<p>There are no instructions or teaching on this found in the Bible. It is mentioned once in 1 Cor. 15:29, and this taken out of context, is the scripture Mormons use to make their claim for it. Taking the entire chapter of 1 Cor.15 in context, we can see that the Apostle Paul is talking about resurrection, in which some whom he was addressing, did not believe (vs.12). Evidently there were some who were baptizing for the dead, but Paul asks why they are bothering to do this “if the dead rise not at all.” Notice that he does not include himself in the practice, but says what shall they do...why are they then baptized for the dead? The Bible is clear that there will be no second chance beyond the grave, nor can we in any way benefit our dead. (Psalms 49:7-8; Proverbs 11:7; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Isaiah 38:18; John 8:21, 24; Hebrews 9:27).</p>
<p>Mormon Beliefs about Being Born Again</p>	
<p>43 Begins with baptism into the LDS church: “The second birth begins when men are baptized in water by a legal administrator; it is completed when they actually receive the companionship of the Holy Ghost...” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.101)</p>	<p>Being born again (or regenerated) is a necessity for entering the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 7). It is a supernatural act of God (John 1:13; 1 Peter 1:23) which gives eternal life to the one who believes in Jesus Christ. It contains no human element, nor does it lie within the range of human achievement; the result is literally</p>

		becoming a new person: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Mormons on The Cross of Christ		
44	The cross is avoided; you will not see it on any Mormon edifice because it is a symbol of violence and murder. You might hear them say: “If your child was brutally killed with a knife, would you wear that knife around your neck? Besides, we believe the actual atonement took place in the Garden of Gethsemane”: “The sectarian world falsely suppose that the climax of his torture and suffering was on the cross...yet the great pains were endured in the Garden of Gethsemane...It was there he underwent His greatest suffering for men, taking upon himself, as he did, their sins on condition of repentance.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine” Pg.555)	<p>The cross is a symbol of salvation and the power of God: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor.1:18)</p> <p>It is a symbol of peace, rather than violence, between God and repentant man: “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself...” (Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 2:13-16)</p> <p>The Apostle Paul gloried in the cross: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Galatians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 2:2)</p>

Summary

The LDS church recruits new members into their church. Many join not knowing that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) is not a Christian denomination, and that their doctrines conflict with mainstream Christianity. These distortions of Biblical Christianity has led millions astray from the truth of God’s love and salvation through the real Jesus Christ. Mormons are following a false christ. Jesus is not the brother of Satan; He is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus did not atone for our sins in the garden of Gethsemane as Mormonism teaches.^{xvii} Instead, he died for all our sins on the cross ([1 Peter 2:24](#)).

Based upon these Mormon doctrinal errors that severely conflict with Biblical Judeo-Christianity, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is not a Christian denomination, but nothing more than a cult that uses Christian terminology.^{xviii} I know that this revelation may be shocking to you, as it has been for many who have already left the LDS church, but Mormonism is most definitely not Christianity, and has deceived millions of people worldwide.

The Bible says to “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” ([2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV](#)) Rightly dividing means accurately interpreting and applying what the original text you’ve just read is saying for yourself. When you do, you will know in your heart no matter how painful this reality is, that the LDS church teaches non-Christian, heretical doctrines that are in direct contradiction to the essentials of the Judeo-Christian faith, and they deny the true nature of God, of Jesus Christ, and the true path to salvation.

The Apostle Paul warned the church in Corinth in his second letter [2 Corinthians 11:3-4](#) saying “*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from*

the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!”

If you are still in doubt, I would strongly encourage you to reach out to exmormonsforjesus.org. It is impossible to find the truth unless you have the courage and accurate resources to do so.

Consider This...

Mormonism is preventing their members from receiving eternal salvation as promised by Jesus Himself by refusing to acknowledge His power to save through His deity:

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

The LDS church is also denying the existence of the Holy Spirit which is further debilitating as well as blasphemous:

“but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation” (Mark 3:29)

“And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.” (Luke 12:10)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

Being transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus has been happening to people for centuries. The Apostle Peter, who was an eye witness to Jesus’s ministry, His death and resurrection, said: *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

Don’t put up with lies, false prophets, and deception. Take a look at the next section and consider the cult patterns displayed in the LDS church.

Control Tactics

There are [6 warning signs displayed by religious cults](#). One of the methods cults use with their followers is to isolate them and reinforce control through the threat of shunning. They inflict pain on members who leave through social rejection both at the church and family/friend levels and is meant to be a deterrent. Some religions such as Islam will murder friends and family should they choose to leave the faith. They also use torches, beheadings, and threats of violence to convert others to Islam as displayed in the 56 Islamic crusades attacking primarily Christian or Jewish communities, and the recent jihadist movements like ISIS.

Perhaps they are afraid their member might leave the church after discovering the true gospel of Jesus Christ, and the ramifications for categorically denying the deity of Christ, and the person of the Holy Spirit. It takes bravery to turn away from a cult and embrace Christianity by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. This very personal decision will have earthly and eternal ramifications. Former cult members have been successful in opening the minds of family and friends through asking pointed questions concerning conflicting doctrines. It takes courage, but remember, everyone of your family and friend's eternal life depends on knowing the truth and being set free from this cult.

Ways that Mormons Engage in Shunning

Here are just a few ways the LDS church shuns former members who leave the church or question their authority:

1. **Shunned from family/friend activities:** Mandatory to shun people from weddings, baby blessings, and other key religious milestones. You have to show a Temple ID card. They actually check for these cards at the wedding venue door, so if you don't have one you can't get in.
2. **Cannot "affiliate" with an "Individual" who opposes LDS teachings:** Every 2 years Mormons must swear in a private meeting with a Bishop that they will not "affiliate" with "individuals" that do not agree with the teachings of the church. Most Mormons universally ignore this, though some can take it as a license. This biennial interrogation is to renew the Temple ID card which expires every 2 years.
3. **Women; shun your husbands:** Women cannot get into top level VIP heaven unless their husband makes it. Basically the woman goes to whatever heaven her husband goes to. So if a Mormon man leaves the church this teaching encourages her to divorce him because now she's not going to top level VIP heaven.
4. **Shunning through discipline:** If you are honest and confess to sin considered grievous, the Bishop (aka Elder, Pastor) can give you a public punishment. It could be one or all of the following. Cannot partake of bread & water, Cannot pray, Cannot answer a question in church even if asked directly, May not speak at church, Cannot bless anyone or anything, Cannot attend a wedding or other important thing you might want to do and if they can punish you they will. So basically you're wearing a Scarlet Letter for however long the punishment is (usually a few months but up to a year or five, it's always open ended and goes until the Bishop feels like you have been sufficiently humiliated). Everyone will assume you are an adulterer or worse.
5. **Expulsion from Church School:** Probably one of the most sinister forms of shunning. Church schools require students to obtain an ecclesiastical endorsement from their local Bishop. The endorsement is on contingency that the student comply with a list of Honor Code rules, and open to the interpretation of each Bishop. These rules include no alcohol, no being alone with the opposite sex, no tobacco, strict dress code, and a number of other petty rules. The endorsement can be revoked at any time for breaking the Honor Code. Once the endorsement is revoked the following shunning actions will happen:
 - a. Student is expelled from school
 - b. Fired from school job
 - c. Evicted from student housing

While the LDS church formally states that they do not shun, It is clear based upon the personal experiences of people who have left the church that shunning in some form does happen. [Click here](#) to read about the shunning experiences others have had.

Salvation and eternal life is available to all no matter what their background, level of sin, gender, or color is. God so loved the world and sent His only Son Jesus to die for the remission of our sins that keep us separated from a holy God. If your heart is ready, here is the true path to God. His arms are always open to receive you. Jesus said *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”* Revelation 3:20

The Road to Salvation for All

Yes, the often-repeated phrase - Jesus Saves – is true. I want to introduce you to the real Jesus. You can become born again in Christ Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit from the privacy of your home, car, bathroom, or closet. God knows your heart. If you’re ready to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, there is no time to lose. Do it now because your life can end unexpectedly.

The Salvation Prayer is recited from the heart by anyone who wants to become a born-again child of God. There are four steps in the prayer process: A) repent of your sins, B) ask God for forgiveness of your sins, C) state that you believe in the life, death, and saving resurrection of Jesus Christ, and D) Ask Jesus to be your Lord, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Here is the scriptural references for praying the sinner's prayer. Follow these steps and pray to God from your heart. He will hear your prayers:

Admit you are a sinner:

Throughout our lives we have all made mistakes.

- *“There is none righteous, no, not one; (Romans 3:10)*
- *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)*
- *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*
- *“For the wages of sin is death, but the ^[a]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

Ask God’s forgiveness and repent of your sins:

- *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” Romans 10:13*
- *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” (Acts 3:19)*

Believe in Jesus:

Put your trust in Him as your only hope of salvation:

- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*
- *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)*

Become a child of God by receiving Christ:

- *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the ^[a]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12)*

- *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”* (Revelation 3:20)

Confess Jesus is your Lord:

- *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* (Romans 10:9-10)

A Simple Prayer from the Heart

Dear Father,

I now believe that Jesus Christ is Your only begotten Son, that He came down to our earth in the flesh born of a virgin, and died on the cross to take away all my sins and the sins of this world. I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day to give all of us eternal life.

Lord Jesus,

I confess to You all the wrong and sinful things that I have ever done in my life. I ask that You please forgive me and wash away all my sins by the blood that You have personally shed for me on the cross. I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I ask that You come into my life, fill me with the Holy Spirit and live with me for all of eternity – make me into the person that you created me to be.

In Jesus name! Amen!

Congratulations! The act of repentance and faith in Christ gives the lost person new birth (born-again), and entrance into the Kingdom of God. This is a huge happening! Luke 15:10 tells us, *“...There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.”* Why is this a cause for rejoicing? Because you have become a child of God, avoided eternal separation from God in hell, and will forever reside with Him in heaven immediately ([2 Corinthians 5:8](#)) after you leave this earth.

Making a commitment to Jesus and becoming a child of God is the first step in a life-long journey of getting to know God personally, and learning about thousands of promises he made in the Bible to prosper, support, love and encourage you, His child. In the following section we will review your next steps.

What Now?

Step 1 - Find a Christian Church

You will first need to find a reputable Christian church that practices doctrinal Christianity. First, we must differentiate between denominations within the body of Christ and non-Christian cults and other religions. Mormons, and as we have demonstrated, as well as Jehovah’s Witnesses, are examples of cults (groups claiming to be Christian but denying one of more of the essentials of the Christian faith).

As you search for a Christian Church, you will find many different denominations. The rise of denominations in the Christian faith can be traced back to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation of the Catholic church during the 16th century. Out of this, four major division of Protestantism would emerge: Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, and Anglican. These four were the root that other denominations grew from over the centuries.

Denominationalism is not found anywhere in scripture. The Bible says that we are the body of Christ with a mandate for unification and connectivity. The doctrines taught by the church you are considering must adhere to commonly accepted Judeo-Christian principles taught in the Bible. We have one God, and one Bible.

Review the Statement of Faith from the church you are considering. It will declare the church's position on matters that pertain to the essentials of Biblical Christianity. Every church you research prior to attending should have these same basic statements of what they stand for. If you don't see a statement similar to the ones on this list, ask that church's pastor for a clarification:

1. They believe that the Bible is inspired by God in its entirety, and is without error in the original manuscripts, and is a complete and final written revelation from God. ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#), [2 Peter 1:21](#))
2. They believe that there is only one God, who is eternal and immutable, and manifests Himself in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ([Genesis 1:1](#), [Deuteronomy 6:4](#), [Matthew 28:19](#), [John 10:30](#))
3. They believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah ([John 1:36-42](#)), born of a virgin ([Isaiah 7:14](#), [Matthew 1:23](#), [Luke 1:34-35](#)), totally without sin ([Hebrews 4:15](#), [Hebrews 7:26](#)), God in human flesh ([John 1:1 & 14](#), [John 20:28](#)) the One Who died on the cross for our sins ([1 Corinthians 15:3](#), [Ephesians 1:7](#), [Hebrews 2:9](#)), was buried ([John 19:40-42](#)), rose again from the dead on the third day ([John 2:19](#)), and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, where He now intercedes for us who believe in Him. ([Mark 16:19](#), [Acts 7:56](#), [1 Timothy 2:5](#))
4. They believe that Jesus Christ is going to return in the clouds for His church before the tribulation that is coming upon the whole earth ([1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)), and that He will return with His saints and all His holy angels to the earth at the end of the tribulation, and set up His kingdom on earth, ruling and reigning forever and ever. ([Matthew 24:30](#), [Revelation 19:13](#))
5. They believe that all humanity is lost and born with a sinful nature, and can only be saved by a personal faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and not by any human merit or performance. ([John 3:16-19](#), [John 5:24](#), [Romans 3:10](#), [Romans 3:23](#), [Romans 5:8-9](#), [Ephesians 2:8-10](#), [Titus 3:5](#))
6. They believe in a real/literal devil, called Satan, who, along with all his fallen angels that became demons, and evil spirits, are destined to spend eternity in hell, and now seek to deceive the world, defeat the believers, and destroy the work of God, but can be resisted by believers, who are protected by God, the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. ([Genesis 3:1](#), [Job 1:6-12](#), [Matthew 4:1-11](#), [Luke 10:18-19](#), [Luke 22:31-32](#), [1 John 4:4](#), [Revelation 20:10](#))
7. They believe that heaven is a real place where the saved will dwell forever, and that hell is a literal place of torment where unbelievers (those who have not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior) will suffer forever. ([John 14:1-3](#), [Revelation 20:11-15](#), [Revelation 21:8](#), [Revelation 22:5](#))

8. They believe that genuine believers are born again by the Holy Spirit of God, and are indwelt, baptized into the body of Christ, the true church, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and thus, unable to be separated from the love of Jesus Christ. ([John 3:1-6](#), [Acts 1:4-5](#), [Romans 8:35-39](#), [Ephesians 1:13-14](#))
9. They believe that all believers need to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a godly life and to be bold in our witness for the Lord. ([Romans 8:13-14](#), [1 Corinthians 3:16](#), [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [Ephesians 4:30](#), [Ephesians 5:18](#))
10. They believe in the spiritual unity of all genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ which is manifested by the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence through His love. ([1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#), [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Ephesians 4:8-12](#))
11. They believe that the nation of Israel has a special place in God's plan, and that all the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled both now and in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in His millennium. ([Genesis 12:3](#), [Psalm 122:1](#))
12. They believe the human race was created as male and female by a direct act of God to fully reveal His image. ([Genesis 1:26-28](#))
13. They believe marriage is a sacred covenantal union between a man and a woman that limits sexual relations to monogamous, heterosexual marriage. ([Genesis 2:24](#))
14. They believe that the solemnizing of a marriage is a sacred and profound event that shall be entered into only where the proposed covenantal union is in compliance with the Word of God. ([Genesis 4:1](#))
15. They believe that the solemnizing of a marriage between men and women of the same sex is contrary to the Word of God and is a sin before God. ([Romans 1:21-27](#))
16. They believe in the sanctity of human life in all stages from conception to natural death. The church, based upon clear biblical teaching and by obedience to the Holy Scriptures, must believe that life is to be preserved without exception. ([Psalm 82:3-4](#), [Genesis 1:27](#), [Psalm 127, 3](#), [Exodus 20-13](#), [Exodus 20:13](#), [Micah 6:7](#), [John 10:10](#))
17. They believe in the standard of holy living set forth in Holy Scripture and agree that as believers in the Lord we must adhere to right living preserving our witness before the unsaved world. We agree that we are living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God and that without the Holy Spirit's indwelling and recurring filling for Christian power, we cannot fully display Christ. ([Romans 12:1](#), [1 Peter 2:5](#))

Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't see some of these statements listed on their website. It's critical that you find a great church that has solid, Biblically based teaching so that you can grow in your knowledge of the Lord and be properly taught. When you attend, pray. You should feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in their worship and within their congregation. Let them know you are a new believer attending for the first time.

Step 2 - Water Baptism

Once you have found a church, verified their statement of faith meets doctrinal Christian standards, and feel comfortable with the people and the leadership, it is time to get water baptized. It is important to do this as quickly as you can after your profession of faith. Christian baptism is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church. Just before His ascension, Jesus said, *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* ([Matthew 28:19–20](#)).

Baptism is the physical representation of the death of your old self when you are dunked under the water, and when you emerge from under the water, this represents your new born again life that has been cleansed from sin. Many churches have water baptisms on campus after their weekly service, or schedule them monthly. Some even hold baptisms in pools, or in the ocean. Schedule your baptism as quickly as possible.

Step 3 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Just before Jesus' death, He told His disciples that He would not leave them as orphans but send a helper – The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person or representation of God that we are filled with at the point of our salvation, and then anointed by Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When you accepted Jesus as Lord the Spirit of God placed you into union with Christ and union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. ([Mark 1:8](#)) After you have been water baptized, there is a second baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience. ([Acts 8:14-21, 19:5-6](#)) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the doorway to experiencing God in your life and must be received by faith. Receiving the Holy Spirit is so important to the Lord that He commanded the apostles who had already accepted Him as Lord not to go anywhere until they have received the Spirit ([Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4](#)).

Jesus revealed the purpose of the baptism in [Acts chapter 1:5 & 8](#):

- *“For John truly baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon the believer is to receive power for service. When you are filled with the Spirit, you literally receive the power and ability through gifts of God to carry out the commission to be His witness.

The Holy Spirit is one of three personifications of God – Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us the willpower and strength to live a Christian life, but also gives us gifts and abilities according to His will and selection.

In [1 Corinthians 12:4-10](#) it says:

- *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But*

the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

In [Romans 8:26-27](#) it says:

- *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

The second main reason that you will want this gift is so that you can have God’s supernatural power flowing through you so you can fully accomplish the plan God’s perfect will gave you to execute in this life. This is where you really enter what is called your anointing.

Find the elders in your church and ask them to pray over you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Step 4 – Follow the Basics of a Christian Life

Your relationship with the Lord will grow substantially over time. The depth of which will totally depend on your level of commitment to building your personal relationship with God. A relationship with God is just like others in life. You must be engaged daily for it to grow.

Here are some tips to grow in your relationship with God:

1. **Fully Surrender:** This means that after you pray the salvation prayer, you are committed to completely surrendering your life to God. Jesus must become your Lord over your life and not just your Savior. When you prayed the prayer of salvation, you entered a blood covenant relationship with God by accepting the shed blood sacrifice of Jesus that cleanses you of all unrighteousness and comes with several promises God made to us in scripture. Pray often to seek His will. ([Matthew 6:33](#))
2. **Become Spirit-Filled:** You received the Holy Spirit when you were saved. However, after you have your water baptism, you need to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This step puts your relationship with God into overdrive. You cannot live a Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit guiding and empowering you. One of the many things the Holy Spirit will do for you is guide you in all truth and teach you all things. [1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#) tells us *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by ^{the} the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”* Pray about receiving and applying your gifts.
3. **Establish Faith and Trust in God:** [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) says to *“trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways we acknowledge Him, and He will direct*

our paths.” Faith is the currency of heaven. Every miracle Jesus performed required faith from the recipient in Him. God loves you and has a plan for your life. He has written down more than 2,000 promises in the Bible that belong to every believer who have a covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You do your part, and God will do His. [Matthew 6:33](#) says: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* These “things” come to you depending on your readiness to receive them. Be patient. Trust God and leave all the consequences to Him.

4. **Walk in all of God’s Ways:** The best way to begin this journey is to read God’s word every day and learn His rules. You should get started with a basic daily Bible reading plan. There are several available through the free [You Version Bible app](#). The icon is a reddish square with the words “Holy Bible” written on the front. It is available in IOS and Droid formats. Start off with a plan that takes you through the Bible in a year. The app will organize your daily reading plan. Once you register, you can invite other people you know to join you in the plan you selected. It is important to know the character and person of God. Get into a Bible study group at your church and participate in discipleship programs to build your understanding of God’s word and how to live a life that glorifies Him.
5. **Develop a Good Personal Relationship with the Lord:** Talk to God about everything. Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Learn to recognize His presence in your daily life. Talk to Him about your concerns, questions, fears, problems, or even what road to take to the market. That last statement may sound crazy, but I can’t tell you how many times I avoided an accident, or hours of traffic, by listening to His small quiet voice, or following the idea that just so happened to pop into my brain after I prayed.
6. **Develop a Good, Strong, Prayer Life with the Lord:** [James 5:16](#) says that *“The effective, ^[b]fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] avails much.”* A critical part to prayer is knowing God’s promises through Bible study, and memorizing poignant scriptures that can be applied to everyday life. Always be having a discussion with the Lord. He wants to hear about your hopes, dreams, problems, and requests for interceding in your life.
7. **Memorize Scripture:** Hiding God’s word is critical to your growth as a Christian and in your prayer life. These memorized scriptures become offensive and defensive weapons in prayer and in protecting your mind from destructive or demoralizing thoughts. *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”* ([Psalm 119:11](#)); *“Keep your heart with all diligence For out of it spring the issues of life”* ([Proverbs 4:23](#)); *“My son [daughter] do not forget my law But let your heart keep my commands.”* ([Proverbs 3:1](#)). Each verse instructs us to learn what not to do; feed your heart with God’s word so it flows with His love and wisdom; and by continual repetitious study, be reminded of His commands.
8. **Enter a True Sanctification Process with the Lord:** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is [she is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)) None of us is perfect. Your transformation in some areas will be instant, while others will require gradual refinement. Jesus was the only perfect person to walk the earth, that’s why He needed to die to save us. All of us have the tendency to sin. We were born with a sin nature that can only be controlled through the power of the Holy Spirit, the depth and commitment in your personal relationship with God, combined with your knowledge of scripture. As your relationship with the Lord deepens, He will cause you to recall areas or issues

in your life you need to adjust or surgically remove. Through this process you may find toxic relationships or unhealthy habits you will need to step away from.

- 9. Seek after the Knowledge of God:** May your seeking the knowledge of God become a daily habit. *“Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”* ([Proverbs 2:5](#)) *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* ([Luke 11:9](#)) Seeking God’s knowledge will become a lifelong journey filled with discovery. Pray as you read and ask Him, “what lesson should I learn from this verse or passage of scripture?” You will be amazed at the insight God will reveal to you. These insights, and the Holy Spirit discernment that follows, will give you an advantage in life.
- 10. Establish Good Personal Relationships with Other Christians:** Use the discernment the Holy Spirit gives you when establishing relationships with other Christians. I regret to say that there are far too many people who label themselves Christian, yet have no personal relationship with God, or worst yet, feel that since they are American or member of a particular church, makes them a Christian. *“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* [Matthew 7:20](#) *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”* [Matthew 7:18](#) Fruit means what their life and lifestyle produces. Choose people whose life consistently demonstrates a Godly and moral character. Surround yourself with Godly people who you can learn from.
- 11. Join a Good Spirit-Filled Church:** This is extremely important. Follow the church selection steps discussed early and dig in. Find a ministry you enjoy and volunteer. Look for opportunities to register for discipleship classes that can help you grow in your knowledge of God’s word. Understand why you believe what you believe and be able to defend your position. *“But sanctify [set apart as holy] the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope [faith] that is in you, with meekness [power under control] and fear [reverence and respect];”* ([1 Peter 3:15](#)) There are several good Christian Apologetics books and articles that address ways to understand and defend your Christian faith.

Resources

Here are some of my favorite websites for solid Biblical teaching and support. While you are looking for a local church, here are some websites where you can watch livestream worship services:

Churches

1. <https://www.intouch.org/>
2. <https://gatewaypeople.com/>
3. <https://calvarycch.org/>
4. <https://calvaryftl.org/>
5. <https://cc-ea.org/>

Education & Bible Study Tools

Here are some free Bible study tools, support articles and comentary resources you can use to develop your Christian education:

1. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/>
2. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
3. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
5. <https://www.bible-knowledge.com/>
6. <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/>
7. <https://wallbuilders.com/the-founders-as-christians/>
8. <https://www.bible-knowledge.com/>

ⁱ https://www.gotquestions.org/content_Christianity_Catholic.html

ⁱⁱ [Matthew 24:11](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [2 Peter 2:1](#)

^{iv} [2 Corinthians 11:14](#)

^v <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/panmankey/2013/07/josephsmith/>

^{vi} Dan Vogel, “The Locations of Joseph Smith’s early Treasure Quests”, *Dialogue*, a journal of Mormon thought Vol 12, No 3 pp 197-233 (esp. pg. 229-230). See http://undergroundnotes.com/graphics7/Dialogue_V27N03_211.pdf

^{vii} http://mormonscholar.org/early-history/seer-stones-of-joseph-smith/#_ftn6

^{viii} D. Michael Quinn: Mormon Historian by Gary Topping

^{ix} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthon_Transcript

^x <https://www.truthnet.org/Christianity/Cults/Mormon7/>

^{xi} <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/timeline/mormon-war>

^{xii} <https://allthatsinteresting.com/dark-mormon-history>

^{xiii} F. F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1988). *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012).

^{xiv} <https://www.truthnet.org/Christianity/Cults/Mormon7/>

^{xv} <https://www.exmormon.org/mormon/mormon628.htm>

^{xvi} <https://www.icr.org/bible-manuscripts>

^{xvii} Laurel Rohlfing, “Sharing Time: The Atonement,” *Friend*, Mar. 1989, p. 39

^{xviii} <https://calvary-study.blogspot.com/2022/08/kingdom-of-cults-walter-martin.html>