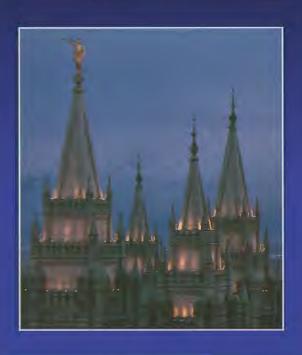
# MORMONISM

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ED DECKER

### TALKING WITH MORMONS

#### Your Question

- 1. Is the Mormon Church a Christian church?
- 2. I'm a Lutheran. Do Mormons believe the Lutheran Church is a Christian church in exactly the same manner and sense that the Mormon Church is a Christian church?
- 3. Simply put, you mean no. (Pause for their response.) In fact, doesn't your church teach that my church's creed and doctrine is "an abomination in the sight of God"?
- 4. Is Jesus Christ your Savior? (The answer is yes. It will be hard to extract from them, but stay with it.)
- 5. Do you mean He atoned (paid) for your sins? (see 1 Peter 2:24; Galatians 1:4).
- 6. Exactly how are your personal sins atoned for?
- 7. So, you believe Christ's death paid for Adam's sin only; and the promised eternal life only means we will be resurrected to be judged?
- 8. Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God?
- 9. You believe that the Bible is basically in error? What percent? Where? What books? What chapters?
- 10. When you appear before the final judge, do you hope to become a god, just like the heavenly father is a god?
- 11. Do works have to include: being a Morman; a temple marriage; priesthood participation; genealogy work; serving a mission; and attending LDS meetings?
- 12. Did our God have to go through such a process to become a god?
- 13. Does our God have a god over Him? Does that God have a god over him, then?
- 14. Do you believe God has a god-wife—our "Heavenly Mother"? Does he have more than one wife?
- 15. Does our God have a physical body? Did He pass through mortality before coming a god—just like you are hopeful of doing?
- 16. Are these beliefs given in the "restored" teachings taught by your prophet Joseph Smith?

#### PROBABLE MORMON RESPONSE

- 1. Well, of course it is. We bear you our testimony that it is.
- 2. There is truth in all faiths, but we have some additional truths that we would like to share with you.
- First, they'll try to soften your response. The next answer should be yes.
- 4. Yes.
- 5. Not exactly. He died to atone for Adam's transgression.
- Their response will pertain to works and jndgment of each person's works.
- 7. Yes. (Don't settle for anything less!)
- 8. Insofar as it is translated correctly.
- 9. They will avoid giving answers to these questions. That's okay.
- 10. Yes.
- 11. Yes.
- 12. Yes. (Don't settle for less!)
- 13. Yes. Yes.
- 14. Yes (to both questions).
- 15. Yes.
- 16. Yes.

#### SUMMARY

#### Let's summarize what the Mormon missionary said:

- All Christian churches, except the LDS, are in error and are abominations before God.
- 2. The Bible is a weak source of truth. It is translated in error, and its teachings about salvation are wrong.

#### Summary

- 3. We must each earn our own salvation. We can become gods.
- 4. God was once a man but progressed into godhood. So did our "Heavenly Mother."
- 5. All this is known because God sent a prophet in these latter days.

# Who's at Your Door?

There are very few homes in America that have not had Mormon missionaries at the door. Thousands of families are invited to "Family Home Evenings," "Firesides," and church socials (geared "just for them") by Mormon friends and neighbors. Enough Christians respond to the freshly scrubbed, clean-cut look of the Mormons' "We would love to love you" approach to proselyting that Mormonism is one of the fastest growing religions in America. What do most Christians really *know* about Mormonism? What do you say to the LDS missionaries ringing your doorbell? As one who was once out there ringing the bell, I'd like to share a few thoughts with you.

#### ARE MORMONS CHRISTIANS?

First, understand that the Mormon Church refers to itself as a Christian sect, a separate doctrinal group within a larger group. But Mormonism is not a separate group within the Christian body. It teaches a different God, a different Jesus, and a different heaven and hell. It places the validity of the Bible in serious doubt and proclaims new and different "Holy Scriptures." Its eternal doctrines or "gospel" and master plan of salvation are directed by the god of this earth through a living "Prophet, Seer, and Revelator" to whom the members must demonstrate total obedience.

Mormonism is a cult because it humanizes God, deifies man, minimizes sin, and ostracizes the Scriptures. Mormonism uses as its main theme Old Testament Law and priesthood. It also has a form of the New Testament Christ—but he is different in function and power and purpose than the biblical Lord Jesus.

Mormons use the same terms Christians use, but with different definitions. Therein lies the trap. The unwary person hears of the joys of the gospel, the love of Christ, and God's desires for him or her. Then the person steps into the realm of the subtle "doublethink," falling prey to a missionary teaching plan created by some of the cleverest salespeople in the world. Unfortunately, Mormonism sits just a tiny but critical millimeter helow the surface of Christianity, and its outward appearances encompass the American ideal. This makes it hard to believe Mormon theology can be so wrong and jeopardize a person's eternity with the biblical Jesus.

#### MISSING THE TRUTH, BUT SINCERE

The majority of the Mormon people believe with all their hearts and souls they are serving the true God and you are the lost one. They believe they are doing the will of God in reaching out to you. They are doing it out of true love for you—no matter how misinformed and misled they are by their prophet. God's heart went out to us in love and concern when we were yet sinners. He is also reaching out in love for his children lost in the doctrinal quicksand of Mormonism.

#### SHARING THE TRUTH WITH MORMONS

Matthew 7:15 says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The Mormon missionaries present themselves to you as members of the flock Jesus referred to in John 10:27,28: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." The missionaries' appearance, their countenance, their speech all say, "Hi, we're sheep just like you. We look like you, we smell like you, we say 'Baa' just like you, so we must be sheep just like you."

What you can't see is that under the surface, wolves lurk! You need to strip back the layer of wool and reveal the fur they were cloaked in when they swore eternal allegiance to the Holy Priesthood and the ravening wolf/false prophet, Joseph Smith. Confronting Mormons with their faulty beliefs, and sharing the *real* Jesus needs to be done with great sensitivity and firmness. Remember, they are trained to be bold witnesses and are used to taking charge of the situation.

Remember, you have the truth and the truth can set them free! You don't have to debate every tenet of the Mormon doctrine at your front door. You only have to force the missionaries to be honest with you and with themselves. The Truth and Jesus will do the work.

#### FIVE CRITICAL DO'S

The list of "dos and don'ts" in witnessing to Mormons can be quite long, but for simplicity, here are five critical "do's":

- 1. Examine your motives. If you are going to "show them a thing or two," or if you are going to dazzle them with your lightning knowledge of Scripture, you may fail. You can only be effective if you are an open channel of God's love.
- 2. *Pray.* Quietly bind the spirits of priestcraft, contention, and Mormonism from your door, and plead the shed blood of Jesus upon your house. Ask the Holy Spirit to come in and bring His peace, truth, and understanding. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." In fact, read verses 10-20 for Paul's inspired guidance in this vital area.
- 3. Control the encounter. Open the discussion with prayer, then gently go into the questions you wish to ask them. Go through the questions step by step. Then thank them, make your closing remarks, give witness for Jesus, and close in prayer.
- 4. Stick to the subject. The minute you "pierce their armor," they will try to sidestep to another issue or attempt to change the subject by insisting on finding out about your beliefs. Stay on track.
- 5. *Emphasize Jesus Christ*. Mention *Jesus* every chance you get. Remember that Mormons have "another" Jesus and are *not* familiar with the Bible's message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Witness Jesus and share your personal relationship with Him. Talk about what your life was like and how Jesus set you free.

## THE LAW OF ETERNAL PROGRESSION

"As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become."

pon this axiom (attributed to prophet Lorenzo Snow) is based the entire theology of Mormonism. From the Temple rituals for the living to those for their dead, from the teaching that "families are forever" to the pressure on parents to send their youth to the mission fields, the Mormon people are committed to a controlled program that maps out their entire lives as they seek their own exaltation and godhood. Let's look at the basics of this mystery religion.

#### THE BEGINNING

ormonism teaches that trillions of planets scattered throughout the cosmos are ruled by countless gods who once were human like us. Long ago on one of these planets, to an unidentified god and one of his goddess wives, a spirit-child named Elohim was conceived. This spirit-child was later born to human parents who gave him a physical body. Through obedience to Mormon teaching, death, and resurrection, he proved himself worthy and was elevated to godhood as his father was before him.

Mormons believe that Elohim is their Heavenly Father. He lives with his many wives on a planet near a mysterious star called Kolob. Here the god of Mormonism and his wives, through endless celestial sex, produce billions of spirit-children.

To decide their destiny, the head of the Mormon gods called a great heavenly council meeting. Both of Elohim's eldest sons were there: Lucifer and his brother, Jesus.

#### THE REVOLT

plan was presented to build planet Earth—a place where the spirit-children would be sent to take on mortal bodies and learn good from evil. Lucifer stood and made his bid for becoming savior of this new world. Wanting the glory for himself, he planned to force everyone to become gods. Opposing that idea, the Mormon's Jesus suggested giving man freedom of choice, as done on other planets. The vote that followed approved the proposal. Jesus would become savior of the planet Earth.

Enraged, Lucifer cunningly convinced one-third of the spirits destined for earth to fight with him and revolt. Thus, Lucifer became the devil and his followers the demons. Sent to this world, they would forever be denied bodies of flesh and bone.

Those who remained neutral in the battle were cursed to be born with black skin. The spirits that fought most valiantly against Lucifer would be born into Mormon families on planet Earth. These would be the lighter-skinned people, or "white and delightsome," as the Book of Mormon describes them. (See Ouestion 13.)

#### The Mormon Jesus on Earth

arly Mormon prophets taught that Elohim and one of his goddess wives came to the earth as Adam and Eve to start the human race. Thousands of years later, Elohim, in human form, once again journeyed to earth from the star-base Kolob, this time to have physical relations with the Virgin Mary in order to provide Jesus with a physical body.

Mormon apostle Orson Hyde taught that after Jesus Christ grew to manhood, he took at least three wives: Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene. Through these wives, the Mormon Jesus supposedly fathered a number of children before he was crucified. Mormon founder Joseph Smith is supposedly one of his descendants.

According to the Book of Mormon, after his resurrection Jesus came to the Americas to preach to the Indians (who the Mormons believe are really Israelites). Thus, the Jesus of Mormonism established his church in the Americas just as he had in Palestine. By the year A.D. 421, the darkskinned Israelites, known as the Lamanites, had destroyed all of the whiteskinned Nephites in a number of great battles. The Nephites' records were supposedly written on golden plates buried at Hill Cummorah by Moroni, the last living Nephite.

#### THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ourteen hundred years later, a young treasure seeker named Joseph Smith, who was known for his tall tales, claimed to have uncovered the same gold plates near his home in upstate New York. He claimed to have had visions from the spirit world in which he was commanded to organize the Mormon Church because all Christian creeds were an abomination. It was Joseph Smith who originated most of the peculiar doctrines which millions of Mormons believe to be true.

Joseph Smith is honored by Mormons as a prophet greater than all men—even Jesus Christ. Smith set up a highly structured organization focused on helping members become gods. By maintaining a rigid code of financial and moral requirements, and through performing secret temple rituals for themselves and the dead, the Latter-day Saints hope to prove their worthiness and, thus, become gods.

The Mormons teach that everyone must stand at the final judgment before Joseph Smith, the Mormon Jesus, and Elohim. Those Mormons who followed and actively participated in all Mormon teachings and were sealed in the eternal marriage ceremony (in the Temple) expect to become polygamous gods in the celestial kingdom, rule over other planets, and spawn new families throughout eternity. Mormons who have no Teruple recommend but live nominally according to Mormon theology will go to the terrestrial kingdom. People (including non-Mormons) who live by the laws they know (such as the 10 commandments) will go to the telestial kingdom.

The Mormons claim that Joseph Smith did more for us than any other man, including Christ, died as a martyr, and shed his blood for us, so that we, too, may become gods (*The God Makers* [film], Jeremiah Films, Hemet, CA).

# THE 17 PRIMARY ERRORS OF MORMONISM

## GOD, GODS, AND JESUS

#### THE MORMON CHURCH\* TEACHES

- The universe is governed by a head god and his council. "The head God called together the Gods and sat in grand council to bring forth the world.... 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" (Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 348-49).
- God has goddess wives. "This doctrine that there is a Mother in Heaven was affirmed in all plainness by the First Presidency of the Church" (Bruce R. McConkie, Apostle, Mormon Doctrine, p. 516).
- God is limited by a physical body. "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22). "If God possesses a form, that form is of necessity of definite proportions, and therefore of limited extension and space. It is *impossible* for Him to occupy at one time more than one space of such limits" (James E. Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, p. 43).
- 4. There are many gods: "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. . . . In all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods" (Joseph Smith, Founder and First Prophet, History of the Church, vol. 6, pp. 308, 474).
- Jesus and Satan are brothers. "The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior
  of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God—Lucifer.
  This spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of
  mankind" (Milton R. Hunter, First Council of Seventy, *The Gospel Through*the Ages, p. 15).

#### THE BIBLE TEACHES

- 1. If there is somebody else up there managing things, the all-knowing God who created all things in the heavens doesn't know about it. Isaiah 42:5 defines Him as "God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein." In Isaiah 45:12 that same God says, "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded."
- 2. There is absolutely no mention of any wives of God. There will be no marrying in heaven (see Matthew 22:29, 30).
- 3. The *one true God* is infinite. Any other "god" is a false god (see 2 Chronicles 6:18; Psalm 139:4-8; Jeremiah 23:24).
- 4. There was, is, and always will be only *one God* (see Isaiah 43:10,11; 44:6-8; 45:5,6,18-22; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:39; James 2:19).
- 5. The *real* Jesus is the *only* begotten Son of God. He is God's son (John 1:1-14). Satan was a *created angel*—not a son of God (Isaiah 14:12). Jesus created all things, and in Him the fullness of God dwells! (see Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-13).

<sup>\*</sup> The Mormon Church is the common term for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

#### THE MORMON CHURCH TEACHES

- 6. Mary was not a virgin. "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers... 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" (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 547, 742).
- Jesus was married. "Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage of Cana
  of Galilee. We say it was Jesus Christ who was married, to be brought
  into relation whereby he could see his seed" (Orson Hyde, Apostle,
  Journal of Discourses, vol. 2, p. 82).

#### THE BIBLE TEACHES

- Jesus was begotten by the Holy Ghost. Mary was indeed a virgin (see Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35).
- 7. Jesus and His disciples were guests at Cana (John 2:2). Read John 2:1-12. This Mormon doctrine is generally not taught openly today. Marriage in a Mormon temple (called celestial marriage) is mandatory to progress to becoming a god in Mormonism. To fit the theology of Mormonism, the Mormon "Jesus" has to be married—or He would only be a ministering servant to those in Mormonism's heaven who have "celestial marriage."

## ATTAINING "GODHOOD"

- 8. "God himself was one as we are now, and is an exalted man. . . . I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form . . . . like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man. . . . He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth" (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, p. 305).
- 9. Man may become god. "Here then is eternal life... to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you.... To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of God" (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, p. 306).
- 10. Total perfection is demanded. "We also have to forsake the sin and never repeat it, not even in our minds. . . . In order to remain forgiven, we must never commit the sin again" (Discussion F, Uniform System for Teaching Families, pp. 35-36).
  "In other words, If there is one divine law that he does not keep he is barred from participating in the (Celestial) kingdom, and figuratively guilty of all, since he is denied all" (Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers

to Gospel Questions, vol. 3, p. 26).

11. The black race is a cursed people. "Not only was Cain called upon to suffer, but because of his wickedness, he became the father of an inferior race. A curse was placed upon him and that curse has been continued through his lineage and must do so while time endures. Millions of souls have come into this world cursed with a black skin and have been denied the privilege of Priesthood and the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel" (Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Way to Perfection*, p. 102). (Although it became expedient for the Mormon church to open the Priesthood to blacks in 1978, the alleged revelation did not change Mormon doctrine regarding the penalty of being black. This revelation also directly contradicted established Mormon doctrine.)

- God was never a man. He created man! God has been God from all eternity to all eternity (see Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 102:25-27; Romans 1:22,23).
- 9. The great lie of Satan from the beginning was that man may become a god (see Genesis 3:1-5; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:1-10).
- 10. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23); "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12); and Galatians 2:21: "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."
- 11. The color of a person's skin has no merit with God: "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11); and "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). That includes all of us here on earth—black, white, red, or yellow, king or slave. All of us are made in God's image.

#### THE BIBLE TEACHES

# AUTHORITY

- 12. The Bible is incomplete and has serious translation errors. "Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors—many plain and precious things were deleted, in consequence of which error and falsehood poured into the various churches. One of the great heresies of modern Christendom is the unfounded assumption that the Bible contains all of the inspired teachings now extant among men" (Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, pp. 82, 83).
- 13. Except for the LDS (Mormon) Church, all churches are false. "I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; and those professors were all corrupt" (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith 2:19). "This Church is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (Doctrine and Covenants, 1:30). "There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints" (Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 670).
- 14. Joseph Smith was a holy prophet. "I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet" (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, vol. 6, pp. 408-09).
- 15. Prophets are above Scripture. "The living Prophet is more vital to us than the Standard Works (Bible, Book of Mormon, etc.). The living Prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet (David, Moses, Isaiah, etc.). Those who would remove prophets from politics would take God out of government" (LDS prophet, President Ezra Taft Benson, address at Brigham Young University, Feb. 26, 1980).
- 16. Mormons are also saviors. "We are the only people that know how to save our progenitors, how to save ourselves, and how to save our posterity in the celestial kingdom of God; that we are the people God has chosen by whom to establish his kingdom and introduce correct principles into the world; and that we are in fact the saviours of the world . . . " (John Taylor, Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p. 163).
- 17. Joseph Smith will be our final judge. "No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. From the day that the Priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up scene of all things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are" (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 289).

12. The Bible is God's Word; and the word of God will stand forever (see Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25).

13. The *church* is the spiritual body of Christian believers with Jesus at its head. That is the true church—not any specific organization (see Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:12; Matthew 16:18).

- 14. No prophet of God ever made a statement like Joseph Smith's. King Nebuchadnezzar had a similar pride to Joseph Smith's. He was driven out by God to live with the animals (see Daniel 4:28-33).
- 15. In these last days God speaks through His Son (Hebrews 1:1,2). The authority claimed by the Mormon Church is through an "Aaronic Priesthood," which cannot be valid since Jesus abolished it when He took its place (Hebrews 7:11-19; 8:6-13), and a "Melchizedek Priesthood," which never existed as any operative "priesthood." Jesus is our *only* High Priest in the likeness of Melchizedek—He alone holds this priesthood permanently (see Hebrews 7:15-28; 9:11-15).
- 16. Over 500 verses deal with death, and over 300 deal with salvation. Not one verse even hints that we can be saviors of the dead. The Bihle tells us in Hebrews 9:27, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Note that this isn't the Mormon concept, which states: "After this comes missionary lessons, a proxy baptism, and a series of Mormon ordinances that will allow you to become gods. . . ."
- 17. Jesus said we would be judged by His word and made no mention of Joseph Smith. John 12:48 says, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Paul referred to *Christ* as our judge—not Joseph. Second Timothy 4:1 states, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom."

# THE MORMON PIAN OF GODHOOD

Preexistent, unformed intelligences become spirit-children through sexual union between gods and goddesses.

Elohim is sent to an earth like ours to attain godhood. Elohim and his goddess wives produce spirit-children.

Elohim is born in preexisting form as a spirit-child.

Elohim attains godhood and moves to planet near the mysterious star Kolob.

Heavenly council of gods approves Earth as a home for spirit-children.

Spirit-children go to Earth through physical birth to gain bodies and the knowledge of good and evil. Mormons who gain celestial glory become gods and goddesses and produce spirit-children who are sent to their "earth."

Spirit-children through works and obedience to Joseph Smith attain celestial, telestial, or terrestrial glory.

#### A TRUE CULT

Start by showing the missionaries that they really aren't among the sheep of the Christian flock. They are at your house to pull you out of your flock and into the one they call home. Get them to admit that they are, in fact, being deceitful in encouraging others to consider them "in the same flock." Then show your Mormon friends that their concepts are totally outside scriptural Christianity. In fact, they are signs of a cult. (See "Are Mormons Christian?")

Your goal is to peel back their false doctrines and show them their identity in the true Christ. Use the results of the previous 16 questions to show that they really are not a Christian sect. Show them where they deviate from Christianity. Remember, don't debate the points. Just get them to see that there is a difference and that difference truly makes them not Christian but a Christian-sounding cult. Your work is to lay the information before them. The Lord will quicken their hearts to accept this truth. The Holy Spirit will put it into their hearts.

#### THE MORMON TESTIMONY

When a Mormon gets trapped in a corner with his theology, he reverts to the testimony: "I bear you my testimony that I know this is the true church . . . ." This is a mechanical, trained-up-from-the-cradle response. It means he is in trouble. It is his last resort. Be bold and break right in. (Yes, interrupt!) Say, "How do you know it is true?" Or, "Where is the evidence?" Stop the testimony in its tracks because it is a form of mind control or self-hypnosis. It's a spell of blind obedience.

Ask them to open their Bihles to Romans 10. If they put up an argument, say, "Are you afraid to see what God has to say about this?" Read Romans 10:1-13. Ask them to pray with you that God would reveal His true nature to them.

#### In Closing

Send your friends along their way—but pray with them before they go. If you can, hold hands when you pray. Above all else, remember that *God's Word does not return to Him void*. You have planted seeds deep into their spirits. As they go forth, each time they encounter a Christian who will give witness of the real Jesus, your words will come to their minds.

This will continue until they, too, ask Jesus to be as real in their lives as He is in yours. It took many years and many Christian witnesses for me to come out of the darkness and into the Light of life. What a joy it will be to meet those Christians who witnessed Jesus with such love and concern for my eternal soul. What a joy to clasp their hands and say, "Dear friend, thank you for that seed you planted. Harvest time is finally come. Praise the Lord."

Scripture references are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by International Bible Society.

Mormonism: What You Need to Know

Copyright © 1997 by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

ISBN 1-56507-511-0

All rights reserved. No portion of this document may be used in any form without the written permission of the Publisher.

Printed in the United States of America.

06 07 08 09 / YT / 14 13 12 11 10



