

## SYLVIA'S CORNER

### WHY DID WE LEAVE? ~ A REMINDER

Sometimes it is a good thing to remind ourselves about what we came out of--and to remember what God has done for us. In fact, it is always important to remember and to thank God for these things. So let's review:

Before coming out of Mormonism, we believed that what we heard from God was revealed by the current prophet of a church who God spoke to. We didn't think that God could just as well speak to us individually. After we left, we learned that he could do this through the Bible, circumstances, other people in our immediate circle of friends, family members, or from our church. Before, direction was only coming to us from one man.

Before, our thoughts and actions were being directed by a select priesthood, when in reality, the Bible says in I Peter 2:9, we are all priests.

Before, we had to be members of a specific church. Now we are free to join any Bible-believing church of our choosing.

Before, we were taught to believe that we should follow a man (who uttered false prophecies and led us after a false god.) Now we follow Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the true and living God.

Before, we believed that the gospel had disappeared, and that Joseph Smith was chosen to restore it. Now we know that in Matthew 24:35 Jesus says that his word would never pass away.

Before, we believed the Book of Mormon to be a true companion to the Bible. Now we know of all the changes and deletions in it, and know that it was contrived. We now know the same to be true of the Pearl of Great Price and the Doctrine and Covenants.

Before, we were taught to desire to go to the temple to visit and worship a god by secret rituals that has no relation to the God of the Bible. Now we know that in Acts 17:24, God says that he does not live in temples built by hands. And we know that God also says in I Corinthians 6:19, that we ourselves, when we accept Christ, are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

Before, we were taught that we had to follow the LDS Law of Eternal Progression and do many works in order to get into Heaven. Now we know otherwise. Now we know that in Ephesians 2:5 it says that it is by grace we have been saved, not by works, lest any man should boast. Now we know that it's God's doing, not ours.