

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

*Our faith will work by love,
or it will not work at all.*

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NEWSLETTER ~ JULY/AUGUST 2019

FROM CHAR'S DESK



This month I would like to share with you about the first Mormon I led to the Lord. God brought a Mormon family into our neighborhood forty years ago and after I met Barbara, I would often go down to her house and tell her all about Jesus. She said as a Mormon, she had never heard these things before but she loved hearing them. I also shared information about the LDS church.

Well, after sharing with her for several months, I asked her if she would go to an Ex-Mormon for Jesus meeting with me and she said, no, she wouldn't. She said she had an argument with her husband the night before and she said she was going to prove the Mormon Church was true or else go my way. So her search began and she ended up finding out that the Mormon Church was not true.

One night, I went down to her house and at the end of the evening, I told her she was so ready to receive the Lord, would she like to ask Him into her heart right then to be her Savior? She said she wasn't ready. "OK, but you don't have to ask Him in while I am here. Whenever you want Him, just cry out to Jesus, and He'll come right in."

After they went to bed, Barbara did cry out to Jesus and she said she was in the presence of such wonderful peace she had never known before and she went to sleep. The next morning, after she woke up, she said the flowers looked different, the trees looked different, everything looked different! She said it was as if she was seeing everything for the first time and Barbara had been wonderfully born-again!

Well, my dear Barbara went home to be with the Lord last week. She walked faithfully with Him for 40 years but she ended up with cancer. However, cancer didn't get her, Jesus did, and now she really is "seeing everything for the first time"!

~ JENELL'S JOTS & TITLES ~

"THE GODS"

In the "Pearl Of Great Price" (LDS scripture), Abraham, chapters 4 and 5, refer to "the Gods" about 40 times. For example, Abraham 4:26 says: "*And **the Gods** took counsel among themselves and said: Let us go down and form man in our image, after our likeness...*" (my emphasis). I have had Mormons tell me that this is not talking about more than one God (polytheism), but is merely referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. However, an Ensign article (an official Mormon Publication) makes it clear that multiple Gods **are** being taught in these chapters as follows:

*"In 1830, Joseph Smith had learned clearly that God the Father created 'this heaven, and this earth' through his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. (See Moses 2:1; John 1:10-14.) But in 1835, the Prophet translated a record that revealed more concerning who created the earth and how it was done. He learned from the book of Abraham that Jesus Christ **acted in concert with other Gods** to create our world: 'Then the Lord said: let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth.'"* (Abr.4:1.)" ("The Ensign", Jan.1989, pp 31-32, my emphasis).

(Continued on page 2)

Random House Websters Dictionary defines polytheism as follows: “*the doctrine or belief in more than one god or in many gods.*” So obviously, the answer is yes, Mormons are most definitely polytheists. Not only do they believe that multiple Gods exist, but they believe that they themselves can also become a God. Just one example of this is where Joseph Smith taught, “...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you...” (“Teaching of the Prophet”, p.346).

This is not something that can be taken lightly for the Bible makes it clear that there is, and always has been, and always will be, only ONE God (Deut.6:4, 4:39; 1 Sam.2:2; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa.43:10, 44:6, 8, 45:5-6, 14b, 21b, 22; Mark 12:32, James 2:19. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the Trinity) make up this one God and there is NO other. Many of Mormonism’s doctrines and theology separate it from Christianity, but their belief in polytheism makes the divide absolutely impossible to breach. It is our prayer that they will read the Bible with an open mind and discover this for themselves.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

“His [Heavenly Father’s] work and His glory, He told us, is ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’. **He has already achieved godhood. Now His only objective is to help us—to enable us to return to Him and be like Him and live His kind of life eternally.**” (The Ensign, May, 2004, p.73, Elder Dennis E. Simmons Of the Seventy, my emphasis)

THE DANGERS OF DECEPTION

Many people join the Mormon faith because they were deceived – “*But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*” (2 Tim.3:13 NAS). One such example comes from the June 2019 “Ensign” magazine that shared an article entitled “Martyrs and My Testimony”.

The writer starts out being skeptical when the Mormon Missionaries first taught him about Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, but then shares: “*Then one day the missionaries explained that Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were **martyred** for their testimony. Suddenly, a thought came to me that they would never have given up their own lives for something they knew was false. At that moment, a warm feeling, like a burning fire, spread through me. It was a witness of the Holy Spirit confirming to my heart that Joseph Smith was a true prophet...*” (Page 79, my emphasis).

Yes, most Mormons believe that Joseph Smith died without putting up a struggle, but the actual truth is that he died in a gun fight. One such record of this is as follows: “*Immediately there was a little rustling at the outer door of the jail, and a cry of surrender, and also a discharge of three or four firearms followed instantly...Joseph sprang to his coat for his six shooter, Hyrum for his single barrel...When Hyrum fell, Joseph exclaimed; ‘Oh dear, brother Hyrum!’ and opening the door a few inches he discharged his six shooter in the stairway (as stated before), two or three barrels of which missed fire...*” (History of the Church, Vol.6, 617-618). There are other accounts that confirm this, such as the one found in Volume 7 of “History of the Church” were it speaks of three men being wounded by Joseph, “*two of whom...died.*” (Page 103).

Another dangerous deception that can be found in this Ensign article comes from the author’s statement: “*As I read the verses the missionaries gave me in the Book of Mormon, I found Moroni’s invitation to ask God with a sincere heart, real intent, and faith in Christ if the Book of Mormon is true (see Moroni 10:4-5). I thought, ‘Who, knowing the book was fake, would dare to challenge us to ask God with real intent and sincerity if the Book of Mormon is true?’*”

First of all, if the Book of Mormon was “fake” and written by a con-artist, why would the con-artist have any problems giving a fake challenge? Either nothing would come of it or, as in the case of some Mormons, deceitful spirits (1 Tim.4:1) could have a field day by giving them a false witness. How sad that not knowing all the facts caused this person to embrace Mormonism. We pray that

today, with all of the evidence and modern technology, more and more Mormons will do their homework and come to discover the truth that will set them free from this dangerous deception.

MIND CONTROL & FEAR TACTICS

Attacking and discouraging independent thought is a basic principle that all the cults use to control their people. Mormons are often caught up in having to accept beliefs and teachings that are inconsistent, illogical, and doctrinally absurd, even to them. However, they are taught that if they have faith in “the Church”, then they are serving and pleasing God, and the two become inseparable (the Church is God). Out of fear, blind obedience and trust in their leaders, they then relinquish their objective thought processes, allowing the system to be the final authority. The following “Ensign” article is an example of a fear tactic that is used:

*“So much information of man is now at our fingertips. But the Internet is also full of much that is filthy and misleading...In particular, I caution you not to view filthy images or give your attention to the false accusers of Christ and the Prophet Joseph Smith. Both actions create the same effect: **the loss of the Holy Ghost and His protecting, sustaining power, Vice and unhappiness always follow.**”* (The November 2013 “Ensign”, p.102, my emphasis)

While it is good advice not to view “filthy images” or give attention to “false accusers of Christ”, telling members that giving attention to false accusers of Joseph Smith is quite another thing. By telling them that they will lose the Holy Ghost and His protecting, sustaining power, is nothing more than a fear tactic intended to control their members. A few more examples of this is as follows:

“Members would place themselves in spiritual peril if they were to publicly disparage the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith, his successors, or any of the fundamental, settled doctrines of the Church.” (The Ensign/July 2000, p.5)

“Do you note how many times the First Presidency and the Twelve have indicated to us that if we refuse to hear them and we refuse to obey, we will account not to them but before God?...” (The Ensign/April 2002, p.36)

“A prophet is to receive instructions from God and then impart them to us for our safety, success, and happiness...We cannot have the companionship of the Holy Ghost—the medium of individual revelation—if we are in transgression or if we are angry or if we are in rebellion against God’s chosen authorities.” (The Ensign/Feb.2002)

“We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet...Then President Lee added a warning when he went on to say that we may not always like what comes from the authority of the Church, because it may conflict with our personal views or interfere with some of our social life. However, if we will listen to and do these things as if from the mouth of the Lord Himself, we will not be deceived and great blessings will be ours.” (The Ensign/May 2002, p.31)

Have you ever wondered why, when you ask a Mormon to look at a certain teaching or doctrine in their church, that they refuse to look? Even when what you are trying to show them comes from their **own** publications? Warnings from their leaders, like the ones above, give us the answer! Their protective mechanism against the perceived enemy of doubt, is to erect all sorts of mental barricades. Any data that would normally penetrate this barricade is refused.

Ezra Taft Benson was an Apostle for the LD church when he gave the following speech in 1980 (he later became President/Prophet in 1985). Each point was expounded upon during the speech, however, he ended with this summary:

*“In conclusion, let us summarize this grand key, these “Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet,” **for our salvation hangs on them**”* (my emphasis - While there are 14 “fundamentals”, I will only share five of them in this article, however, if you are interested, you can contact us for the whole list).

“The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything.”

“The living prophet is more vital to us than the standard works [including the Bible].”

“The prophet will never lead the Church astray.”

“The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know.”

“The prophet and the presidency...follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer.”

An LDS teacher’s manual gives one more example of this type of brain washing as follows: *“Any Latter-Day (Sic) Saint who denounces or opposes, whether actively or otherwise, any plan or doctrine advocated by the prophets, seers, and revelators of the Church is cultivating 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 direction, it should mark the end of controversy.”* (Improvement Era, June, 1945, p.354, my emphasis)

The sad results of this type of mind control can lead to such things as personality disorders, broken relationships, members losing ability to think clearly, and logical contradictions in doctrine having little or no impact on them. A free mind is the only tool one can have to grasp reality with and this is what our Lord Jesus wants for us: *“and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If therefor the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”* (John 8:32 & 36)



ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY

A SERIOUS CONTRADICTION

Elder Wilford Woodruff: *“God himself is increasing and progressing in knowledge, power, and dominion, and will do so, worlds without end...”* (Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.120)

Joseph Fielding Smith: *“False Notions About God’s Progression. It seems very strange to me that members of the Church will hold to the doctrine, ‘God increases in knowledge as time on’...Where has the Lord ever revealed to us that he is lacking in knowledge? That he is still learning new truth; discovering new laws that are unknown to him? I think this kind of doctrine is very dangerous. I don’t know where the Lord has ever declared such a thing...”* (Doctrines of Salvation, pp 7-8)

For once, the Bible agrees with a Mormon authority –

Bible: *“For I, the LORD, do not change...”* ((Malachi 3:6)

“Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou are the same...” (Ps.102:25-27)

“Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.” (James 1:17)

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our speaker on August 13th will be Wayne Risley, who has spent a lot of his time witnessing to Mormon Missionaries, so it should be very interesting!

Our meetings always end with a question and answer time and refreshments. All are welcome – those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 671 N. Poplar St. Orange. Hope to see you there!

