

**Can the Religion of  
the Latter-day Saints  
Lead You to Eternal  
Life?**

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All Scriptures are from the King James Version.

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Brigham Young once said, "Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 17, p. 46). In presenting this booklet to you, I am only doing what Brigham Young himself said to do: taking up the Bible and comparing the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it to see if that religion will stand the test. This comparison is important because in the Bible, Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent" (John 17:3). We obtain eternal life by coming to know the only true God, the God proclaimed by the Bible. If the God proclaimed by the religion

of the Latter-day Saints is that same God, then the religion of the Latter-day Saints can lead us to eternal life. But if the God proclaimed by the religion of the Latter-day Saints is not the only true God, but a different god, then that religion cannot lead us to eternal life. Let us, then, look at what the religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches about God and about the way we can obtain eternal life and see if it agrees with what the Bible teaches.

The religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches that God has a physical body of flesh and bones.

The Father has a body of  
flesh and bones as  
tangible as man's

(*Doctrine and Covenants*,  
130:22).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims against the incomprehensible God, devoid of “body, parts, or passions,” as a thing impossible of existence, and asserts its belief in and allegiance to the true and living God of Scripture and revelation (James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, p. 48).

The religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches that God has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s because God *is* a man.

God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... (Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345).

First, God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man like unto one of yourselves.... If you were to see him today, you would see him in all the person, image and very form as a man (Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, August 15, 1844, pp. 613-614).

Does the Bible agree with this? Shortly after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said,

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have (Luke 24:39).

A few years earlier, Jesus had said to the Samaritan woman at the well,

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

If God is a Spirit and a spirit does not have flesh and bones, then God does not have a body of flesh and bones.

Nor is God a man.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent... (Numbers 23:19).

The Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent (1 Samuel 15:29).

I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man... (Hosea 11:9).

The religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches that God has not always been God, but that at some point in time a man

*became* God through obedience to the Gospel.

I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. These are incomprehensible ideas to some, but they are the simple and first principles of the gospel, to know for a certainty the character of God, that we may converse with him as one man with another, and that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did (Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, August 15, 1844, pp. 613-614).

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 (Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 104).

Indeed, the religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches that God is not the only man who has attained Godhood.

A time to come in the which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 121:28).

How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds... (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 333).

Gods exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 238).

And 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 (*The Pearl of Great  
Price*, Abraham 4:1).

Does the Bible agree with this?  
The Bible teaches that God  
has always existed and has  
always been God.

Before the mountains  
were brought forth, or  
ever thou hadst formed  
the earth and the world,  
even from everlasting to  
everlasting, thou art God  
(Psalm 90:2).

Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting (Psalm 93:2).

...Thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting (Isaiah 63:16).

The Bible also teaches that there is only *one* true God.

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him (Deuteronomy 4:35).

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside

me there is no God.... Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any (Isaiah 44:6, 8).

...who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else (Isaiah 45:21-22).

As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we

know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge... (1 Corinthians 8:4-7).

We see, therefore, that the God of the religion of the Latter-day Saints is not the God proclaimed by the Bible. This

means that the religion of the Latter-day Saints cannot lead us to eternal life because to obtain eternal life, we must know the only true God, and the God of the religion of the Latter-day Saints is not the only true God.

The religion of the Latter-day Saints leads us even further away from eternal life when it teaches that we obtain eternal life the same way its God did, that is, by becoming Gods ourselves.

As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become (Lorenzo Snow, past president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints, *Millennial Star*,  
Vol. 54).

Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him, and he abode in my law; as Isaac also and Jacob did none other things than that which they were commanded; and because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods

(*Doctrine and Covenants*,  
132:37).

Here then is eternal life,  
to know the only wise  
and true God. You have  
got to learn how to be  
Gods yourselves; to be  
kings and priests to  
God, the same as all  
Gods have done; by  
going from a small  
degree to another, from  
grace to grace, from  
exaltation to exaltation,  
until you are able to sit  
in glory as do those who  
sit enthroned in ever-  
lasting power... (Joseph  
Smith, *Times and  
Seasons*, August 15,  
1844, pp. 613-614).

The religion of the Latter-day Saints teaches that we become Gods the same way its God became God, through obedience to the Law.

Eternal life is available to all people who have lived on earth who accept this gift by their obedience to God's laws and ordinances (*The Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Vol. 2, p. 464).

Very gladly would the Lord give to every one eternal life, but since that blessing can come only on merit—through the faithful performance of duty—only those who are worthy shall receive it.... To be exalted one

must keep the whole law.... To receive the exaltation of the righteous, in other words eternal life, the commandments of the Lord must be kept in all things (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 2, pp. 5, 6).

This is not how we obtain eternal life according to the Bible. First, the Bible teaches that we cannot become Gods because God will always be the only true God.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me,

and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me (Isaiah 43:10).

Second, the Bible teaches that we cannot obtain eternal life through obedience to the law. It teaches that if eternal life is gained through our righteousness and righteousness can be achieved by obedience to the law, then Christ died needlessly.

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain (Galatians 2:21).

But Christ did die for us, which means that righteousness, and therefore, eternal life, is not achieved through obedience to the law.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20).

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace (Galatians 5:4).

Eternal life is obtained by coming to know the only true God.

And this is life eternal,  
that they might know  
thee the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom  
thou hast sent (John  
17:3).

But what does it mean to  
know God? And how does that  
give us eternal life?

Knowing God does not mean  
merely knowing about God,  
nor does it mean merely  
knowing the truth about God,  
although that is important.  
Knowing God means being in a  
deep, intimate and loving rela-  
tionship with him, a relation-  
ship so deep that we become  
one with him. As a man and a  
woman who are married  
become one flesh (Genesis  
2:24), so we, too, are to

become one with Jesus Christ and God our Father (John 17:21, Ephesians 5:29-32). It is this unity with Christ, this oneness with Jesus, that gives us eternal life because Jesus is eternal life.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal

life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:10-12).

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life (1 John 5:20).

We gain eternal life, therefore, by entering into a deep, intimate and loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is what the Bible means by believing in Christ. As a good marriage cannot survive if it is not built on trust or faith in each other, so, too, our relationship with God and with Jesus must be built on trust or faith in Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, when we put our faith in Jesus, we enter into that deep, intimate and loving relationship with him. Putting our faith in Jesus means that we entrust Jesus with our lives, and in return, he gives us his life.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear,

then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:2-4).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

Believing in Jesus makes us one with Jesus, who gives us his eternal life. This is why the Bible says that we obtain eternal life through faith, not through obedience to the law.

Knowing that a man is not justified by the

works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Galatians 2:16).

Does this mean, as some have erroneously taught, that because we are justified and obtain eternal life through faith in Jesus and not by the works of the law, we are no longer required to do the works, that is, to obey the laws and commands of God? Not at all. As a man and a woman over the years through their deep, intimate and loving

relationship with each other become more and more like each other, so we, too, become more and more like God over the years through our deep, intimate and loving relationship with him. Because we become like God, who always loves and always does what is right, we, too, learn to always love and always do what is right. And because the life of Jesus, who always loves and always does what is right, is now in us, we, too, learn to always love and always do what is right. Our relationship with God does not relinquish us from obeying his commands. Rather, we come to obey his commands because of the relationship. We love him so much that we want to do what pleases him.

Knowing God, having this deep, intimate and loving relationship with God, is what transforms us from being unrighteous to being righteous. People sin because they do not know God.

Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood (Hosea 4:1-2).

For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge (Jeremiah 4:22).

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:4).

But when they come to know God, they begin to practice righteousness and become like Christ.

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we

keep his commandments  
(1 John 2:3).

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:2-4).

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be

my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Knowing God, having this deep, intimate and loving relationship with God, changes who we are. It changes our hearts so that the law of God is now written on our hearts, and it changes our character so that the character of Christ is now in us. We come to do

the works of the law, to obey God's commandments, because the character of Christ obeys them, and the character of Christ is now in us. On our own, we cannot obey the commandments of God, for without Jesus, we can do nothing (John 15:5), but through Jesus, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). Our relationship with God and Jesus transforms us so that we are able to obey his commandments. We do not obey his commandments so that we can gain an eternal relationship with God; we gain an eternal relationship with God so that we can obey his commandments.

And this relationship which transforms us so that we can

do the works of God is gained through faith in Jesus. This is why James says that works is the proof of true faith.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works (James 2:17-18).

If you know God and Jesus, you will do the works of God. If you are not doing the works of God, then you do not really know God or Jesus.

All of this is summarized in the book of Ephesians:

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 (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We are not saved by works, but we are still expected to do the works,

for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

Works are not the cause of salvation; they are the *result* of salvation. We are saved, not by anything which we have done,

but by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ which leads us into a deep, intimate and loving relationship with him. This, according to the Bible, is how we obtain eternal life.

I have set before you two beliefs which disagree with each other. One belief claims to lead us to eternal life, the other will actually lead us to eternal life. Which belief you choose to follow will determine whether you obtain eternal life or not. Will you continue to believe the religion of the Latter-day Saints and never obtain eternal life, or will you choose to believe what the Bible says is true, give your life completely to Jesus Christ

and gain his eternal life in return? The choice is yours.

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

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