

Answering Questions with the Book of Mormon

Monte F. Shelley, 1 Jan 2012

Introduction

- By what authority do you baptize?
- We are commanded to love our neighbors. Who is my neighbor?
- Are you a Mormon? (Threateningly)

We are tempted to answer these questions directly, but Jesus answered most questions with a question or parable.

By what authority do you baptize? (Mt 21)

Jesus answered with a question and two 2 parables

²³ And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, *By what authority doest thou these things?* and who gave thee this authority? ²⁴ And Jesus ... said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ *The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?* And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? ²⁶ But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. ²⁷ And they ... said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, *Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.*

First parable and a question

²⁸ But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. ²⁹ He ... said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. ³⁰ And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he ... said, I go, sir: and went not. ³¹ **Whether of them twain did the will of his father?** They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith ... the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Who is my neighbor? (Lk 10)

Jesus answered with a question and a parable

²⁵ A certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, *what shall I do to inherit eternal life?* ²⁶ He said ... *What is written in the law?* how readest thou? ²⁷ And he ... said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁸ And he said, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. ²⁹ But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, *And who is my neighbour?*

A parable and a question

³⁰ And Jesus ... said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ... ³⁶ *Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?* ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Are you a Mormon? Two types of answers.

- Yes, siree! ... True blue, through and through. (Joseph F. Smith)
- What is a Mormon?? ... No, I'm not what you describe.

Handling Objections (President Ezra Taft Benson)

“We are to use the Book of Mormon in handling objections to the Church. After seeing God the Father and Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith told a minister about it. Joseph was surprised to hear the minister say that there were no such things as visions or revelations in these days, that all such things had ceased. (JS—H 1:21)

“This remark symbolizes practically all of the objections that have ever been made against the Church by nonmembers and dissident members alike. Namely, they do not believe that God reveals His will today to the Church through prophets of God. All objections, whether they be on abortions, plural marriage, seventh-day worship, or other subjects, basically hinge on whether Joseph Smith and his successors were and are prophets of God receiving divine revelation.

“Here ... is a procedure to handle most objections through the use of the Book of Mormon.

1. **Understand** the objection.
2. Give the **answer from revelation**.
3. Show how the correctness of the answer really depends on **whether or not we have modern revelation**.
4. Explain that whether or not we have modern prophets and revelation really depends on **whether the Book of Mormon is true**.

Therefore, the only problem the objector has to resolve is whether the Book of Mormon is true. For if the Book of Mormon is true, then Jesus is the Christ, Joseph Smith was His prophet, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true, and it is being led today by a prophet receiving revelation. (Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God,” Regional Representatives Seminar, SLC, 4 April 1986)

Glenn Pearson a retired BYU religion professor tells the following story. (*Moroni's Promise*, p. 1–3)

“At meeting for stake missionaries, Elder Harold B. Lee said to me, ‘I have decided to dispense with the planned program. As soon as the introductions are over, I will turn the meeting over to you. I want you to let these stake missionaries act as investigators. Then you show them how they should handle these questions. ... If I want you to stop, I will tell you. And if I do not tell you to stop you, you will have the whole hour.’

[I used the 4 step method described years later by President Benson] for the next hour and 20 minutes until President Lee stood up, thanked me, and closed the meeting with his testimony. Everything went as it should. There was no contention. There were no disappointments.

For example, if the objection were about the apostasy and the restoration.

1. **Understand** the objection.
“If I understand you correctly, you do not believe an apostasy occurred. You believe that all Christian churches are correct enough and that there was no need for any revelation besides the Bible. Is that correct?”

2. Give the *answer from revelation*.
“When the Father and the Son appeared to Joseph Smith they told him to join no Christian church of that day because ‘they were all wrong’ and their ministers were ‘all corrupt.’” (JS–H 1:19)
3. Show how the correctness of the answer really depends on *whether or not we have modern revelation*.
“Of course, I know that you could not possibly accept what I have just said just because I have said it; but let me ask this hypothetical question: If, through revelation, you discovered that the Father and the Son really did appear to Joseph Smith and really did say those things, wouldn’t you be obligated to accept what I have just told you?”
4. Explain that whether or not we have modern prophets and revelation really depends on *whether the Book of Mormon is true*.
“The best proof or evidence that this occurred and that we have modern revelation is the Book of Mormon. Anyone who has a testimony of the truth of the Book of Mormon knows that we have modern revelation and modern prophets. You too can know this by ...”

Objections

1. I have **already been baptized** a Christian. I don’t think I should have to be baptized again. Other Christian churches would accept my baptism.

- (D&C 22:1–4) “Behold, I say unto you that all old covenants have I caused to be done away in this thing; and this is a new and an everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning. Wherefore, *although a man should be baptized an hundred times it availeth him nothing, for you cannot enter in at the strait gate by the law of Moses, neither by your dead works*. For it is because of your dead works that I have caused this last covenant and this church to be built up unto me, even as in days of old. *Wherefore, enter ye in at the gate, as I have commanded, and seek not to counsel your God. Amen.*”

2. I cannot accept a church that discriminates against a person because of gender or color. Your church did not let **Negroes** hold the priesthood and does not let **women** hold the **priesthood**.

- So you believe that we do have the priesthood or the authority to act for God? We cannot give what we do not have. If we do not have it, then we are denying people a false priesthood.
- Priesthood is also the responsibility to serve others in particular ways. Many years ago, God revealed to Moses that only the men of in one of the 12 tribes of Israel could hold the priesthood. It was their responsibility to serve in the tabernacle and later the temples. Christ later gave the priesthood to the 12 apostles and others. They were commanded to only preach the gospel to Israelites until the time of the apostle Paul. In our time, John the Baptist and later Peter, James, and John appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to give them the priesthood. God revealed to Joseph who should receive the priesthood just as he did to Moses. In 1978, the Lord revealed to his prophet and the 12

apostles that it was time for all worthy males to receive the priesthood. (D&C OD2)

- First, you need to find out if Joseph did receive the priesthood from God. If not, it doesn’t matter who can’t receive it for we cannot give that which we do not have. Second, you need to find out if Joseph was a prophet who was directed by God regarding who could receive the priesthood.

3. I just can’t believe in a church that would practice **polygamy**.

- (Jacob 2:27–30) “Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For *there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife*; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts. Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes. *For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things.*”
- (D&C 132:1–4) “Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant *Joseph*, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter. Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same. For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and *if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.*”
- Later the *Lord* revealed to his *Prophet Wilford Woodruff that we should stop practicing polygamy*. (D&C Official Declaration #1)

4. Infant Baptism.

- (Moroni 8:8–9) “Listen to the words of Christ ... I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, *little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin*; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them. ... And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore, my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children.”

5. We are **saved by faith** and not by **works**.

- In the Book of Mormon, many people believed that salvation came by the works of the law of Moses. However, the BofM prophets taught that salvation came through the atonement of Christ and through faith in Christ.
- Mosiah 3:14–18 “Yet the Lord God saw that his people were a stiffnecked people, and he appointed unto them a

law, even the law of Moses. And many signs, and wonders, and types, and shadows showed he unto them, concerning his coming; and also holy prophets spake unto them concerning his coming; and yet they hardened their hearts, and understood not that the *law of Moses availeth nothing except it were through the atonement of his blood*. And even if it were possible that little children could sin they could not be saved; but I say unto you they are blessed; for behold, as in Adam, or by nature, they fall, even so *the blood of Christ atoneth for their sins*. And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be *no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent*. For behold he judgeth, and his judgment is just; and the infant perisheth not that dieth in his infancy; but men drink damnation to their own souls except they humble themselves and become as little children, and believe that *salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent*.”

- Mosiah 13:27–28 “And now ye have said that *salvation cometh by the law of Moses*. I say unto you that it is expedient that ye should keep the law of Moses as yet; but I say unto you, that *the time shall come when it shall no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses*. And moreover, I say unto you, that salvation doth not come by the law alone; and were it not for the atonement, which God himself shall make for the sins and iniquities of his people, that they must unavoidably perish, notwithstanding the law of Moses.”
- In Jerusalem after the death and resurrection of Christ, the apostles had the same problem with the Jews. Many Jews who believed their teachings insisted Christians be circumcised and keep the law of Moses (Acts 15:5). Paul disagreed and the apostles met to decide the matter. They later wrote a letter explaining their decision. (Acts 15:24, 28–9) “Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; ²⁹ That ye abstain from *meats offered to idols*, and from *blood*, and from things strangled, and from *fornication*: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”
- Paul later wrote to the Galatians (2:16) “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.”
- In the BofM, Christ explained what He expects of those who believe in Him. (3 Nephi 27:13–22) “13 Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you—that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me. 14 And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might

draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, *to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil*—¹⁵ And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works.¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, that whoso *repenteth* and is *baptized* in my name shall be filled; and if he *endureth to the end*, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father at that day when I shall stand to judge the world.¹⁷ And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return, because of the justice of the Father.¹⁸ And this is the word which he hath given unto the children of men. And for this cause he fulfilleth the words which he hath given, and he lieth not, but fulfilleth all his words.¹⁹ And no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; therefore nothing entereth into his rest save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their *faith*, and the *repentance* of all their sins, and their *faithfulness unto the end*.²⁰ Now this is the commandment: *Repent*, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be *baptized* in my name, that ye may be *sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost*, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day.²¹ Verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for *the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do; for that which ye have seen me do even that shall ye do*;²² Therefore, if ye do these things blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day.”

• BORN AGAIN:

- Mosiah 27:25–26 “And the *Lord said unto me*: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, *all nations*, kindreds, tongues and people, *must be born again*; yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; 26 And thus they become new creatures; and *unless they do this, they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God*.”
- Alma 7:14–15 “Now I say unto you *that ye must repent, and be born again*; for the Spirit saith if ye are not *born again* ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be *baptized unto repentance*, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. 15 Yea, I say unto you come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction, yea, come and go forth, and show unto your God that ye are *willing to repent* of your sins and *enter into a covenant* with him to *keep his commandments*, and *witness* it unto him this day by going into the waters of *baptism*.”

• SAVED BY GRACE:

- 2 Nephi 2:5–10 “And men are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil. And the law is given unto men. *And by the law no flesh is justified*; or, by the law men are

cut off. Yea, by the temporal law they were cut off; and also, by the spiritual law they perish from that which is good, and become miserable forever. 6 Wherefore, **redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah**; for he is full of grace and truth. 7 Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered. 8 Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that **there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah**, who layeth down his life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise. 9 Wherefore, he is the first-fruits unto God, inasmuch as he shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in him shall be saved. 10 And because of the intercession for all, all men come unto God; wherefore, they stand in the presence of him to be judged of him according to the truth and holiness which is in him. ...”

- 2 Nephi 25:23 “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is **by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.**”
- What can we do? We can show our faith in Christ by repenting of our sins and keeping His commandments. Would this save us without the grace of God?
- 2 Nephi 10:23–24 “Therefore, cheer up your hearts, and remember that ye are *free to act for yourselves—to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life.* Wherefore, my beloved brethren, reconcile yourselves to the will of God, and not to the will of the devil and the flesh; and remember, after ye are reconciled unto God, that **it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved.**”

• BAPTISM AFTER BELIEVING:

- Acts 2:37–39, 41–42 “Now when they heard this, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, **and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 41 Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
- Acts 8:12 “But **when they believed Philip** preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.”
- Acts 9:3–8, 17–18 “And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is

hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** **And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.** ... 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. ... 17 And **Ananias** went his way, and entered into the house; and **putting his hands on him** said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and **he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.**”

- Acts 16:30–33 “[The keeper of the prison] brought them [Paul and Silas] out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,** and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and **was baptized**, he and all his, straightway.”
- Acts 18:7–8 “And he [Paul] departed thence, and entered into a certain man’s house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. **And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house;** and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, **and were baptized.**”
- Acts 19:1–6 “1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, **Paul** having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. 4 Then said Paul, **John** verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that **they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.** 5 When they heard this, **they were baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”
- Thief on the Cross: Once Joseph Smith was explaining the need for baptism. A minister disagreed and said that Christ told one of the thieves on the cross with him, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43) Joseph asked how we know the thief wasn’t baptized before he became a thief. After many laughed, Joseph explained about the spirit world.
 - G. Porath, a Lutheran minister, had wondered how Christ could be with the thief in paradise the day they died and then three days later after the resurrection say to Mary, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father” (John 20:17) When he learned of the spirit world, his question was answered.

Book of Mormon Door Approach

Moroni's Promise by Glenn Pearson, p. 6–9

My goal was to lend copies of the Book of Mormon to people. After several days of rejection, I began to figure out a dialog approach. Within two weeks, I was lending a copy of the Book of Mormon to just about anybody I wanted to.

- Good morning. My name is Elder Pearson and this is Elder Jones. We are missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called Mormons. May I ask what church you belong to?
- *I'm a Baptist.*
- I understand the Baptists believe the Bible. Is that correct?
- *Yes.*
- Then you believe in prayer.
- *I surely do.*
- Do you believe prayers can be answered?
- *Oh, yes!*
- Which would it be better to pray for, wisdom or riches?
- *I guess wisdom...*
- Yes. Let me read a passage to you from James 1:5 about that. (Read) Do you believe what the Apostle James says here about the Lord giving wisdom liberally in answer to prayer?
- *Yes, I suppose I do.*
- If you prayed for wisdom and your prayer was answered, you would have received a revelation from God, wouldn't you?
- *Yes, I suppose I would have.*
- Don't you think it is wonderful that the Lord has promised to reveal things to anybody who asks sincerely and in faith?
- *Yes.*
- I have a book here called the Book of Mormon. It has over 500 pages of revelations about Christ and some of his people who lived in America thousands of years ago....
- I would then tell about Joseph Smith's experience with James 1:5–7 and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Then I would again remind them that they had said that prayers for wisdom could be answered by a revelation, in which case she could find out from God whether what I had told her was true.

I did not always use this approach. There always seemed to be an objection, and the objection would determine the direction the dialogue would take. Objections are not stumbling blocks. They are actually stepping stones. I learned to turn each objection into an opportunity to use the 4-step method. So every conceivable situation that arose became an opportunity to present the challenge of the Book of Mormon.

Later in my mission after I had learned this 4-step method of handling objections, I went to visit a family I had stayed with at the start of my mission. Only the college aged daughter was home. After visiting with her awhile, she said: "Elder Pearson, you have changed. When you first came out, you gave the impression that, if we disagreed with you, we were stupid. I couldn't stand to discuss religion with you." I hadn't realized that this change had occurred until she pointed it out.

"The Most Christ-Loving Book I Have Ever Read"

Moroni's Promise by Glenn L. Pearson, p. 10–12 condensed

For the 1st six weeks of my mission, I lived in the home of Reverend Carl Pedersen. My goal was to get Pedersen to read the Book of Mormon. I succeeded in this by a simple formula: every religious discussion ended with an explanation about Mormons are right and the non-Mormons are wrong ***if it turns out that the Book of Mormon is true.*** "And," I explained, "that is your job, Reverend. You must find out for yourself. I won't argue with you about infant baptism, sprinkling, the nature of God, the Apostasy, etc."

This approach eliminated any chance for arguments. ...

One day Pedersen said, "My first assignment in my first ministerial job was to give seven lectures entitled 'The Mormon Gold Bible.' I wanted to do it right and tell the truth. I asked the rector if we had any reliable books on Mormonism and the Book of Mormon.

"He replied: 'Yes, we have a number of books which expose them; but I wouldn't bother with books. The Mormons are such vile people and the Book of Mormon is such a wicked fraud that there isn't any lie you could invent which would be as bad as the truth. Just make up your own stories. That's what we all do.'"

"And that's what I did. Of course, I realize now how wrong that was. When I first began to read the Book of Mormon a couple of weeks ago, I still believed that Joseph Smith was an ***ignorant and wicked*** man. But it wasn't long until I realized that he couldn't possibly have been an ignorant man. No ignorant man could have produced this book. It was a fiendishly clever imposture. I decided that he was an ***absolutely evil and positively brilliant genius.***

"As I read on, it occurred to me that no man, no matter how brilliant, could have produced such a book. It would take some power outside this world to give him the knowledge that would be necessary to come up with a fraud which would baffle the world for a hundred years. Absolute proof that this book was a fraud should have come to light long ago.

"I had thought that such proof had come to light long before I started reading it. But now that I was reading the book for the first time myself, I realized that none of the attacks against it were of any validity. I decided that Joseph Smith was not only ***an evil genius*** but also he was ***in league with the devil.*** He had to have some help from outside this world. I decided it must have been the devil who helped him.

"Then one day, when I had gotten farther into the book, it occurred to me that I had not read a single word which would lead a man into sin or to lose faith in Christ. In fact, ***it was the most Christ-loving book I ever had read, and if true, the greatest proof of Christ's divinity the world had ever received.*** I decided that the simplest and most believable explanation for the book was that it came exactly as Joseph Smith said it did."

Bear Testimony of Christ

Moroni's Promise by Glenn Pearson, 38, condensed

“When I taught the missionary preparation course at BYU I used to counsel the students to bear their testimonies about Christ to the people they met and be sure they knew that we are Christians. I said that if everything else fails, be sure you do not leave without bearing your testimony of the divinity of Christ.

“One of these students filled a mission to Germany. When he came home, he came to see me. He said he credited that instruction with many converts that he didn't think he otherwise would have had. After rejection at the door, he had borne his testimony of Jesus. That had opened the door and had led to many baptisms.”

Book of Mormon proves we're Christians.

I got a call from 2 sister missionaries. They had an investigator who was a student in my Book of Mormon class at BYU. They felt she could be baptized if she could be convinced that we truly are Christians. I agreed to meet with her.

After they arrived, I asked her how she felt about the Book of Mormon. She said she loved it and believed it was true. I knew the Lord had her.

I said: “I realize that many Mormons do not sound like Christians. But that isn't the Church's fault. It is their own fault. I lived with a Lutheran minister for about 6 weeks many years ago. When I came there, he thought like you, that the Mormons aren't Christians. But I got him to read the Book of Mormon. When he read it for several days it occurred to him, as he put it himself, that the Book of Mormon was ‘the most Christ-loving book’ he ever had read, that there was not one word in it which would lead a person to sin or lead him away from Christ. Isn't that honestly the way you feel about the Book of Mormon?”

She replied that she did feel that way about the book. But she wondered why Mormons say so little about Christ and the need to be born again.

I said: “That isn't the Lord's fault or the Church's fault. The Book of Mormon is the basic theology of the Church. You can't hold us to anything which disagrees with it. And it is the proof of the truth of all our claims. In all honesty, you must admit that the Book of Mormon does not neglect Christ or the need of rebirth. Its pages are full of these doctrines about Christ, his atonement, grace, justice, mercy, and redemption. The need to be born again is discussed in depth. That is our doctrine—or rather, Christ's doctrine.”

I read D&C 22 about the need for people to be baptized even if they had been baptized in another church. I read some statements about the name of the Church and that statement in D&C 1 in which the Lord said that this is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually.” And I got her to admit that, if she knew the Book of Mormon was true, she knew Joseph Smith was a prophet and that these revelations came from God.

“You have only one thing to do: make sure that you believe with all your heart or else know that the Book of Mormon is true. If you reach that state, you know that we are Christians and that we are the true Church of Jesus Christ of these latter days.”

The result was that she was baptized within the week. She already knew the Book of Mormon was true and understood the gospel better than most members do.

Are Mormon's Christians?

Are Mormons Christians? by Robinson (p. 32–33)

A liberal Protestant minister and religion professor said: “Mormons aren’t Christians.”

“Do you personally believe that Jesus Christ was the literal Son of God, that he had no mortal father?” I asked.

“No,” he replied, “not literally.”

“Do you believe in the divinity of the historical Jesus?”

“No.”

“Do you believe that Jesus had the power to perform miracles?”

“No.”

“Do you believe that he took upon him the sins of the world in some literal way, as a real transfer of real guilt?”

“No.”

“Do you believe that in some literal way Jesus died for us?”

“No.”

“Do you believe in the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus?”

“No.”

“Do you believe in a final judgment?”

“No.”

“Do you believe in an afterlife at all?”

“I think so.”

“And are you a Christian?”

“Of course I am.”

“How can you say that?”

“Because I accept the New Testament as containing God’s word, even though I do not interpret it literally, and because I am an ordained minister in a denomination that traces its Christian heritage back to the New Testament period without a historical break.

“All right, now, as a Latter-day Saint I believe that Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God; that he was and is divine; that he had the power to work miracles; that he took the sins of the world upon him in Gethsemane and on Calvary; that he died for us; that he was literally, bodily raised up on the third day; and that he will raise us up to judgment and a glorious afterlife. Now, am I a Christian?”

“Absolutely not.

“Why not?”

“Because you are a member of a church that is not theologically derived from and dependent upon the councils and creeds of the historical church, and because you reject traditional Christianity and its theology after the second century.

“Does your definition of ‘being Christian’ have anything to do with my personal belief in Jesus Christ?”

“No.” ...

After the lecture several people approached me to say that according to how they defined “being a Christian,” the Latter-day Saints certainly qualified, but that they weren’t so sure anymore about the professor.

Agnostic

Moroni’s Promise, by Glenn Pearson, p. 43–46

“Frank graduated in philosophy. He said that after a couple of years in philosophy he had lost his faith in all Christianity. He told me he was an agnostic not an atheist.

Frank, you believe in the scientific method, don’t you?

Yes. I now think it is the only method of discovering truth.

A fundamental aspect of the scientific method is experimentation, isn’t it?

Yes.

If I could show you an experiment you could perform to find out if the Bible is true and that Christ is divine, would you perform it?

I certainly would; but I find it hard to believe that such an experiment exists.

I proceeded to explain the coming forth and translation of the Book of Mormon. Frank, kept asking me to explain the experiment he was supposed to perform to restore his faith in the Bible and Christ.

In the last chapter of the Book of Mormon there is a promise. ...

Will you perform this experiment?

No.

Why not? (alarmed and disappointed)

Because I cannot live up to the conditions of the experiment. It says here that I must have faith in Christ and I do not have any faith in Christ.

I had never seen what Frank saw the first time he read it. I started praying to know what to say. Suddenly the Spirit gave me the location of a scripture in Alma about Aaron got the king to pray in the following manner.

“O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day. And now when the king had said these words, he was struck as if he were dead.” (Alma 22:18)

After I told Frank the story and read this verse, I said, “Frank, is there any reason why you couldn’t pray like that king? Could you get on your knees and say, ‘O God, if there is a God; Glenn has told me that there is a God and that thou art God ...’ And then tell him anything you wish to tell him and ask him anything you wish. Is there any reason you can’t pray that way?”

No.

Well, will you do it?

Yes, I will.

I promise you, Frank, that if you do, you will learn that the Book of Mormon is true, and then you will know that the Bible is true and Christ is the divine Son of God.

Frank was transferred. He wrote and told me that when he prayed, the Lord revealed to him that Christ was divine. He then asked if the Book of Mormon was true and the Lord revealed to him that it was. He said he had found some Mormons in his new camp, that he was attending their meetings, and that they were arranging his baptism.

Book of Mormon Challenge

Objection: Only the Bible contains the word of God.

- **Purpose:** to convince “Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST ... manifesting himself unto all nations” (BofM Title Page)
- 2 Nephi 25:26 “we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.”
- Mormon 7:8–9 “*this [the Book of Mormon] is written for the intent that ye may believe that [the Bible]; and if ye believe that ye will believe this also*”
- 2 Nephi 29:3–4, 8–9 “And because my words shall hiss forth—many ... shall say: A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible. But thus saith the Lord God: ... *Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.* ⁹ And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And *because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man, neither from that time henceforth and forever.*”
- 2 Nephi 33:10–11 “hearken unto these words and believe in Christ; and if ye believe not in these words believe in Christ. And *if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ, and he hath given them unto me; and they teach all men that they should do good.* ¹¹ And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye—for Christ will show unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his words, at the last day; and you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness.”
- Moroni 7:16–18 “the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which *inviteth to do good*, and to *persuade to believe in Christ*, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God. ¹⁷ But whatsoever thing *persuadeth men to do evil*, and *believe not in Christ*, and *deny him*, and *serve not God*, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him. ¹⁸ And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, *see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged.*”
- Many Jews reject the New Testament without reading it because of what they have heard from their priests, teachers, and others. Many people also refuse to read the Book of Mormon for the same reason.
- Once a Reverend Pedersen asked another minister if they had any reliable books on Mormonism and the Book of Mormon. He was told: “Yes, we have a number of books which expose them; but I wouldn’t bother with books. The Mormons are such vile people and the Book of Mormon is such a wicked fraud that there isn’t any lie you could invent which would be as bad as the truth. Just make up your own stories. That’s what we all do.” Like this man, many believe what others tell them instead of finding out for themselves.
- Years later this man began to read the Book of Mormon. He said “it occurred to me that I had not read a single word which would lead a man into sin or to lose faith in Christ. In fact, *it was the most Christ-loving book I ever had read, and if true, the greatest proof of Christ’s divinity the world had ever received.*”