

LET'S ASK MORMONS WHAT THEY BELIEVE

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) website has published the testimonies of hundreds of its members. Here's a sampling of those testimonies.

CAUTION: We cite these *only* to support an understanding of the church teachings and practices Mormons are exposed to, and many have adopted; and to encourage your witness to Mormons.

On the Web, many Mormons have explained "why I am a Mormon." Some examples:

- Raised in a Mormon family, a young man began his conversion when he was 15. He read the Book of Mormon, pondered and prayed, and "came to know for myself...that it was true."

- A young woman feels that the Mormon gospel gives her an opportunity to become like Christ, and obtain ultimate happiness.

- A mother of eight finds the Book of Mormon a big help in learning about Jesus Christ and the true gospel.

- A college student says he knows the Book of Mormon "contains a fulness of the truth," because he "feel[s] inside that it is true."

- A convert from an evangelical background, a wife and mother, says she is a Mormon because the Book of Mormon teaches that "all men...should do good."

- When he "found out that [the Mormon] church was organized by Jesus Christ" and was once again alive on the earth, he converted from an evangelical background.

- A widow, formerly a Catholic, submitted to baptism into the Mormon church because it offers her hope that she and her husband will be "together forever."

- A former evangelical converted because his lifelong-Mormon wife was happy.

- A man says he is happy after he converted from the Catholic church. He now hopes that God will be with him if he applies His teachings throughout life.

Featured LDS Web Testimonies

"EVERYTHING HINGES ON ONE THING," a Mormon has testified. The "one thing" is a feeling that the Book of Mormon is true. The feeling is gained by reading the book and praying about it, he said, adding that this also means that Joseph Smith received the book by revelation, that he was a prophet, and that God still leads a true church through prophets.

"I'M A MORMON BECAUSE THAT'S THE LIFESTYLE THAT I DECIDED TO HAVE; IT'S THE CORRECT PATH..." a Mormon has testified. "I KNOW I'M ON THE RIGHT PATH BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I FEEL IN MY HEART."

"THE COMMANDMENTS SET FORTH FOR ME," when obeyed, a teen concluded, brought "blessings." He had "experimented" to see what would happen if he followed the "formula" of faith, prayer, and dedication. It worked, and, he said, "That is why I am a Mormon."

Prophets, feelings, commandments; the Book of Mormon and other new scriptures, Joseph Smith and his successors, a true church once again on earth and its more perfect gospel: these are common threads in Mormon testimonies. The Mormon church has promised members that because of their membership they have opportunity to progress to eternal life, where they will enjoy familial bliss (the "forever family") - - if - - if they obey their living prophets, participate in unusual Mormon temple rituals, and live good lives.

The Mormon message for you, stripped of its tempting promises: Your only hope for eternal life is conversion to Mormonism, then lifelong obedience to its laws and commandments. Otherwise you will live an unending happy life, but not in God's presence and without family. What can you do? What's your message for Mormons?

Consider Galatians 3:2-3. Tell Mormons your own salvation is guaranteed (gained and sustained) only by faith and God's grace. Ask a Mormon to read Romans, chapters 3-5: •No one is righteous (3:10) except those blessed by imputed righteousness (4:5). •For one trying, but not sure it's "good enough," peace with God by faith (5:1).