

# Sharing the Good News with Mormons

Practical Strategies  
for Getting the  
Conversation Started

FOREWORD BY  
JOSH McDOWELL

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS  
WITH MORMONS

ERIC JOHNSON  
SEAN McDOWELL  
GENERAL EDITORS

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES  
FOR GETTING  
THE CONVERSATION STARTED

A blue door with two small windows and a mail slot, set in a brick wall with greenery. The door has a classic design with two small windows at the top, each with a decorative frame. Below the windows are two vertical panels, and at the bottom is a mail slot. The door is set in a brick wall with a white frame. Greenery is visible on the right side of the wall.

Mormon Missionaries  
at Our Door.  
How Should We Respond?

[www.mrm.org](http://www.mrm.org)

- **October 6, 2012: 16<sup>th</sup> Church President Thomas S. Monson** announced that the church was lowering the minimum age for male missionaries from 19 to 18, and from 21 to 19 for females.
- Female missionaries are called “Sisters.” Male missionaries are called “Elders.”
- Bear in mind that the title of “Elder” has more to do with the age of the missionary and not his theological knowledge.



# When talking to a Latter-day Saint. . .

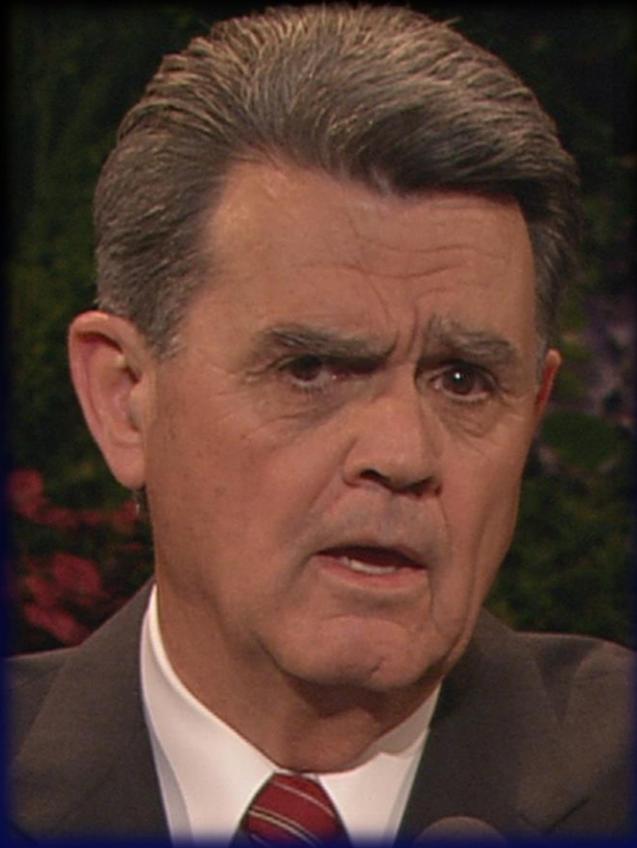
- **Avoid playing ignorant.**
- **Avoid accusations like, “You’re not a Christian,” or, “You belong to a cult.”**
- **Avoid telling the Mormon what he/she believes. Rather, ask them what they personally believe. You may find that they don’t agree with their church on some issues.**
- **Define Terms (e.g. “When you say salvation, what exactly does that mean to you?”)**

# Preparing them for the conversation

- **“Do you believe it honors God to believe something that is false?”**
- **“How would you recognize something that is false?”**
- **“If there was the slightest chance that you are believing something that is false, would you want to know?”**
- **“If you came to realize something you believed was false, what would you do?”**

# **The missionaries at your door represent a religious organization that teaches:**

- That it alone believes and practices what the first century church believed and practiced.**
- The Godhead is composed of three separate Gods – Father, Son, and Holy “Ghost.”**
- God was once a human who lived on a planet similar to this earth.**
- God has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.**



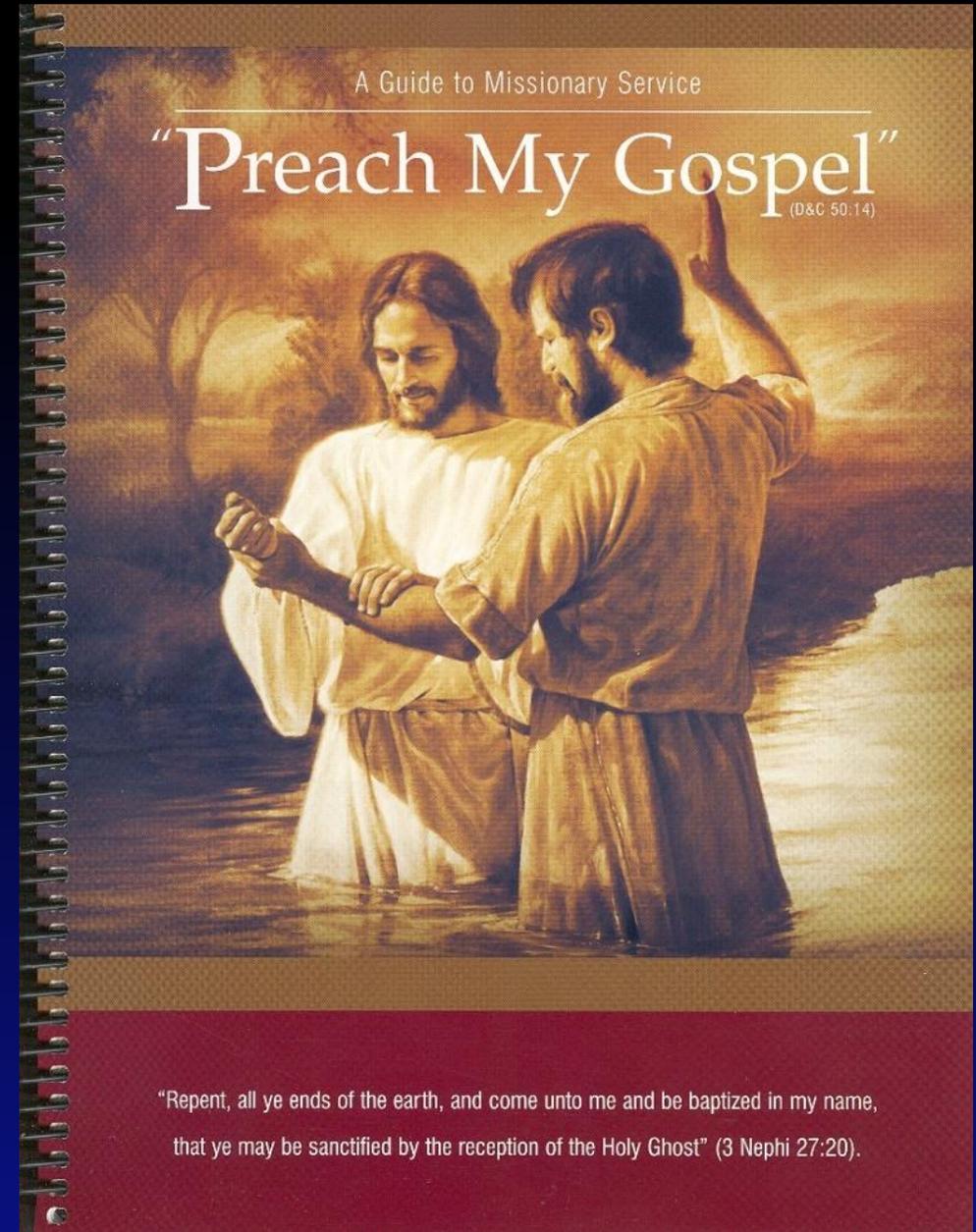
**Seventy Gary J. Coleman,  
“Mom, Are We Christians?”  
*Ensign* (Conference Edition)  
May 2007, pp. 92, 93**

**“The knowledge of God and His physical separateness from His Son and the Holy Ghost was lost after the death of Christ and His Apostles. Confusion and false doctrines about the Godhead were fashioned out of the Nicene Creed and Constantinople councils...I know that heaven-sent revelations have replaced the gross errors of man-made doctrines concerning the Godhead.”**

# Some suggested questions

- **What biblical or historical evidence is there to suggest that early Christians believed the godhead was composed of three separate Gods? Or that God was once a man, or that God has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's?**
- **Does it not seem odd, that if the early Christians believed that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were three separate Gods [as Coleman suggested], that no one, not a single person, ever defended such a notion at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.?**

**The Missionary's  
objectives are outlined in  
the 2004, *Preach My  
Gospel* manual**



## 3 Major Areas of Discussion

- **Convince investigators that there was a “complete apostasy” of the Christian Church.**
- **Convince investigators that the Book of Mormon is a work from God.**
- **Convince investigators that the gospel has been “restored” by God through Joseph Smith.**

# The Great Apostasy

**“Investigators must be told that a universal apostasy occurred following the death of Jesus and His Apostles. If there had been no apostasy, there would have been no need of a Restoration.”**

***Preach My Gospel, 2004, p.36***

# The Most Correct Book?

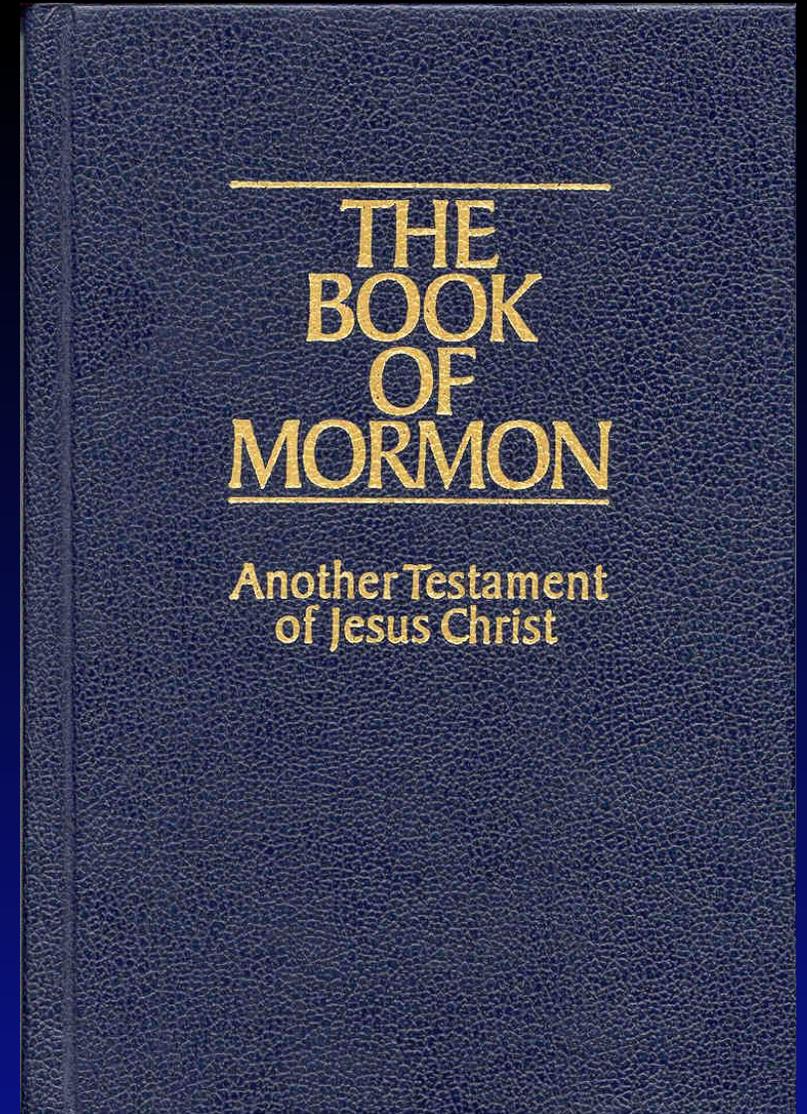
**“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”**

**Joseph Smith, *History of the Church* 4:46**



# The Book of Mormon

- **Missionary:** Have you ever read the Book of Mormon?
- **You:** No, but I assume you have. Why do you feel this book is so important? What does it have to say that I need to know?



- **Missionary:** The Book of Mormon is another witness of Christ. It contains writings of ancient prophets who lived on the American continent from approximately 2200 BC to AD 421, and answers essential questions that we all have at some point: Is there life after death, and what's waiting for us on the other side? What is the purpose of life, and how can I find happiness and peace now? Does God know me and hear my prayers? How can I avoid sin and learn to truly repent? How can I become the best possible version of myself?

# Some questions regarding the Book of Mormon

- If it speaks of ancient prophets, where exactly did these people live on the American continent? What evidence does your church have to support their existence?
- If “a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its [Book of Mormon] precepts, than by any other book,” What are those precepts that I must follow that are not found in any other book?

# Praying about the Book of Mormon

**Moroni 10:4** – “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a **sincere heart**, with **real intent**, **having faith in Christ**, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

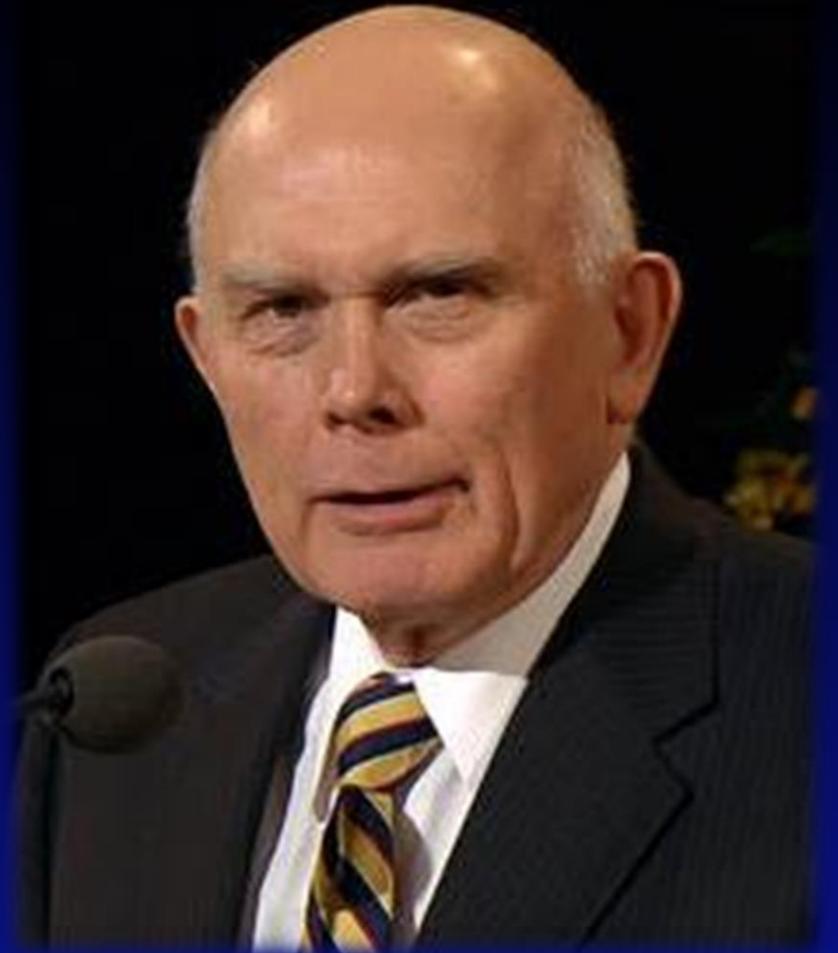
# But does prayer make the Book of Mormon True?

- Truth is that which conforms with reality, not a personal, subjective feeling.
- Prayer was never meant to change (or ignore ) facts.
- Nowhere in the Bible are we ever commanded to pray about spiritual books.
- As Christians we must view everything through the lens of the Bible. Mormonism does just the opposite.

# Is the “Restored Gospel” Good News?

“From modern revelation, unique to the restored gospel, we know that the commandment to seek perfection is part of God the Father’s plan for the salvation of His children.”

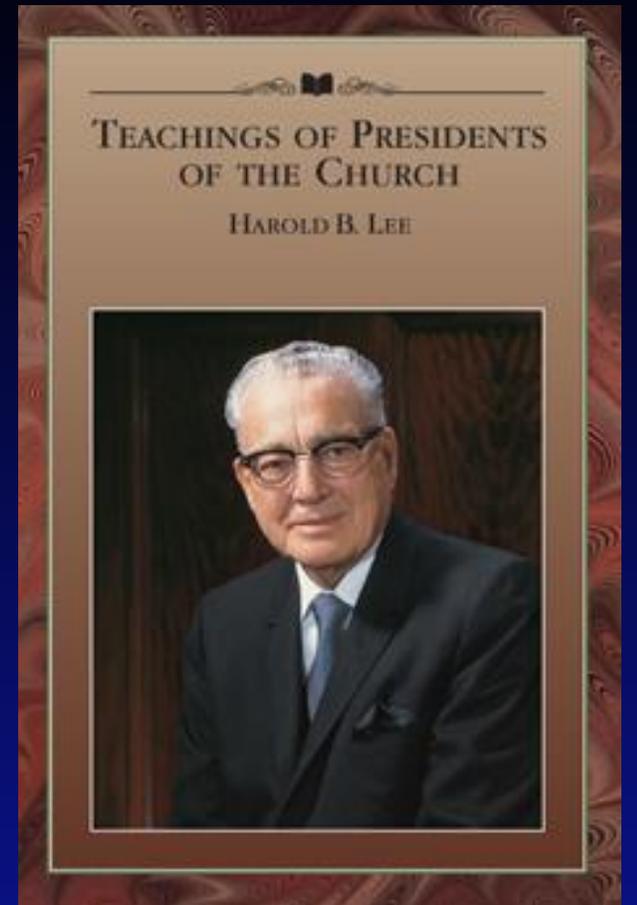
Dallin H. Oaks (First Presidency) “Followers of Christ,” *Ensign*, May 2013, p. 98.



# Salvation according to Mormonism

- “Herein is defined ... **individual salvation**, which comes to each, dependent upon his own conduct and his own life. But we [also] have what we call ‘**general**’ [salvation], that which comes upon all mankind, whether they are good or bad, rich or poor, when they have lived—it makes no difference.”

*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee*, 2000, pp. 22-23. Ellipsis and brackets in original



# Ephesians 2:8-9

- If the word *salvation* has different meanings, what type of *salvation* was Paul referring to in Ephesians 2:8-9? Was he speaking of “individual” salvation, or “general” salvation?
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

# Forgiveness

- If I was to join your church, what must I do to receive the forgiveness of my sins?
- ***Doctrine and Covenants 1:32*** – “Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.”

# What is Repentance according to Mormonism?

**“The forsaking of sin must be a permanent one. True repentance does not permit making the same mistake again.”**

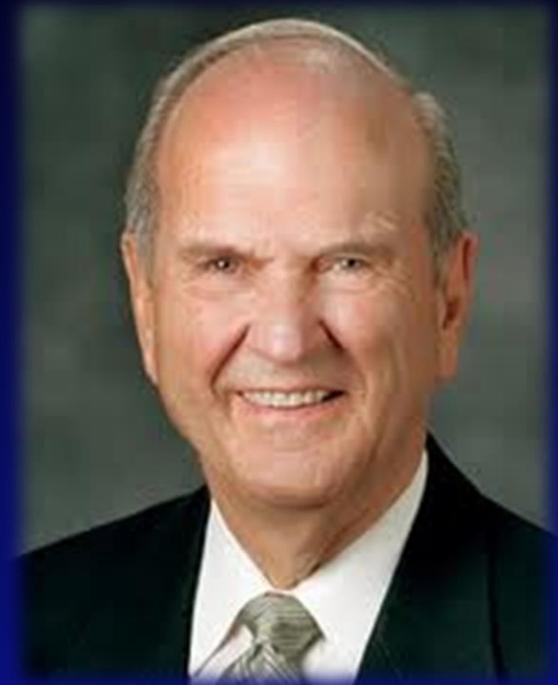


**12<sup>th</sup> President Spencer W. Kimball, *Repentance Brings Forgiveness*, an unnumbered tract.**

# How Many Commandments Must a Mormon Keep?

“To prepare to meet God, one keeps *all* of His commandments.”

17<sup>th</sup> President Russell M. Nelson, “Face the Future with Faith,” *Ensign* (Conference Edition), May 2011, p. 34, Italics in original.



# Haiti, October 2018



Ground broken for a temple on October 28, 2017

[www.mrm.org](http://www.mrm.org)