

The next highest priority messages include:

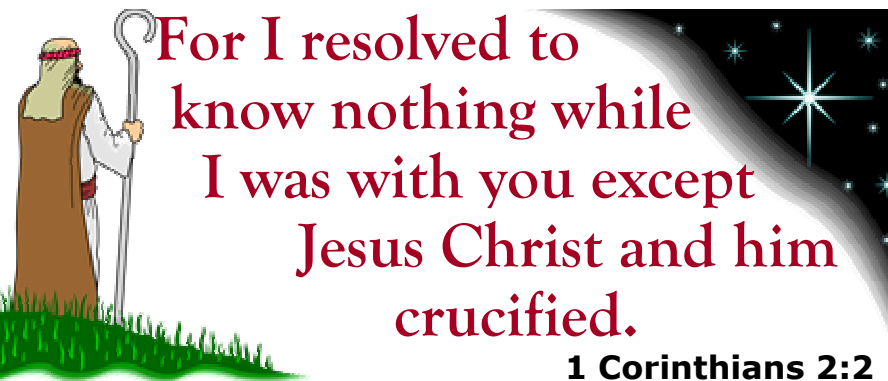
4. Jesus' sacrifice of his perfect life gained forgiveness for the world.
5. The purpose of the Law is to show us our sin.
6. Feelings are not a trustworthy way of discerning God's truth.
7. Glory to God and not self-progression is the motivation of a "good" work.

Which of these messages is most important is somewhat situational. For example, if the person you are witnessing to brings up feelings as the way to know God's truth; this becomes an important message. Otherwise you need not broach the topic of feelings. It is important to understand that from situation to situation the foundational messages of our witness do not change. However, the way we present our message may vary.

Our web site contains an extensive amount of material to help you witness. It is dedicated to teaching and equipping Christians to witness the truth of God's Word to Mormons in Love. We provide insight into the different definitions the LDS church uses for common biblical terms. We make extensive use of comparison between LDS and Christian thinking. In this way we present ways to deliver biblical messages that do not get distorted when heard by Mormon ears.

By visiting the site you will find many resources that address the topics discussed in this witnessing framework. In particular, you will find:

- A Witnessing Fundamentals Tutorial
- A Basic Mormon Doctrine Tutorial
- A Variety of Witnessing Windows which provide the "how to". They include background, references and direction for specific biblical topics
- A downloadable electronic book contrasting Christian and Mormon beliefs for a wide range of topics
- A section dedicated to witnessing to Mormon missionaries
- An email link to subscribe to our newsletter



## Witnessing Framework

Presented in this folder is a Guide for witnessing to Mormons. It has been developed by the Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons Ministry. Please visit us at

<http://www.truthinlovetomormons.com>

When witnessing to Mormons use two different perspectives. Proactively witness God's Law and Gospel from his Holy Bible. Reactively discuss other topics introduced by Mormons with the purpose of getting focus back on critical biblical messages.

Here are two lists of key witnessing topics. They can build a framework to support the overall goal of witnessing God's plan for receiving eternal life. One list contains critical topics that focus on how we receive eternal life. The other, topics which address arguments often introduced by Mormons in witnessing situations. Proactively introduce the topics in the first list while reactively discuss the topics in the second list.

These lists are not intended to be exhaustive. Other topics will arise in witnessing situations. This framework is intended to provide a starting point that focuses squarely on our desire for Mormons to hear Christ's good news so that the Holy Spirit can work the miracle of conversion.

### Topics concerning how we receive eternal life:

- The Plan of Salvation (The way to obtain eternal life)
  - ❖ Jesus as our Redeemer
  - ❖ Jesus as our Righteousness
- Perfection
- Forgiveness
- Sin

### Topics responding to Mormon arguments:

- How do we discern spiritual truth
- How do we tell if a prophet is true.
- The purpose of the law
- Repentance
- Our response to the gift of faith

These topics work together to form a core set of biblical teachings. They center on how we determine God's truth and his truth about eternal life. The framework we can build with these topics has seven major messages. These messages are outlined on the next page.

## How to discern truth

- God revealed his truth to his children in the Bible.
- God instructs his children to test the truthfulness of any other source, whether man or book, by comparing its teaching against the Bible.
- Feelings are not a trustworthy source for discerning God's truth.

## God's demand for receiving eternal life

- God commands us in his Bible to **Be Perfect** (even the Book of Mormon says "**Be Perfect**").
- The penalty for not being perfect is eternity in Outer Darkness.
- Man can not be perfect himself as he is hopelessly mired in sin.

## God's plan for us to meet his demands

- Jesus paid the full price for our sins. That is, he suffered our punishment as our substitute. He is our Redeemer.
- Therefore we have no payment left to make. By believing that Jesus took our debt away, we are guiltless before God.
- Jesus led a perfect life for us. He is our Righteousness.
- Jesus' perfection is the cloak of righteousness we wear through faith.
- Faith in Jesus as our Redeemer and as our Righteousness is a completely undeserved gift of God.
- God credits our faith in Jesus (as our Redeemer and Righteousness) with Christ's perfection. Because of our faith, God sees us as perfect - even though we are still sinful.
- At the moment we are brought to faith we are taken from spiritual death to spiritual life. This is the beginning of our eternal life that culminates in living eternally with our Heavenly Father.

## Another benefit of God's gift of faith

- Because Jesus paid the full price, all of our sins are forgiven.
- The knowledge that God has freely forgiven us leaves us with a peace that surpasses all understanding.

## God's purpose for the law

- The Law acts as a mirror so we see the magnitude of our sinfulness.
- God has given the Law so that sin might **increase**.
- Our inability to keep God's laws demonstrates the futility of relying on our own righteousness.

## How believers react to God's gift of faith

- Everyone who receives the gift of faith is turned away from self and towards God (converted).

- They are sorry for their sins (repentant) and wish to follow God's will.
- The response of this new spiritual life is works motivated by the desire to thank God. The lack of this response is an indication of dead faith.
- Believer's recognize that their God-pleasing actions are Christ, living in them, shining forth. They give God all the credit and honor.

## Response to "we have to do 'all we can do' (works) to gain eternal life."

- The desire to thank God is the motivation behind good works.
- Works motivated by a desire to earn one's own righteousness or eternal life seek one's own glory and cannot glorify God.
- We are **not** saved **by** our works; but we are saved **to do** works.
- We reject Christ when we rely on our own works.

How much of this framework we will be able to build will vary from situation to situation. In general, the longer term witnessing relationship we can develop, the more of this framework we can build. However, even short witnesses can be effective. In these cases we need to prioritize. The highest priority messages center on:

1. What Jesus did for us and that we can not do it for ourselves:
  - a) Payment for our sins, a payment we can never make ourselves. **(The magnitude of the demanded payment – eternal death & suffering, the magnitude of Christ's payment and asking how could we even come close?)**
  - b) His perfect life offered to us, perfection we could never achieve ourselves. **(God's Law as a mirror to show the sin in one's life, biblical definitions of sin to show how prevalent it is in one's thoughts, words, and deeds, sin as acts against God, sins of commission and omission)**
2. How the undeserved gift of faith in Jesus satisfies God's demand for perfection and payment thereby gaining us eternal life.
3. If we reject Jesus' payment or his perfection, we stand on our own. Failure to meet God's demands results in eternity in outer darkness.

These messages include the Law (God's demand for perfection and payment, our sinfulness that prevents us from being able to satisfy these demands, the magnitude of a looming eternal punishment in Outer Darkness) and the Gospel (what Christ did for us, his offer of faith and eternal life as a gift, the bliss of eternal rest in heaven).

The Law and Gospel work together in tandem as a one-two punch. The Law causes a person to despair in their own ability to save themselves so that they will recognize their need for Christ's offer given in the Gospel.

How much Law to deliver before interweaving the Gospel will depend upon the person's recognition of their sinfulness, their need for Christ's offer.