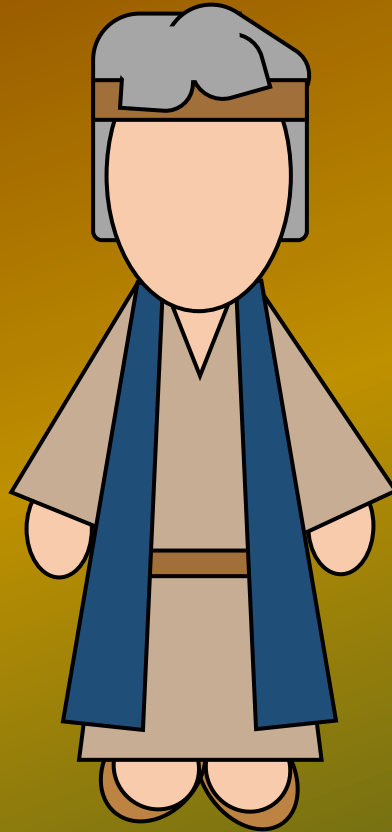
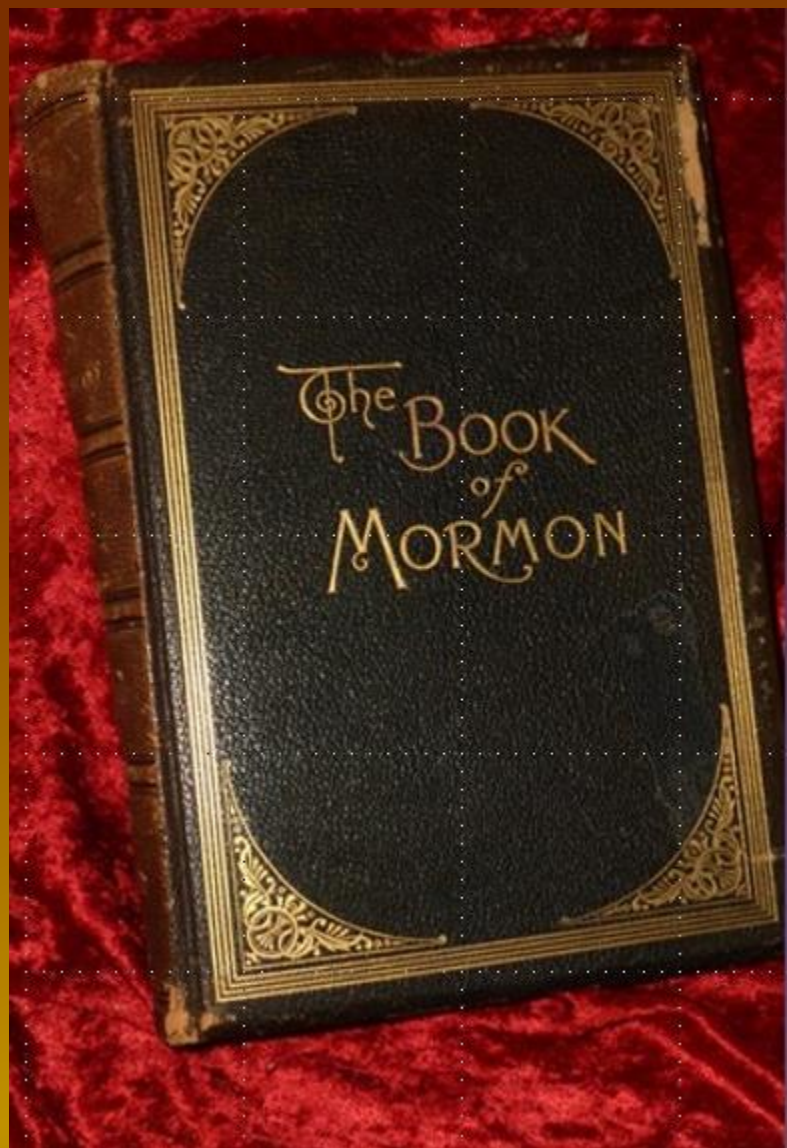


Moroni 10





Obtaining a Testimony of the Book of Mormon and of Jesus Christ

If you haven't read it, how do
you know it is not true?

Sealed Up The Records

More than 420 years have passed
since the coming of the Savior

Read and Remember

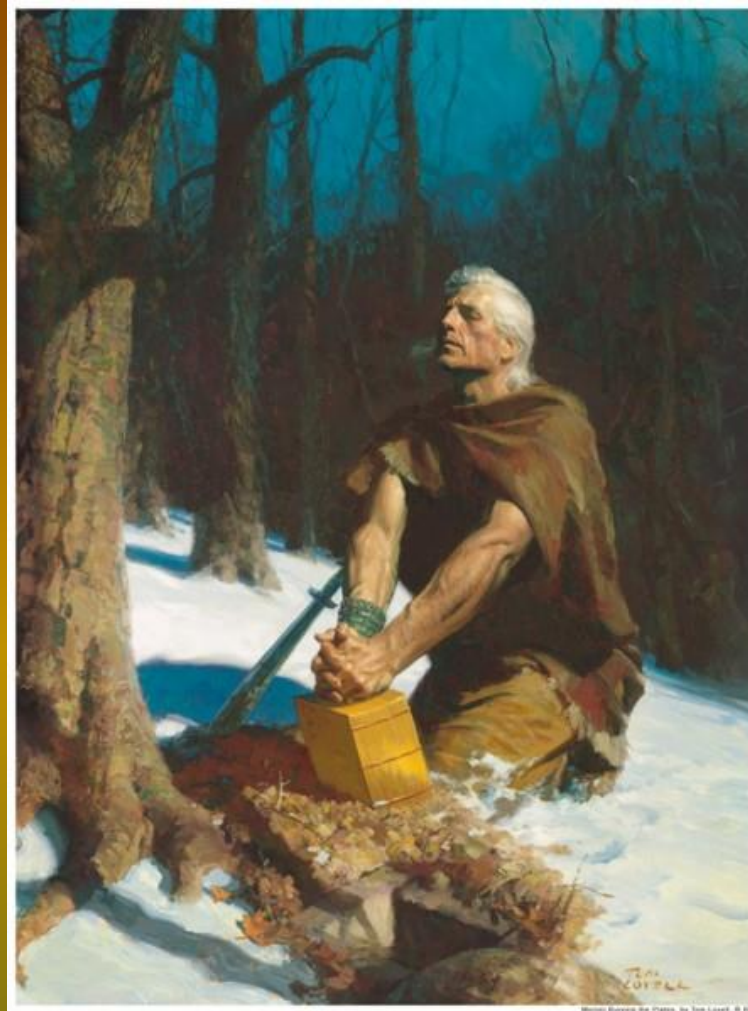
Search, Ponder, and Pray

Ask and you will know

Ask with sincerity and real intent

Ask if the words are true

By the power of the Holy Ghost,
you shall know of the truth



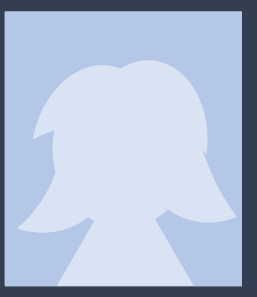
What is good is just and true

Nothing is good that denies Christ


God is the power of all things
yesterday, today, and forever

Research "My Church"

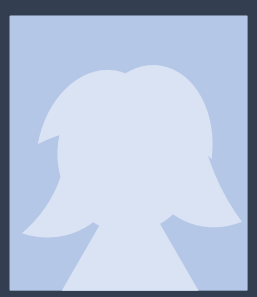
A 14-year-old girl ... said that she had been discussing religion with one of her friends at school.




'What religion do you belong to?'



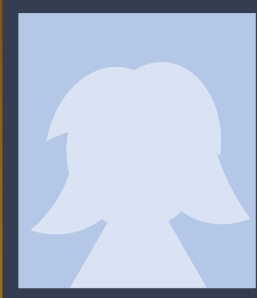
'The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormons.'




I know that church, and I know it's not true.



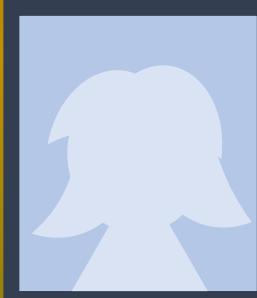
How do you know?




Because, I have researched it




Have you read the Book of Mormon?



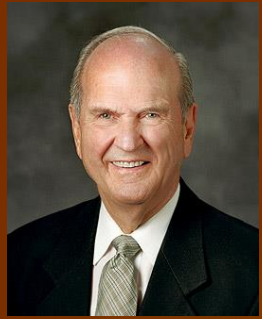
No, I haven't



Then you haven't researched my church.



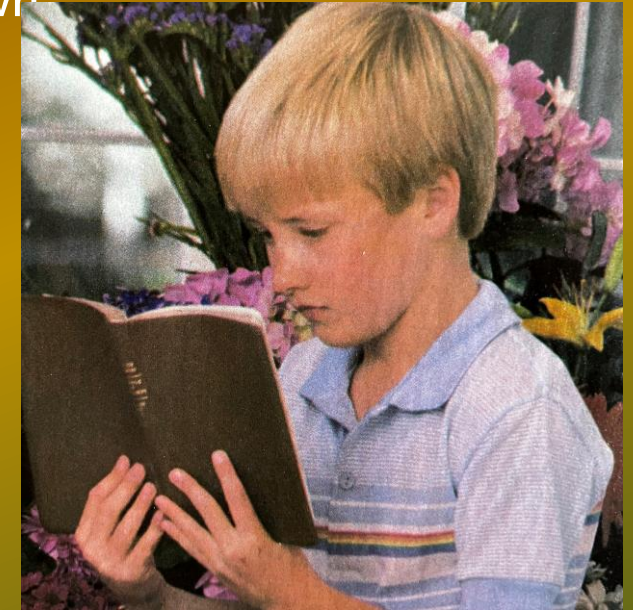
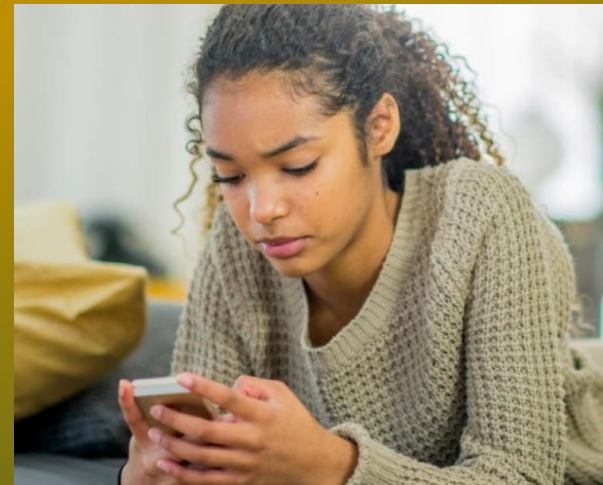
I have read every page of the Book of Mormon and I know it's true 😊



“I promise that as you prayerfully study the Book of Mormon *every day*, you will make better decisions—*every day*.”

I promise that as you ponder what you study, the windows of heaven will open, and you will receive answers to your own questions and direction for your own life.”

Russell M. Nelson



The Key



To gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon we must read and search the book itself

How can you possibly know it is **not true** if you don't search or ponder what is written?



Moroni taught that those who read the Book of Mormon and desire to know of its truthfulness should “remember how merciful the Lord hath been”

Recognizing and remembering instances of the Lord's mercy can soften our hearts and prepare us to feel the influence of the Holy Ghost.

One meaning of the word *merciful* is compassionate.

Pondering



We must ponder the Lord's mercy in our hearts.

The Lord has been merciful to others and ourselves prepares us to receive the influence of the Holy Ghost.



“Dictionaries say that *ponder* means to weigh mentally, think deeply about, deliberate, meditate. ...

“By pondering, we give the Spirit an opportunity to impress and direct. Pondering is a powerful link between the heart and the mind. As we read the scriptures, our hearts and minds are touched. If we use the gift to ponder, we can take these eternal truths and realize how we can incorporate them into our daily actions. ...

“Pondering is a progressive mental pursuit. It is a great gift to those who have learned to use it. We find understanding, insight, and practical application if we will use the gift of pondering”

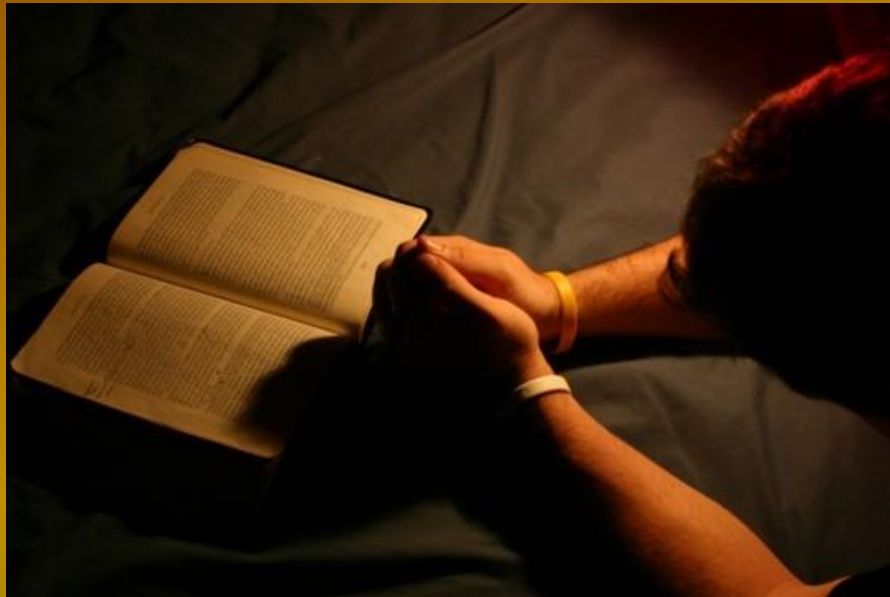
Elder Marvin J. Ashton



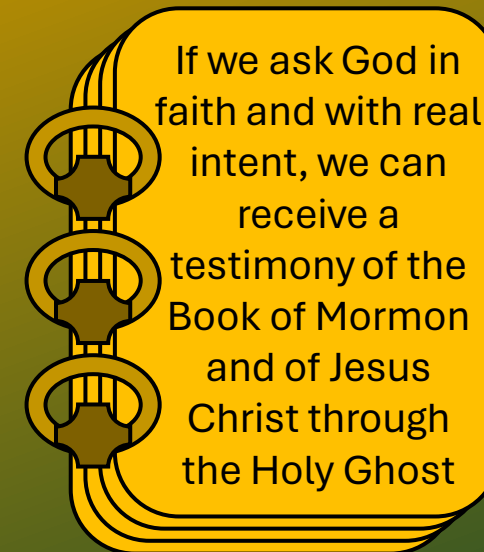
Ask With Sincerity

Moroni taught that if we want to receive a witness of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, we must ask God “with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in [Jesus] Christ.”

To pray sincerely and with real intent means that we “intend to act on the answer [we] receive from God.”



Moroni 10:4



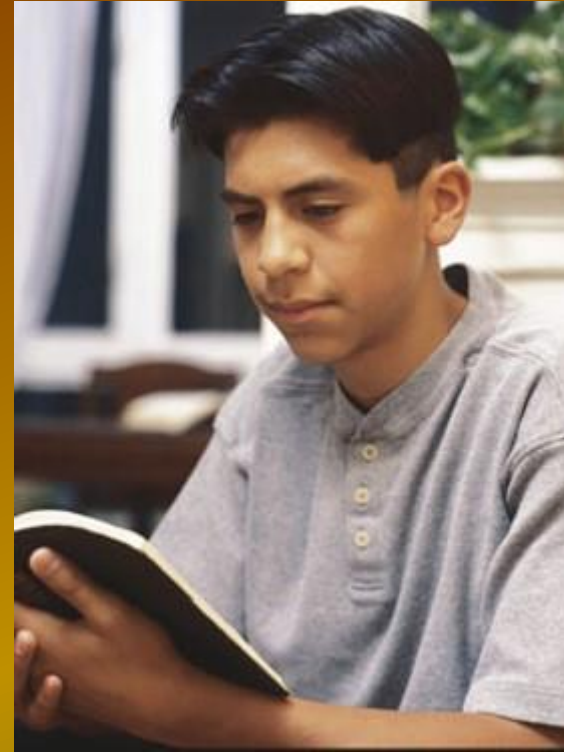
If we ask God in faith and with real intent, we can receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon and of Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost

“Occasionally I prayed to know what was right, but it was more of a passing thought than a sincere question. Then one night I decided to pray with ‘real intent.’



“I told Heavenly Father that I wanted to know Him and to be part of His true Church. I promised: ‘If Thou will let me know whether Joseph Smith is a real prophet and whether the Book of Mormon is true, I’ll do whatever Thou would have me do. If The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true Church, I’ll follow it and never give it up.’

“I had no spectacular manifestation, but I felt at peace and went to bed. Several hours later I awoke with a distinct thought: ‘Joseph Smith is a true prophet, and the Book of Mormon is true.’ The thought was accompanied by indescribable peace. I fell asleep again, only to awake later with the exact same thought and feeling.



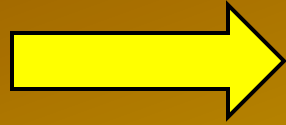
“Since that time, I have never doubted that Joseph Smith is a true prophet. I know that this is the Savior’s work and that Heavenly Father will answer our sincere petitions.”

Rodolfo Armando Pérez Bonilla

Doctrinal Mastery



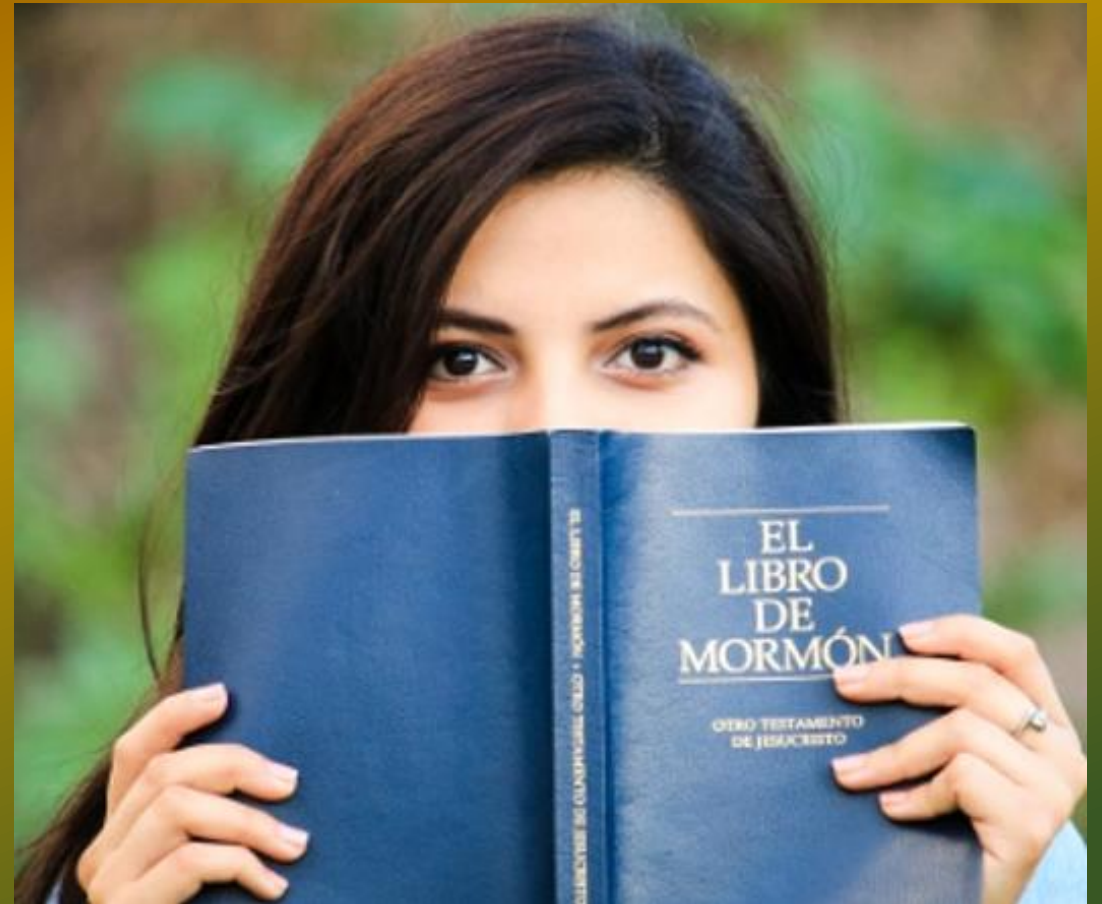
Moroni 10:4-5



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.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

If we read the Book of Mormon,
remember and ponder the Lord's mercy,
and ask God sincerely with faith in Jesus
Christ, then we will receive a testimony of
the Book of Mormon by the power of the
Holy Ghost.



Receive

Those who have received the Book of Mormon will be accountable to God for how they respond to it



“After indicating that those who receive the Book of Mormon with faith, working righteousness, will receive a crown of eternal glory (see D&C 20:14),

the Lord follows with this warning: “But those who harden their hearts in unbelief, and reject it, it shall turn to their own condemnation.” (D&C 20:15.)

“The word *testament* is the English rendering of a Greek word that can also be translated as *covenant*. Is this what the Lord meant when He called the Book of Mormon the “new covenant”?

It is indeed another testament or witness of Jesus. This is one of the reasons why we have recently added the words *Another Testament of Jesus Christ* to the title of the Book of Mormon.”



“If you are not reading the Book of Mormon each day, please do so. If you will read it prayerfully and with a sincere desire to know the truth, the Holy Ghost will manifest its truth to you. If it is true—and I solemnly testify that it *is*—then Joseph Smith was a prophet who saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.



“Because the Book of Mormon is true, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s Church on the earth, and the holy priesthood of God has been restored for the benefit and blessing of His children.”

Thomas S. Monson

Sources:

Elder Tad R. Callister (“The Book of Mormon—a Book from God,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 76).

Russell M. Nelson, “The Book of Mormon: What Would Your Life Be Like without It?,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 62–63

Elder Marvin J. Ashton (“There Are Many Gifts,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 20).

President Ezra Taft Benson *The Keystone of Our Religion* Jan. 1992 *Ensign*

Rodolfo Armando Pérez Bonilla, “How I Know,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2011, 64).

Thomas S. Monson, “The Power of the Book of Mormon,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 86–87).

Ponder in Your hearts:

“The last five words of the verse offer an important admonition—‘ponder it in your hearts.’ What is the antecedent of ‘it’—the thing that we are to ponder? It is ‘how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things.’ We are to remember how loving, how provident, how good, how forgiving our Heavenly Father has been toward us” (“Moroni’s Promise,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1994, 12). This admonition near the end of the Book of Mormon to remember and ponder the Lord’s mercy is a fitting bookend to Nephi’s declaration that “I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen” (1 Nephi 1:20).

In addition to pondering the merciful nature of the Lord, those who read the Book of Mormon should ponder the eternal truths they discover within its pages (see the introduction to the Book of Mormon).

Real Intent:

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles commented on Moroni’s exhortation that we ask God with “real intent” regarding the truth of the Book of Mormon: “Moroni did not promise a manifestation of the Holy Ghost to those who seek to know the truth of the Book of Mormon for hypothetical or academic reasons, even if they ‘ask with a sincere heart.’ The promise of Moroni is for those who are committed in their hearts to act upon the manifestation if it is received. Prayers based on any other reason have no promise because they are not made ‘with real intent’” (*Pure in Heart* [1988], 19–20).

Our salvation depends on how we receive the Book of Mormon

President Ezra Taft Benson emphasized the importance of the Book of Mormon when he extended the following exhortation to all members of the Church:

“Brethren and sisters, I implore you with all my heart that you consider with great solemnity the importance of the Book of Mormon to you personally and to the Church collectively.

“Over ten years ago I made the following statement regarding the Book of Mormon. ...

“Every Latter-day Saint should make the study of this book a lifetime pursuit. Otherwise he is placing his soul in jeopardy and neglecting that which could give spiritual and intellectual unity to his whole life. There is a difference between a convert who is built on the rock of Christ through the Book of Mormon and stays hold of that iron rod, and one who is not’ (*Ensign*, May 1975, p. 65).

“I reaffirm those words to you this day. Let us not remain under condemnation, with its scourge and judgment, by treating lightly this great and marvelous gift the Lord has given to us. [See D&C 84:54–58.] Rather, let us win the promises associated with treasuring it up in our hearts” (“The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 7).

COME UNTO CHRIST

MORONI 10:8-34



GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT

To teach the word of wisdom

To teach the word in knowledge

To have great faith

To have the gift of healing

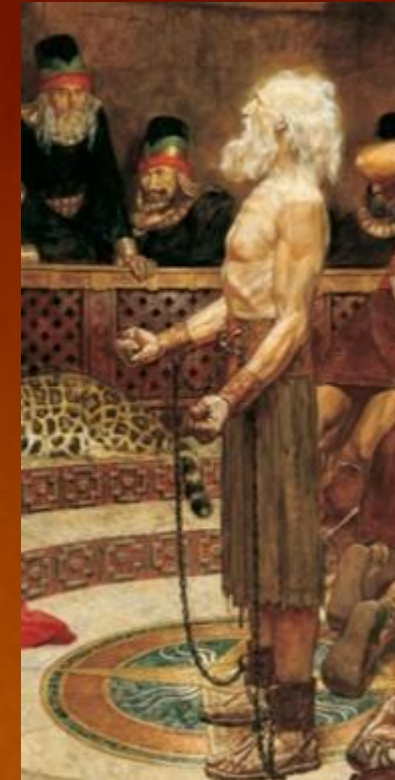
To work mighty miracles

To prophesy

To behold angels and ministering spirits

Speaking in tongues

Interpretation of languages and divers kinds of tongues



God grants gifts of the Spirit to profit His children

GIFTS COME IN DIFFERENT WAYS



“...there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same given to every man to profit withal...



All these [gifts] worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.



For as the body is one, and hath many member, and all the member of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.”

BEING DECEIVED

Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given;



For verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me, that ask and not for a sign that they may consume it upon their lusts.



And again, verily I say unto you, I would that ye should always remember, and always retain in your minds what those gifts are, that are given unto the church.

For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.

D&C 46:8-12





“The light of Christ is neither the Holy Ghost nor the gift of the Holy Ghost; but that member of the Godhead, because he alone with the Father and the Son is God, uses the light of Christ for his purposes. Thus spiritual gifts, the gifts of God...come from God by the power of the Holy Ghost. ...meaning the Holy Ghost uses the light of Christ to transmit his gifts.”

Bruce R. McConkie

GIFTS OF GOD

Are you searching for the gifts that God has promised to bestow upon you?

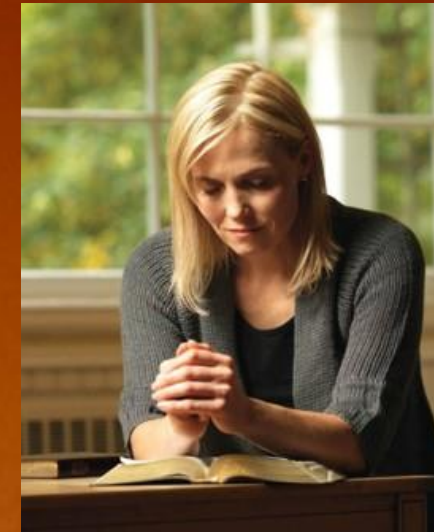


Have you prayed (through Jesus Christ) for what these gifts might be or how to obtain them?

If I am an angry man...it is my duty to pray for charity

If I am an envious man...it is my duty to search for charity

If I am weak in my testimony...it is my duty to ask of God for strength, for wisdom, for knowledge of the truth

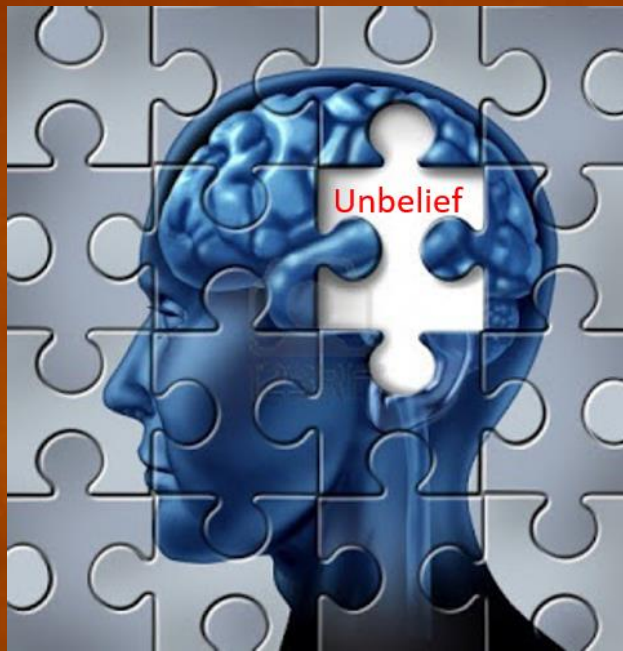


He gives us these gifts, and bestows them upon those who seek after them...because God has promised to give the gifts that are necessary for our perfection



YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

The gifts you have received or will acquire during your mortal probation on earth can never be taken away except if you choose to lose your faith in Christ



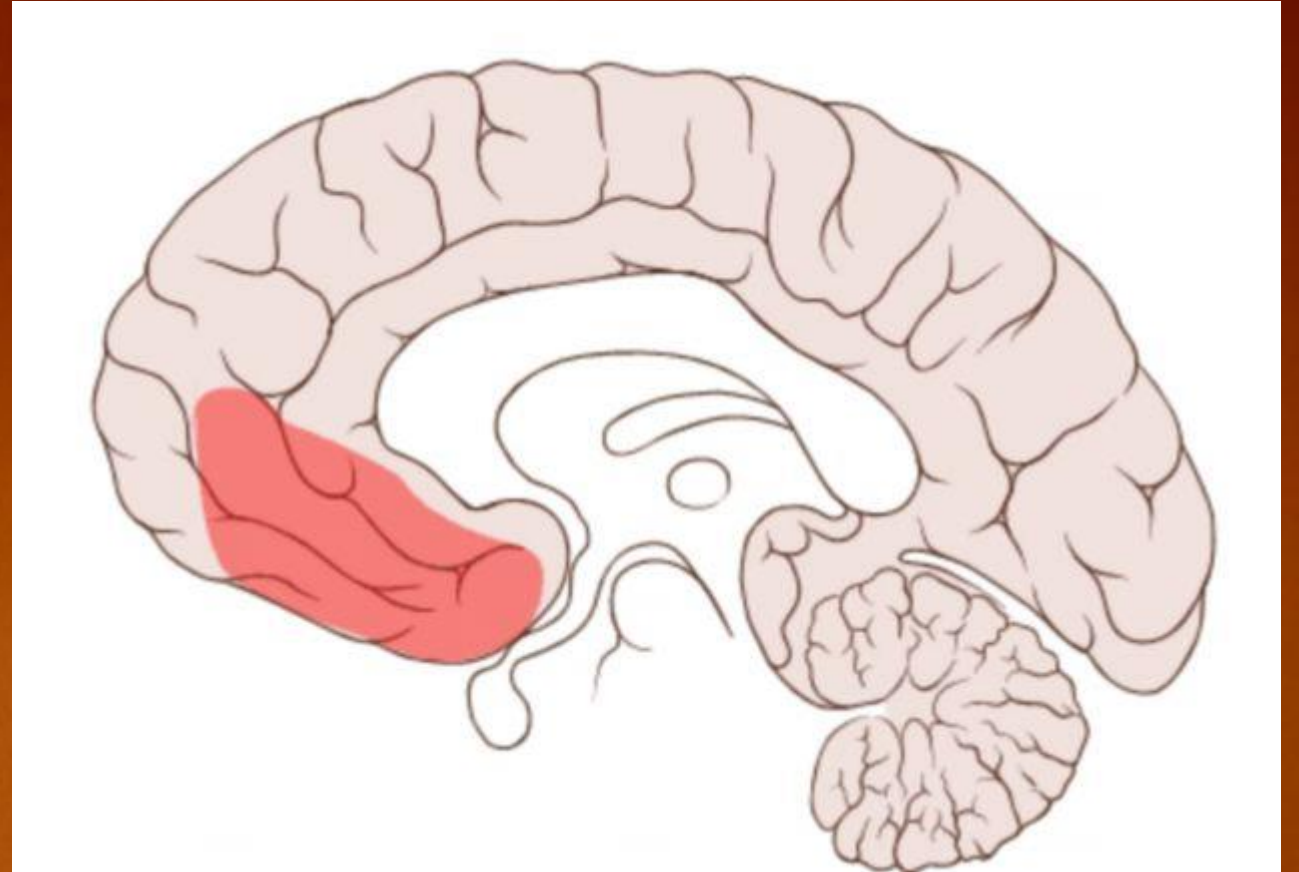
“And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth—that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief.”

LATERAL FRONTAL POLE—THE BRAIN

What happens when we change our minds?

Scientists have found that when a decision goes wrong and things turn out differently than expected, the orbitofrontal cortex, located at the front of the brain behind the eyes, responds to the mistake and helps us alter our behavior. Interestingly, researchers have found that cocaine addicts, who are often unable to weigh the rewards of drug use against its costs, show impairments of the orbitofrontal cortex.

Brain Facts

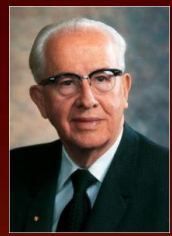


THOSE WHO DENY THEIR FAITH

“And if ye have no hope ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity.”



TO AVOID DESPAIR



“In the Book of Mormon we read that ‘despair cometh because of iniquity.’

(Moro. 10:22.) ‘When I do good I feel good,’ said Abraham Lincoln, ‘and when I do bad I feel bad.’

Sin pulls a man down into despondency and despair. While a man may take some temporary pleasure in sin, the end result is unhappiness. ‘Wickedness never was happiness.’ (Alma 41:10.)

Sin creates disharmony with God and is depressing to the spirit. Therefore, a man would do well to examine himself to see that he is in harmony with all of God’s laws.

Every law kept brings a particular blessing. Every law broken brings a particular blight. Those who are heavy-laden with despair should come unto the Lord, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light.”

President Ezra Taft Benson



THOSE WHO DO GOOD

“Men and women do good, in the eyes of the Lord, only as they come unto him, as they receive the testimony of the servants of God, partake of the covenants and ordinances of his holy gospel, and become identified with the true Church of Jesus Christ by membership.”

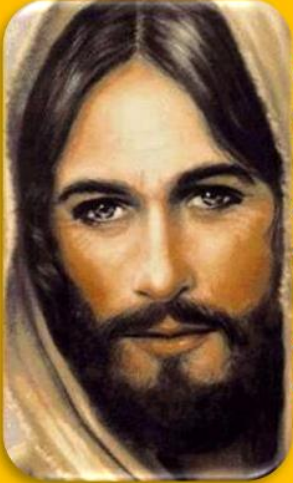
JFM and RLM



“And there are none that doeth good except those who are ready to receive the fulness of my gospel, which I have sent forth unto this generation.”

D&C 35:12

COME UNTO CHRIST



As we come
unto Jesus
Christ, we
can be
purified and
perfected
through His
Atonement



“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.”

As we come unto Jesus Christ,
we can be purified and
perfected in Him

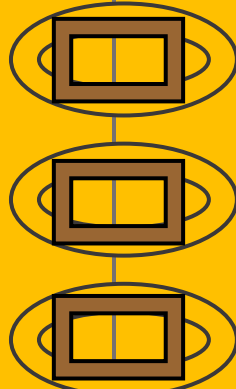
“We need not be dismayed if our earnest efforts toward perfection now seem so arduous [or difficult] and endless. Perfection is pending. It can come in full only after the Resurrection and only through the Lord. It awaits all who love him and keep his commandments.”

Russell M. Nelson



DENY HIM NOT

Once you have partaken of the Lord's grace and mercy, have come to know his healing and lifting powers,



then your witness of Jesus Christ as a God of miracles and power is certain, you are a personal witness



“And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.”



MORONI'S FAREWELL

“That final, last, lonely appeal of the keystone of our religion and the most correct book ever written is to touch not the unclean thing; it is to be holy and without spot; it is to be pure. And that purity can come only through the blood of that Lamb who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, the Lamb who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, the Lamb who was despised and afflicted, but whom we esteemed not ...

“Purity—through the blood of the Lamb. That is what this book pleads for”

Jeffrey R. Holland



Gary Ernest Smith

“And now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen.”

The Book of Mormon From Beginning to End

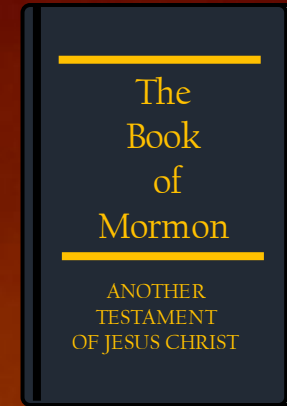
Your study of the Book of Mormon began and now ends with Moroni. You have studied about the witnesses of Jesus Christ and his teachings through His prophets.

You have studied about a society that if they were righteous they prospered and grew, and if they were unrighteous they were destroyed, by each other.

You have studied about the principles of the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

You have read what the current day prophets and leaders have testified of.

You have been given this unique opportunity to examine another testament of Jesus Christ





“Thus the Book of Mormon ends ... on the promise of the Holy Resurrection.

That is most fitting, for this sacred testament—written by prophets, delivered by angels, protected by God—speaks as one ‘crying from the dead,’ exhorting all to come unto Christ and be perfected in him, a process culminating in the perfection of celestial glory.”

Jeffrey R. Holland



MY TESTIMONY

During the last 13 years of studying the Book of Mormon, my faith in Jesus Christ has grown tremendously. I have learned that Jesus is my Savior and through His mercy and grace I can be forgiven of the things I have done wrong. I have learned of the growing concern of the prophets, both ancient and present day, for the people of this earth.

I do not fully understand what the Book of Mormon people went through.

I have not been struck by an angel as Laman and Lemuel had.

I have not had visions like Lehi and Nephi. I have not seen the Lord like the brother of Jared, or others. I have not lost my husband, sons, or daughters to wars, prisons, sicknesses, or kidnappings. I have not witnessed war or contempt for my neighbors as the Lamanites and Nephites had. I have not seen Jesus and the signs of his crucifixion as the Nephites had.

But I do know I have a personal witness of my Savior of His atoning sacrifice. This feeling comes from within (I guess you could call it the Holy Ghost's witness).

This Book is a true witness to me. Yes, there have been doubts at times, but how could anyone (Joseph Smith) make up such a masterpiece of the Lord's work?

I, fondly, leave this testimony with you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Sources:

Bruce R. McConkie *New Witness* pg. 258

Excerpts from George C. Cannon *Millennial Star* April 1894 pg 260-261..Found also in Student Manual Religion 121-122 Book of Mormon pg. 529-530

President Ezra Taft Benson (“Do Not Despair,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1986, 2).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 4 pg. 370, 374

Jeffrey R. Holland (“A Standard unto My People” [address to CES religious educators, Aug. 9, 1994], 13–14, si.lds.org).

Jesus Art by Marco Aurelio Rodrigues

Russell M. Nelson, “Perfection Pending,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 88).

Jeffrey R. Holland, *Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon*[1997], 339

<http://www.brainfacts.org/sensing-thinking-behaving/awareness-and-attention/articles/2009/decision-making/>

Testimony—Lynda

What I must do

What God promises

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Gifts of the Spirit:

Moroni 10:8-19

Elder Bruce R. McConkie described the purposes and reasons for obtaining spiritual gifts:

“[The purpose of spiritual gifts] is to enlighten, encourage, and edify the faithful so that they will inherit peace in this life and be guided toward eternal life in the world to come. Their presence is proof of the divinity of the Lord’s work; where they are not found, there the Church and kingdom of God is not. The promise is that they shall never be done away as long as the earth continues in its present state, except for unbelief (Moro. 10:19), but when the perfect day comes and the saints obtain exaltation, there will be no more need for them. As Paul expressed it, ‘When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.’ (1 Cor. 13.) ‘Faithful persons are expected to seek the gifts of the Spirit with all their hearts. They are to ‘covet earnestly the best gifts’ (1 Cor. 12:31; D. & C. 46:8), to ‘desire spiritual gifts’ (1 Cor. 14:1), ‘to ask of God, who giveth liberally.’ (D. & C. 46:7; Matt. 7:7–8). To some will be given one gift; to others, another; and ‘unto some it may be given to have all those gifts, that there may be a head, in order that every member may be profited thereby.’ (D. & C. 46:29.)” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 314).

“One of the great tragedies of life, it seems to me, is when a person classifies himself as someone who has no talents or gifts. ...

“From Doctrine and Covenants 46:11–12, we have this truth: ‘For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

“‘To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.’

“God has given each of us one or more special talents. ... It is up to each of us to search for and build upon the gifts which God has given. ...

“Let us review some ... less-conspicuous gifts: the gift of asking; the gift of listening; the gift of hearing and using a still, small voice; the gift of being able to weep; the gift of avoiding contention; the gift of being agreeable; the gift of avoiding vain repetition; the gift of seeking that which is righteous; the gift of not passing judgment; the gift of looking to God for guidance; the gift of being a disciple; the gift of caring for others; the gift of being able to ponder; the gift of offering prayer; the gift of bearing a mighty testimony; and the gift of receiving the Holy Ghost. ...

*“God does live. He does bless us with gifts. As we develop and share our God-given gifts and benefit from the gifts of those around us, the world can be a better place and God’s work will move forward at a more rapid pace” (Marvin J. Ashton, “There Are Many Gifts,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 20, 23).*

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shared the following thoughts on Moroni’s concluding words in the Book of Mormon:

“Purity. Holiness. Character and conscience without blemish. All these through the grace of Christ, which cleanses our garments, sanctifies our souls, saves us from death, and restores us to our divine origins.

“With his last recorded breath Moroni bore witness of his own firm faith in such divine redemption. ...

“Thus the Book of Mormon ends, flying as it were with Moroni, on the promise of the Holy Resurrection.

[See Revelation 14:6.] That is most fitting, for this sacred testament—written by prophets, delivered by angels, protected by God—speaks as one ‘crying from the dead,’ exhorting all to come unto Christ and be perfected in him, a process culminating in the perfection of celestial glory” (*Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon* [1997], 339).