

**WHY
SHOULD I
PRAY ABOUT THE
BOOK OF MORMON
WHEN . . . ?**

Mormon missionaries often try to get people to pray about the Book of Mormon. If you receive a burning feeling in your body then the claim will probably be made that the book is therefore true; you have received a testimony of the Holy Ghost. That this 'evidence' can hardly qualify as proof will be clearly shown in this paper.



WHY SHOULD I PRAY ABOUT THE BOOK OF MORMON WHEN . . .

A) The Book of Mormon fails the basic test of comparison with the Bible.

The Apostle Paul preached his message to the Bereans. How would they know if this was the truth or not? Did they go out and pray about it until they received a warm sensation in their bodies?

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Acts 17:11)

They didn't have to rely on mere feelings because they had the objective yardstick of the scriptures by which to judge Paul's words. How dangerous it would be to ignore the scriptures and seek for a sign (cf. Matthew 12:39). While it is true that James 1:5 tells those who lack wisdom to ask God for it, the context refers to those who are already brethren. Also, note that it says 'wisdom' *not* 'knowledge.'

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Tim. 3:16)

A good rule to remember is: *Never pray about something when God has already spoken out on the subject.* Don't force a test on God (cf. Matthew 4:7). For example, if a beautiful angel told you to go rob a bank and give the money to the poor, you wouldn't have to pray to know His will. He already said, "*Thou shalt not steal.*" (Ex. 20:15)

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BOOK OF MORMON SAYS . . .

- 1) "... for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do." (2 Nephi 25:23)

This is a mission impossible salvation plan. No one on the face of this earth is saved **after all he can do**, because no one always does **all** he can do! We all have bad days. The Bible offers us a realistic salvation plan however.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.* (Ephesians 2:8,9 - true faith will have works (cf. James 2:17) but faith alone saves.)

- 2) "... I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world." (Alma 36:17)

Notice that it says "*a Son of God.*" Jesus is *the Son of God*, not just *a Son of God*. I John 4:15 tells us, "*Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*"

- 3) "And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, . . ." (Alma 7:10)

But Jesus was born in "*Bethlehem of Judæa*" (Matthew 2:1 - cf. Luke 2:4 & Micah 5:2). Jerusalem is a distinct city and not "*the land of our forefathers.*" Furthermore, Jesus was born *in* Bethlehem which is a distinct town outside of Jerusalem (Emmaus and Bethany are closer to Jerusalem. He was not born in the district of Jerusalem but in the district of Judæa.

