

The Bible speaks of potential spiritual possessions. Eternal life (salvation) and a canceled debt of sin (complete forgiveness) are the most important spiritual gifts we can possess.

Are salvation and complete forgiveness in your current bag of spiritual possessions, or are you in some way still trying to achieve them?

According to the trustworthy word of God, if you believe the gospel as found in the Bible your bag is full.

## SALVATION BIBLE VERSION

Take a look at what the Bible says about the potential spiritual gift of salvation. Note especially the underlined words.

**John 3:36** “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

**John 6:47** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

**1st John 5:13** “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life.”

**Ephesians 2:8** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

Is salvation (eternal life) your present tense current possession or would you say you are still working on it?

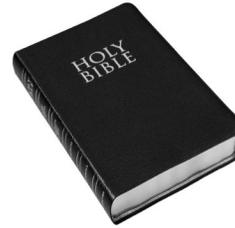
## COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

Salvation and forgiveness are closely related. In order to have salvation, complete forgiveness must come first. Do you have complete forgiveness or are you trying to achieve it? Take a look

at the good news the Bible has about this potential spiritual possession.

### Colossians 2:12-14 KJV

“...having forgiven you all your trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.”



**Colossians 2:13-14 NASB** “...having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us and has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

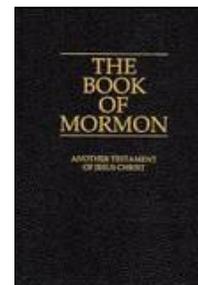
**Ephesians 1:7** “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Imagine you have a bag in your hand. Would the potential possessions of salvation and forgiveness be “in” your bag, or “out” of your bag? This is an important question. Satan does not want your bag to be full. On the other hand, God wants your bag to be full. Is your bag full or empty?

The way Satan keeps your bag empty is by attempting to sell you a counterfeit gospel. If your bag is empty Satan is experiencing success in your life. Counterfeits appear very similar to the real thing. We can expose counterfeits by close comparison with the real thing. This is also one way counterfeit money is discovered.

The gospel presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints looks very much like the real thing, but is it real or a carefully crafted counterfeit? An easy way to tell is by comparing it side-by-side with the real thing found in the Bible.

The following quotes come from the Book of Mormon, and other official LDS sources. Take some time and think through the significance of the details. They are a matter of life and death.



# SALVATION

## BOOK OF MORMON VERSION

Take some time and review the implications of these common LDS quotes. Especially notice the underlined words and phrases.

**2nd Nephi 25:23** “For we labor diligently to write to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”

**Moroni 10:32** “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 will all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you.”

**The Miracle of Forgiveness p. 208** “Eternal life hangs in the balance awaiting the works of men. This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection.”

If you are following the LDS gospel, salvation and forgiveness have been kept from being your current possessions. The real gospel teaches that the good works come after salvation, not before. (see Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-8; Titus 2:11-12)

## COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

As with above, pay special attention to the underlined words in the LDS quote.

**Miracle of Forgiveness, p. 324, 325** “Your heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements but that forgiveness is not granted merely for the asking. There must be works—many works... it depends on you whether or

not you are forgiven, and when. It could be weeks it could be years, it could be centuries before that happy day when you have the positive assurance that the Lord has forgiven you.”



Think about the above for a minute. If you are trusting the LDS gospel, you currently do not have eternal life, or forgiveness. That is scary.

## WHAT ABOUT WORKS?

A tool the Devil has effectively used to keep our spiritual bag of possessions empty is “good works.” How does he do this? After all, are not good works good? Yes! The important thing is the timing of our good works. Do we perform them to fill our bag, or because it is already full? We can’t afford to be wrong on this. Paul the Apostle made it clear; good works come after, not before salvation and forgiveness. Consider the order of the following Bible verse.

**Titus 3:5-8** “...not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us... having been justified by His grace... This is a faithful saying and these things I want to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works...”

Carefully read the above quote comparing it with 2nd Nephi 25:23 quoted on the other side of this flier. Really notice the timing of the works. The difference is one gospel teaches you are saved and forgiven now, while the other puts it into the future waiting for you to complete all your works.

On the next page are gospel equations that give a mental picture of false gospels contrasted with the one true one.

## True Gospel

Grace (unmerited favor) + Faith = Salvation, *evidenced*  
by good works

### Counterfeit #1

Grace + Faith = Salvation and a License to sin

### Counterfeit #2

Grace + Faith + works = Salvation, eventually, after  
all you can do. This is the LDS Gospel.

The potential spiritual possessions of eternal life, and a canceled debt of sin, can only be put in your personal bag of possessions in one way. Christ has to give them to you for free! Once we realize we are sinners in need of a savior we must turn to Jesus, ask for forgiveness, and He will fill our bags.

If you are trying to fill your bag by good works, STOP! Do this instead:

**Romans 10:9-10** “...confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Obviously this small flier does not address every issue or question. You are greatly encouraged to email or call with your questions or comments.

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## Reasonable Questions series

# IS YOUR SPIRITUAL BAG OF POSSESSIONS *full or empty?*

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