

Article of Faith 8

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We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

I find it interesting that it states specifically that the bible is believed to be the word of God *if* it is translated correctly. There are so many bible translations out there. Some are easier to understand than others. The LDS Church follows the King James Version (KJV) of the bible. Is this because it's the version Joseph Smith grew up with and had on his shelf? I don't know the answer to that question.

It then goes on to state that we believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. Notice there isn't a catch on that one. It is assumed the book was translated correctly and is the "most correct book" on the face of the Earth. It is a "keystone" of the church's religion.

The Book of Mormon is one thing that sets this religion apart from the others. The book doesn't replace the bible, it adds to it. Well it's a companion to the bible, it doesn't add to the bible. Have to be careful with that wording as the bible isn't to be added to or taken away from.

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,¹

Joseph Smith seems to be undermining the bible here. I'm not sure what to think of that statement. But it is a part of the church's history, one that cannot be erased.

The bible talks about witnesses, how there are usually two or more. Well we have the bible and the Book of Mormon both as witnesses of Christ.

¹Joseph Smith, History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ed. B. H. Roberts, 2nd ed. rev. (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1957), 4:461.