

## What's Love Got to Do With It?

When it comes to eternal life with God, love has *everything* to do with it! For the Christian who knows they are unconditionally loved by God in Jesus, that message is beautiful and comforting. Because of the Father's love, we are confident and secure.

But many of our Mormon friends have been taught to place their hope elsewhere. On our recent *At the Door* mission trip to Gilbert, Arizona, we spent an afternoon at the Mesa Temple Visitor Center talking with Mormon sister missionaries. The conversation eventually turned to a simple question: "*How does one live eternally with Heavenly Father?*" That's when one sister missionary took us to a nearby stairwell and began climbing the stairs to explain (see cover photo).

*"We need to become like God,"* she told us. *"We need to love as he loves and follow Jesus' example."*

She slowly walked upward to illustrate growth. She also stepped back down a few times to emphasize the struggle. But the conclusion stayed the same: **Keep climbing. Keep improving. Keep trying.** Progress over time is what makes a person worthy.

The point was impossible to miss. A staircase assumes the gap between God and us can be crossed one step at a time. And on this path, God's love becomes the standard we must meet. But we can't even fully fathom God's love, and we certainly cannot produce it.

God's love is patient and pure, without envy or pride, without selfishness or irritation, without quitting or keeping score. That kind of love is not something sinners can slowly grow into. It is perfection. And if eternal life depends on becoming perfect in love, then the staircase is not a hopeful picture. It turns love into a measuring stick, leaving a person always wondering, "*Have I done enough?*"

That question captures the quiet pressure many Mormons carry every day. They need more than encouragement to try harder. They need the comfort and security that only the unconditional gospel can give. God's love isn't a standard we must meet. It is a gift proven at the cross and sealed by the empty tomb.

[LOVE Stairs photo](#)

[Jesus is the Example.](#) Alli, this was taken at the temple visitor center, too, but in the middle of a different staircase. Maybe it could be cropped, and we could pretend it was in the LOVE staircase? Or just don't use it if it doesn't fit your artistic vision.

## ***“Do Mission Trips Even Matter?”***

That’s a question a mission trip supporter asked us during our Arizona *At the Door* mission trip. Sometimes, evangelism can feel ineffective and insignificant. We knock on doors, have short conversations, plant seeds, and we usually don’t get to see what happens next.

But God didn’t leave that question hanging.

The very next evening, our group was invited to a Mormon gathering of college students. As we walked in, a young woman spotted us and her face lit up. She hurried over and said, *“You’re back!”* It was Danae, someone God has placed in our path year after year.

Over the past four years, we have run across Danae **four times** in four different settings. The first was at the Gilbert temple area, almost by accident, where an unplanned stop turned into a long conversation. Since then, our paths have crossed three more times, and each time we opened the Bible with her, the conversation went deeper.

Danae told us those encounters have stayed with her: *“You’ve been part of several of the most important conversations of my life. Every time I meet with your group, you share so many comforting messages.”* With a smile on her face, she said, *“See you next year?”*

Danae is still LDS. We don’t know where her story will lead, but that day, we got to see the evidence of the One who is leading it. **Please pray that God’s guiding hand keeps drawing her back to his powerful Word.**

## **Please Join Us in Praying for These Souls**

Throughout the week in Gilbert, we met dozens of individuals in need of hope and your prayers. Here are a few of their stories.

**Randy** welcomed us at his doorstep with his cheerful dog, Phoebe. He doesn’t read the Bible much, yet he feels confident he will end up in the kingdom he is *“most comfortable in.”* When we talked about Jesus carrying us, not merely guiding us, Randy admitted the teaching intrigued him, but said it would be hard to change after being raised Mormon. **Please pray that Randy rests in the comfort of Christ’s finished work.**

**Tyler** is a young LDS father, friendly and open. His little daughter played nearby while we talked. He liked that we called Jesus our Substitute, instead of an example. We left him with a gospel resource and a lot to think about. **Please pray that what Tyler heard stays with him and that he is drawn to God’s Word.**

**Teresa** volunteers in addiction counseling in her Mormon community. She is beginning to see how deeply people need grace, and how recovery requires unconditional love rather than pressure and shame. **Please pray that, as she sees the need for grace, she comes to know the full comfort of grace in Jesus.**

**Beverly**, a devoted Mormon, is struggling with Parkinson's. She is also a history buff and has strong opinions about early church history. We spent over an hour talking through Bible stories and big questions, including judgment, sin, and what kind of God she could trust. **Please pray that God uses the Word Beverly heard to replace fear and confusion with clarity and comfort in Jesus.**

**Marsha and her husband** are Christians in Gilbert who own a bike shop. Because so many Mormon missionaries get around by bike, they have frequent opportunities to talk and build relationships. They also have friends who are leaving the LDS church and need comfort and direction. **Please pray that God equips Marsha and her husband with confidence, patience, and the right words to point people to Jesus.**

**Henry** has been Mormon his entire life. He has a big family, a long history, and many reasons to stay where he is comfortable. He struggled to understand how anyone could have eternal life with God without works. **Please pray that God gives him courage to follow truth wherever it leads, and anchors him in the certainty that Christ has done enough.**

**Sister missionaries Hays and Thomas** spent a long time talking with us about the Bible, forgiveness, and what it means to be right with God. They were kind and sincere, but seemed unfamiliar with the Bible and unsure of how to read it. They repeatedly returned to the idea that works move a person forward toward God. **Please pray that God draws them into the Bible and gives them clarity about Jesus and his completed work.**

## **Will You Help Us Continue to Do What Matters?**

Thank you for supporting our recent *At the Door* mission trip to Gilbert, Arizona. Because of your prayers and generosity, our team spent the week asking questions, listening carefully, opening the Bible, and sharing Jesus.

Mission trips do more than plant gospel seeds. They also help us understand the pressures many Mormons carry through honest, face-to-face conversations. The insights we gain shape how Truth in Love Ministry trains missionaries and creates resources for future outreach.

Would you consider supporting Truth in Love Ministry so this gospel work can keep happening?

Our next trip is to Idaho Falls, Idaho, in June 2026, a community where Mormonism has touched nearly every family. A group of student missionaries will be knocking on doors and sharing what it means to be "in Christ," where forgiveness is certain because the cross is real and the tomb is empty.

Thank you for helping make these trips possible, and for considering a gift that keeps this outreach going.

## Power to Grasp His Love

Have you ever tried a stair-stepper at the gym? You press start and begin climbing, but the steps never end. It demands your power right away. Legs burn, lungs tighten, and the machine keeps asking for more.

That is what life with God can feel like when the requirement is “becoming like him.” It turns into an endless climb, always one more step away from peace. More effort. More improvement. More pressure. And underneath it all is the same exhausting question: **Have I done enough?**

But power is part of the life of a believer who is dependent on God. In Ephesians 3, the apostle Paul prays for an unexpected kind of power. He asks that God would strengthen believers *“with power through his Spirit...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ”* (Ephesians 3:16,18).

Christ’s love is so vast that no one can begin to grasp it without the power of the Holy Spirit!

This unsearchable, unfathomable love is not reserved for those who are already good at loving. Christ’s love is wide enough for the heart that is cramped by self-interest. It is long enough for the person who promises, again, to do better, and then doesn’t. It is deep enough for the sharp reply, the impatient spirit, the quiet resentment, and the love withheld. It is high enough to lift those who feel disqualified by how unloving they have been, not because they climbed their way back, but because Jesus came down, carried all our lovelessness to the cross, and rose again to give us peace that lasts.

So when the heart asks, “Have I done enough?” there is an answer.

**Jesus has.**

Holy Spirit, as we celebrate the resurrection, strengthen us with your power. Replace striving with wonder at the love of Christ. Help us grasp the width, length, height, and depth of this love, and then rest, truly rest, in what Jesus has already done. Amen.

With Easter Joy,

Missionary Mark Parsons & the TILM Team

- [Drive Link](#) to AZ photos. Alli, there’s definitely a Christmas Vibe in a lot of these. Since this is going out just before Easter, would you try to avoid Christmas?
- **Envelope:** Thumbnail and words that say *Your Truth in Love Ministry Newsletter is Here!*

- **GRC:**
  - **Words:** *I want to support mission work that brings the comfort of Christ's immeasurable love to those who feel they must measure up.*
  - Dynamic Ask Array
  - Don't forget to change the tiny date at the bottom to April

This Chris Powers *might* be an option for the back page. See what you think and only use it if you want to. [Colossians 2:14 - Full of Eyes](#)