

What's the Difference ?

Pentecostals, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Scientology

Pentecostals

- Three steps for the believer:
 - + Repentance
 - + Water baptism
 - + Baptism with the Spirit
- The Pentecostal baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift of God. You can't earn it.
- The promise that "you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" was at the heart of first-century Christianity and should be so today.
- Pentecost was a day in Christian history, but it is also a personal experience for the believer that each must have, including speaking in tongues.
- Pentecostals seek and expect supernatural experiences.
- Some Pentecostals believe in exorcism, faith healing, and a few (about 2,500) in snake handling.
- Some Pentecostals deny the doctrine of the Trinity.

Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

- God is a material creature that was once a man. Human beings are capable of becoming Gods.
- Jesus Christ was created of the father. Jesus visited the Americas after his resurrection.
- In addition to the Bible, the "Book of Mormon" is considered an inspired holy book.
- The leader of the Mormon church is a modern prophet. Everything he says as part of his official duties is considered canonical.
- Salvation is through works. Each of us will end up on a different level of heaven, depending on our works.
- Sin was necessary.
- Families can be together forever.
- People who have already died can be "baptized."
- Some believe that Jesus had three wives. Some accept and / or practice polygamy.
- Spirit children are waiting to be born, and it is our duty to bear as many children as possible to accommodate them.

Jehovah's Witnesses

- Only Jehovah's Witnesses practice true Christianity.
- The Bible is God's Word—although they edit portions they do not accept.
- We should use the name "Jehovah" or "Yahweh," not the words God or Lord.
- Jesus was created by God and is separate and subordinate.
- Only 144,000 will achieve the inner ring of heaven. Other faithful witnesses will attain a lesser heaven, but many faithful will have to settle for "inheriting the earth."
- We do not have immortal souls. Those who do not go to heaven are annihilated.
- Witnesses refuse to serve in the military; to salute the flag; to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, or other holidays; and to give or to accept blood transfusions.
- JW prophecies that do not pan out, and teachings which fall out of favor are changed—and often covered up. Just between 1917 and 1928, they changed their doctrines 148 times!

Scientology

- "Man is a spiritual being whose existence spans more than one life and who is endowed with abilities well beyond those which he normally considers he possesses."
- Man is good, but experiences have led him into evil.
- We can escape evil by considering other points of view.
- We can perfect ourselves.
- We can know certainty in our relationship to the Supreme Being.
- The tenets of Scientology are expected to be tested and seen to be either true or not by practitioners.
- People can achieve greater spiritual awareness through "auditing" and "training."
- Every human behavior is assigned a numerical value.
- Many believe in past lives.
- There is higher (secret) knowledge accessible only to those who achieve certain levels in the faith.
- Drugs are discouraged, and new adherents must be purified bodily.