

How can we avoid the trap of indoctrination?

Indoctrination doesn't have to be inevitable. Someone who is wise to the methods of a movement is capable of protecting themselves. This leaflet is part of many information tools used by former Jehovah's Witnesses to reveal the realities behind a Christian movement's outward appearance.

If Jehovah's Witnesses approach you, protect yourself:

- ▶ *Gently but firmly refuse any "Bible study."*
- ▶ *Never oppose them violently. Remember they are victims of indoctrination. Confronting them will only make them retreat deeper into their indoctrination (they believe they are correct because undergoing persecution proves their beliefs to be true).*
- ▶ *Inform yourself about the organisation's history using internet resources. Take the time to read and to listen to what ex-Witnesses have to say.*
- ▶ *Once you are well informed, try to kindly share any information that might help them awaken.*

CheCoPa is an association offering support to JW's and disfellowshipped persons.
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Important questions to ask to JW's (french)
<http://questions.watchtowerwayback.org/>


Further reading: the testimony of Ray Franz, former member of the Governing Body
Crisis of conscience, Commentary Press, 2004 (available in 15 languages)

SMILING, POLITE, WELL-DRESSED, CONVINCING,
THEY SEEK TO REASSURE YOU ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES
BUT **THEY WON'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING**




JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM

Most Jehovah's Witnesses are honest and sincere. Their religious convictions lead them to share their beliefs concerning what they think is God's solution: living forever in a world that will be transformed, according to them, into paradise. **Their sincerity should not make you lose sight of the hidden realities that await if you join them :**




▶ Their entire **idéology** is decided on by a handful of men called "the Governing Body," who convene behind closed doors in the United States.

▶ The **door-to-door preaching** is mandatory for all Jehovah's Witnesses.



▶ Death is a non-negotiable choice above life if there is any vital need for **blood**. This way, parents are mentally manipulated to let their children die if there is no other solution than the use of blood.



▶ All **celebrations** are prohibited (Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day etc ...) because these are considered "pagan."

▶ All **connections with friends** and family are broken instantly when a Jehovah's Witness leaves the movement. Each parent is instructed to cut off all contact with such ones, who are considered "dead." In a matter of seconds these former Jehovah's Witnesses lose their family and "friends." Social life, leisure and sexual life are all controlled; homosexuality is demonized..

▶ All **volunteer work** merely benefits the enrichment and property development of the organization, the only reimbursement being "the huge privilege of serving Jehovah."

▶ Any **critical thoughts or doubts** are prohibited and considered a lack of faith. Assimilation of their ideology without any discussion is the main and sole purpose of the meetings organized by Jehovah's Witnesses. Absolute obedience and submission to the "Governing Body," which declares itself the sole channel between God and men, is demanded from all. What you are taught will superimpose itself over **your own consciousness**.

With all this in mind, how is it that, in spite of everything, some still become Jehovah's Witnesses?

Of course, conversion doesn't happen overnight. **The love and affection of Witnesses will often displace any reservations you may have**. Indoctrination can then take place slowly and gradually. **Never underestimate the potency of this :**

▶ Everything starts with accepting **a free home bible study** based on their own books, and presented as an aid to understanding the scriptures. You are led to believe you are studying the Bible, but very quickly this becomes secondary and you begin to assimilate their beliefs as yours without even realizing it.

▶ The use of **circular reasoning**, which starts by asserting a hypothesis as a fact, can confuse the otherwise logical mind of the student. Specific and pre-printed questions are asked to make the brain assimilate the answers in the textbook. These questions are designed to lead you to believe in and conform to something that is presented as logical and perfectly normal. (cfr <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYIh4MkcfJA>). Such a large volume of false or only partly-true information is presented that the student doesn't have chance to crosscheck everything for accuracy. He ends up being persuaded that the conclusions he has reached came from himself, **without realizing** he is replacing his own ideology with that of Jehovah's Witnesses as the divine "truth."

▶ Once that level of conviction is acquired, repetitive lectures at weekly meetings, which all Witnesses are required to attend to "strengthen their faith," act as catalysts designed **to rid the mind of any residual doubt**. A convert becomes the center of attention (love bombing) for Jehovah's Witnesses, who consider him a "friend of the truth" until the day of his baptism. And this day is when the trap closes; **all Jehovah's Witnesses are, without realizing it, pawns of a powerful organization that manipulates them in order to expand their property, power, and prestige.**