

Text Conversation with a Jehovah's Witness

by Drue Warner

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Overview

If you've ever wondered what you might say in conversation with a Jehovah's Witness, here's a conversation that might be a helpful resource if and when you're ever in that situation.

I met Anthony (not his real name) a couple of months ago while getting my haircut. He asked me what I did for work. I told him I was a pastor. He got very excited, told me that he's a Jehovah's Witness, and began to engage me in all kinds of conversation about what I believe while sharing what he believes. Anthony gave me his phone # and said that he'd love to get together another time to continue the conversation. It was clear that Anthony is a well-educated, deeply committed Jehovah's Witness (JW) leader.

I texted and told him that I'd be happy to get together and to let me know when he's available. Nothing happened until the next time I went to get another haircut about 6 weeks later. As God would have it, Anthony was my haircut guy. He said he still wanted to get together, so I sent him the following text, which led to a lengthy text conversation (mostly me sharing truth, since he had asked me to engage).

FYI... The Jehovah's Witnesses use an inaccurate (intentionally tampered with) translation of the Bible called the New World Translation (referenced below as the NWT). They're also open to the King James Version (KJV), which is great news because the KJV presents an accurate translation of the texts that the NWT has tampered with. In my dialogue below, I recommend several scriptures to read in the KJV, and I present with it the NWT version, the original Greek translation, and a quote by a noted translation expert, in order to clearly expose the error.

9/11/25 DRUE - Anthony, Great to see you. I'm glad I came in today on your last day. As relates to the deity of Christ, I thought I'd share a few scriptures, analysis, and quotes to consider. Feel free to text or email me anything you think would be helpful for me to read and consider. Then, we could each have some content to discuss if it works out to continue the conversation. Blessings on your day today! - Drue

KJV SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
- John 1:1 (KJV)

- **NWT ERROR:** "In (the) beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." (The "a" is added.)

- **ORIGINAL GREEK:** In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and God was the Word.
- **QUOTE:** "Since my name is used and our Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament is quoted on page 744 to seek to justify their translation, I am making this statement...of all the scholars in the world, as far as we know none have translated this verse as Jehovah's Witnesses have done." - Dr. Julius Mantey (co-author of The Dana-Mantey Greek Grammar and A Hellenistic Greek Reader)

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."
 - John 8:58 (KJV)

- **NWT ERROR:** "Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been."
- **ORIGINAL GREEK:** Said to them Jesus Truly truly I say to you before Abraham was I am.
- **QUOTE:** "The proper translation of the Greek ego eimi is "I Am" not "I have been" (NWT). This is an attempt to deny Christ's statement of deity (cf. context) and to replace it with something compatible to the Witnesses' concept of Christ's limited pre-existence." - Dr. Julius Mantey (co-author of The Dana-Mantey Greek Grammar and A Hellenistic Greek Reader)

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." - Colossians 1:15-20 (KJV)

- **NWT ERROR:** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; because by means of him all (other) things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All (other) things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all (other) things and by means of him all (other) things were made to exist, and he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that he might become the one who is first-born from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things; because (God) saw good for all

fullness to dwell in him, and through him to reconcile again to himself all (other) things by making peace through the blood (he shed) on the torture stake, no matter whether they are the things upon the earth or the things in heaven."

- **QUOTE:** "In this passage the NWT adds five words not present in the Greek text, again, in order to deny Christ's deity. In Colossians 1:16, 17, 20 the term "other" is inserted in brackets five times. This is done in order to imply the meaning of the passage is that Christ Himself is not the Creator. We grant that a translator may insert a word in italics or brackets if it is necessary to accurately express the thought of the original. But even a cursory reading of the context will show that Christ is the Creator. Their own interlinear is again embarrassing (p. 896) for it proves the word "other" is not in the Greek." - Michael Van Buskirk (author of The Scholastic Dishonesty of the Watchtower)

"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." - John 20:28-29 (KJV)

- **NWT CORRECT:** In answer Thomas said to him: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Because you have seen me, have you believed? Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."
- **OBSERVATION:** Jesus receives worship as God.

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." - Romans 10:12-13 (KJV)

- **NWT ERROR:** "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. There is the same Lord over all, who is rich toward* all those calling on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved."
- **QUOTE:** "The NWT adds Jehovah to the New Testament text over 200 times, in spite of the fact that "Jehovah" is not found anywhere in the Bible, New or Old Testament. Yet they claim the New Testament originals were "tampered with" and that the tetragrammaton (YHWH) was surreptitiously removed, substituting kurios (Lord) and theos (God). The fact is that YHWH never occurs in any New Testament Greek manuscripts and in only one Septuagint copy. There is simply no evidence of tampering. The truth is that YHWH can be translated different ways since the insertion of vowels is arbitrary. YHWH could have been Jehovah or JiHiViH or JaHiVeH, etc. In other words, the translation of kurios and theos as JEHOVAH in the New World Translation (237 times) is

a completely unjustified translation. There is another obvious reason for using "Jehovah" in place of "Lord"; it thereby denies the deity of Christ where the term "Lord" (applied to Jesus) connotes the meaning of Jehovah in the Old Testament. Often, when the New Testament refers to Christ as "Lord," it is associating Him with Jehovah in the Old Testament. The Watchtower Society has even had to be inconsistent in its translation, translating kurios variously as "Jehovah" or "Lord" to suit their own theology. For example, if we look at The Kingdom Interlinear (p. 723) for Romans 10:12, kurios is translated Lord, but in verse 13 the same word, kurios, (which here clearly refers to Jesus) is now translated "Jehovah" rather than "Lord" or "Jesus." In both places the term Lord refers to Jesus and connotes His deity but the New World Translation hides this by the translation of "Lord" in verse 12 and "Jehovah" in verse 13 implying the entire section refers to Jehovah—but not to Jesus. Likewise, Philippians 2:10-11 clearly refers to Jesus and is based on Isaiah 45:22-25, referring to Jehovah (see Rom. 14:9-11). Yet if kurios were translated Jehovah in Philippians 2 it would mean Jesus is identified with Jehovah, and the Watchtower Society could not permit such a translation. Hence, kurios is here translated "Lord." Thus, it is only where kurios can be translated Jesus and not simultaneously imply His deity, that it is so translated.” - Michael Van Buskirk (author of The Scholastic Dishonesty of the Watchtower)

NWT QUOTES TO CONSIDER

The following quotes are from noted scholars of the Greek language (the original language of the New Testament scriptures). Here's what they had to say about the translation accuracy of the New World Translation, Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scripture, and The Watchtower publication.

"...the Jehovah's Witnesses have incorporated in their translation of the New Testament several quite erroneous renderings of the Greek." - Dr. Bruce Metzger (professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Princeton Theological Seminary and author of The Text of the New Testament)

"I have never read any New Testament so badly translated as 'The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures.' In fact, it is not their translation at all. Rather, it is a distortion of the New Testament. The translators used what J. B. Rotherham had translated in 1893, in modern speech, and changed the readings in scores of passages to state what Jehovah's Witnesses believe and teach. That is distortion, not translation." - Dr. Julius Mantey (one of the leading Greek scholars in the world and co-author of The Dana-Mantey Greek Grammar and A Hellenistic Greek Reader) "From beginning to end this volume is a shining example of how the Bible should not be translated.... it is an insult to the Word of God." - British scholar H. H. Rowley "These books possess a veneer of scholarship unrivaled for its daring and boldness in a field that all informed scholars know Jehovah's Witnesses are almost totally unprepared to venture into. As a matter of fact, the authors have been able to uncover partially

a carefully guarded Watchtower secret: the names of five of the members of the New World Translation committee. Not one of these five people has any training in Greek...[or Hebrew]"
– Dr. Walter Martin (author of *Jehovah of the Watchtower*)

*"A sound interpretation of any passage requires a careful grammatical exegesis. Watchtower publications repeatedly present doctrines and interpretations of the Scriptures, which completely misunderstand or ignore grammar. Before the Society entered into the field of translation, there were many verses which gave them trouble because of their direct contradiction of the Witnesses' doctrines. With the appearance of the New World Translation the difficult passages in many cases were weakened or eliminated by a translation that violated or ignored the rules of grammar." - Professor Edmond Gruss (author of a standard historical and theological work, *Apostles of Denial*)*

9/5/25 ANTHONY - Good afternoon Drue, I'm sorry for the late response, I been going through some health problems. I did read your text and as for Jesus divinity. I have these few scriptures for you from your Bible. Matthew 3:17 God himself told us who Jesus was (This is my Son) John 3: 16 call Jesus that's only begotten son. John 14 verse 28 Jesus himself said the father is greater than I. Col 1:15 spoke of Jesus as the first born of all creation. Jesus had a beginning. God had no beginning.

9/30/25 DRUE - Good morning, Anthony! Now I'm the one with the delayed response. My apologies. 😊 I guess I'd say that, at the end of the day, we're probably not going to agree on Jesus' divinity. I do think that if you re-read the info I've texted to you and ask God's Spirit to direct you in His truth, you might be able to see what I'm talking about.

1 John 5:7 is also compelling and says, *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."* Regardless, the reason Jesus' divinity is important is because all men are sinners and separated from God (Romans 3:10-23). If Jesus is only a man, then he would also fall in that camp. Our salvation totally depends on outside help, someone who is human and can bear our sins, but also someone who is divine and capable of sinlessness (Hebrews 4:14-16, 1 John 4:9-10). That God-Man is Jesus, the perfect Mediator (bridge) between God and man (prophecies in Daniel 7:13-14 and spoken of in 1 Timothy 2:5-6, John 8:58, and John 10:30-33).

For this document, I've added these KJV scriptures that I referenced in the above text:

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:
17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; - Romans 3:10-23

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. – Hebrews 4:14-16

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. – Daniel 7:13-14

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. – 1 Timothy 2:5-6

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. – John 8:58

30 I and my Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. – John 10:30-33

It's critically important to note that salvation is not "achieved" by our good works and following the example of Jesus, but it is "received" by Jesus' good works (perfect obedience) on our

behalf in which He credits to our account (so to speak) by faith (2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-7).

For this document, I've added these KJV scriptures that I referenced in the above text:

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:1-10

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. – Titus 3:3-7

There's a great quote by William Temple, who said, *"The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary."* That's true. There is no good in us. Thus we are incapable of doing anything good that might contribute to salvation. In John 6:63, Jesus says, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing."

For this document, I've added this KJV scripture that I referenced in the above text:

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. – John 6:63

I greatly respect the zeal of my Jehovah's Witness friends, but the Watchtower is a false prophet (many, many instances of false prophecy over the years) and the NWT is a tampered translation of the scriptures that presents a form of salvation that is based on the good works of mankind rather than the righteousness of Christ (Romans 1:16-17, Romans 4:5, Philippians 3:9). Salvation is not of man, but of God by His Spirit through His Son, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians

4:6). I say this all with a great heart of love and humility desiring that *“you will know the truth and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).”* That goes for me, too. 😊 Love and blessings!

For this document, I’ve added these KJV scriptures that I referenced in the above text:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. – Romans 1:16-17

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. – Romans 4:5

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: - Philippians 3:9

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6

9/30/25 ANTHONY - We are in agreement, you are right. Our salvation comes through Jesus. John14:6 He is the way the truth and the light. He is our messiah. He is our mediator to God. He is a God but not the Father God. Jehovah witnesses are Christians followers of Christ. Christ Jesus, lead us to God the Father (Jehovah)

9/30/25 DRUE - I’m with you. I agree that Jesus is not the Father. He’s the Son, and salvation is only found in Him. That’s of primary importance, so I’m glad we agree on that. 😊

9/30/25 ANTHONY - Oh you was thinking we did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah? We are Jehovah’s witnesses not Jewish. lol Jesus was not just a man. He is our savior. But if Jesus was God himself the world could not hold him, and man could not kill him. Jehovah God resurrected Jesus and placed it placed him at his right hand. It’s only begotten son.

9/30/25 DRUE - No, I knew that JW's believe that Jesus is the Messiah. 😊 We agree on that. The difference that I've perceived in conversations with my JW friends is what that really looks like, as relates to Jesus' divine nature and how much our salvation depends on us (our faith + works) vs. depending on Jesus (our faith in His works for us). Philippians 2 addresses how Jesus is both divine and man, but I think we're probably going to have to agree to disagree. :)

9/30/25 ANTHONY - We all are saved by Grace, undeserved kindness. Faith without work is dead.(James 2;17) we cannot just have faith alone in Jesus. True faith causes us to do work. what I was inviting you to do what is discuss what the Bible truly teach.

9/30/25 DRUE - I agree with that. We are saved by grace (undeserved kindness of God), through faith (in the finished work of Christ on our behalf), and true faith bears the fruit of good works. I love the quote by John Calvin, *"We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone."*

We are not saved by our works, but Christ's. But true faith bears the fruit of works. Too many "Christians" say they "believe in Jesus," but their lives don't look any different from those who don't believe. It's because they've embraced a false message and a false assurance of a faith that does not include repentance from sin or submission / surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

10/1/25 ANTHONY - you see we do believe a lot of the same things. We are looking to discuss the Bible teachings not debate. We are brothers in Christ, we want to teach and know what Jesus taught in the Bible.

10/1/25 DRUE - We believe a lot of the same things but we differ on who Jesus is. My hope is that we believe the same thing about salvation, but when I asked you, *"If you were to die and stand before God in heaven, and He were to ask, 'Why should I let you into heaven?'"* your answer started with the things you've done for God (works-based) than what God in Christ has done for you (faith-based).

In your previous text, you said, *“we all are saved by Grace, undeserved kindness. Faith without work is dead.(James 2;17) we cannot just have faith alone in Jesus. True faith causes us to do work.”* On the surface, that sounds like we agree. I hope that is truly the case. 😊 I’m just concerned about what’s under the surface.

There are serious and legitimate concerns about the accuracy of the NWT, as well as, the history of teaching and false prophecy from the Watchtower organization. The deity of Christ is a big deal. The Christian Church has always embraced the deity of Christ and the Trinity (One God in three unique persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

JW’s are a modern day form of Arianism, which was rejected by the Christian Church at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. Perhaps the biggest stumbling block to embracing the Trinity, is that it’s kind of impossible to wrap our heads around and understand. I don’t fully understand it, but I believe it because that’s what the Bible teaches. When we contort scripture to fit our intellectual understanding, we put ourselves at risk. Jesus clearly was crucified for blasphemy and his claim to be God.

As long as our sources of truth are different (NWT / Watchtower vs. other non-tampered with Bible translations), we’re never going to agree. I’m at peace with my belief about Jesus because I have the highest degree of confidence that my sources are credible. I don’t understand how JW’s can say the same about the NWT and Watchtower when there is so much evidence that proves otherwise.

Until we agree on who Christ is, we can’t be “brothers in Christ.” That’s not to say that I don’t love, respect, and value you and all of my JW friends. I absolutely do. You have been a blessing and I’m grateful for you! I just pray that God will give you spiritual eyes to see the error of the JW teachings. I know it’s hard to see when it’s the world you live in and have been in for so long, but for those of us outside of that world, it’s clearly obvious that JW’s are misled in a counterfeit version of the gospel. At first glance, it looks a lot the same, but the closer you look, the differences become glaringly obvious.