

“Pray Jesus Into Your Heart”?

It is one of the most commonly heard pleas in the Protestant world, echoed in churches and on television and radio stations all across the nation. Unsaved persons are urged to “pray Jesus into your heart” or to “ask Jesus to come into your heart”, thereby receiving salvation. Do such instructions come from the Bible--or are they just the teachings of men?

Here are the facts:

- 1. In the Bible NO ONE was ever told to pray Jesus into their hearts--or to pray for salvation at all.**
- 2. There is no biblical record of ANYONE ever being saved through prayer.**
- 3. No one in the Bible ever *claimed* to have been saved through prayer.**

Not only are there no biblical instructions to be saved through prayer, but Jesus actually *condemned* the practice! We find these words in Luke 6:46:

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ (prayer) and do not do what I say?”

Jesus could not have said it more clearly: *Prayer is never a substitute for obedience!*

If people really want to be saved, there are some much better authorities than the modern preachers with their man-made instructions. Consider these:

- 1. JESUS.....Read Mark 16:16. See what *Jesus* said to do in order to be saved. (He said NOTHING about prayer.)**
- 2. PETER.....Peter was an apostle and one who was *very* familiar with the teachings of Jesus. He addressed a crowd of thoroughly unsaved people, a group that really needed saving. Read Acts 2:38 and see what Peter told this group to do in order to have their sins forgiven. (He said NOTHING about prayer.)**

3. ANANIAS.....Ananias was a special messenger selected by Jesus himself to give instructions to the notorious Saul of Tarsus. Jesus had told Saul that he would be told what he *must* do. For three days Saul was blind and did not eat. We are told (Acts 9:11) that Saul was praying. We can only imagine how fervently he must have prayed! If anyone could have been saved by prayer, it was Saul!

But...he was NOT saved. How do we know? Because after he had prayed he *still* needed to have his sins washed away. When one becomes saved his sins ARE washed away (that is what being saved is all about!).

Read Acts 22:16 and see what Saul was told to do in order to have his sins washed away. (He said NOTHING about prayer). Then compare this to the words of Jesus and Peter above.

OTHER CONVERSIONS: As one examines the conversions recorded in the book of Acts he will note that in NONE of these was there any mention of prayer as a requirement for salvation. These include the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), Cornelius (Acts 10), Lydia (Acts 16:13-15), and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:25-34).

QUESTION: If prayer was never a part of the conversion in the New Testament....*why on earth* would one think that things are different today!?

FINAL THOUGHT: One day the Lord will return for the final judgment. Every person will have to give account for how he has lived. In John 12:48 Jesus gave a sobering warning that it would be his WORD which would serve as the basis for our judgment. In view of this, it is VERY hard to understand how any person can expect to be saved by a process (prayer) which is *totally absent* from the Word of Jesus!

(It will be noted that this article does not give instructions for how to be saved. Instead, the reader is referred to three authorities: Jesus, Peter, and Ananias. *Do exactly what they say!* Through this obedience one can be assured that he is REALLY saved---in God's way.)

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