

Can We Receive Salvation By Prayer?

Introduction

1. There are many today that teach and practice that one can receive “salvation by prayer” in their religion.
 - A. But does the Bible teach that we can obtain eternal salvation simply by praying to God and asking for it?
 - 1) Remember what Jesus said: **Matthew 7:21**
2. Today many will come before intelligent audiences and contend for doctrines which diametrically oppose the sayings of the Son of God in order to be saved.
 - A. It would appear that people that teach their doctrines, to include salvation by prayer, seem to care more about them, than complying with the teachings of Christ.
 - 1) This is a great shame in our society today.
 - 2) Sadly, many believe what they do because of what they have heard or based upon family traditions.
 - B. If every person would let God tell them what they need to do in order to gain salvation, then we could have a united people, united in Christ.

The Child of the Devil and the Child of God

1. We must understand that there are two classes of accountable people on this earth. A child of the devil or a child of God.

A. Most would not want to be accused of being a child of the devil; yet would love being classed as a child of God.

1) Jesus said: Matthew 6:24

John 1:9-13 (Child of God)

John 8:41-47 (Child of the devil)

2. Understanding this fact we must then ask “has God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or any inspired writer ever told a child of the devil to pray for anything?”

John 9:31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

Proverbs 15:8; 28:9

A. Preachers who contend that one may be saved by prayer must torture the scriptures to prove so.

B. There is a notion in the religious world that a sinner can pray himself into salvation.

“Just fall on your knees and ask Jesus to come into your heart.”

“Ask God to save you for Jesus’ sake.”

1) Often times one will read scripture that was addressed to Christians (22 of 27 books of the New Testament) and apply what they read about Christians to non-Christians.

C. Nowhere does God’s word command a person who is not a child of God to pray.

3. If a non-Christian (a child of the devil) is to pray, then what is he to pray for?

For What May A Sinner (child of the devil) Pray For?

1. Should the sinner pray for God to love him?

A. No one can be saved unless God loves him, but is it necessary for the sinner to pray for God to love him?

John 3:16; Romans 5:8

1) Why should the sinner pray and beg God to do what He has already demonstrated that He does?

2. Should the sinner pray for grace?

A. Everyone who is saved will be saved by God's grace. Should the sinner pray for this?

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

1) Since God's salvation - bringing grace has appeared to all in the form of the gospel of Christ it is useless to pray for it.

Romans 1:16

2) The sinner needs, not to pray for the grace God has already so freely given, but to claim His grace through obeying the gospel.

3. **Should the sinner pray for faith?**

A. **We often hear** *“pray the prayer of faith and God will save you.”*

1) **Certainly, faith is necessary to salvation.**

Hebrews 11:6

Ephesians 2:8-9

2) **How does one acquire this faith?**

Romans 10:17

Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.

B. **Prayers must be “in faith” not in order to get faith!**

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

1) **Since faith without works is dead (Jam 2:26), only those who have obeyed the gospel can pray “in faith.”**

2) **An alien sinner (child of the devil), cannot pray “in faith” so he cannot obtain faith through prayer. Before he can have the faith he prays for, he must have the faith he prays for!**

4. Should the sinner pray for God to have mercy on him?

- A. All sinners need God's mercy in order to be saved.**
- B. The question is, when will the sinner obtain that mercy?**

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him **return to the LORD**, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Rom 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

- 1) God has already shown His mercy in sending His only Son to die for us.**

5. Should the sinner pray to be born again?

- A. We must be born again in order to be saved.**
John 3:3-5
- B. The question is: How are we born again?**

- 1) Jesus answered that question to Nicodemus. It is not through prayer, but rather by obedience.**

1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have **purified your souls** in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

- 2) They had "purified" their souls through obeying the truth, the gospel (the word of God), and this had resulted in them being "born again."**
- C. It is useless for the sinner to pray to be born again; for he must obey the gospel in order to be "born again."**

6. Should the sinner pray for salvation?

A. Many in the religious world would answer with a resounding “YES!”

1) But what does God say?

B. Salvation has been provided for, and is available to, everyone who wants it.

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

1) No one is excluded. All who wants to be saved, can be saved.

C. But will prayer save someone separate and apart from obedience?

1) In Acts 9 and 22, Saul was praying for three days and still needed to “arise and be baptized” to “wash away his sins.”

a. His prayers had not removed a single sin. If one sin had been removed, why not all of his sins be removed?

2) In Acts 10, Cornelius was a man of prayer, yet it was necessary for Peter to come and tell him what he had to do in order to be saved.

D. We are all saved the same way and that is by obeying the gospel (Rom 1:16).

Mark 16:16

