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THE SURE WORD

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THE SINNER'S PRAYER??

Have you prayed the "sinner's prayer"? Thousands of people have done so expecting to receive salvation as a result. It is quite interesting to note that the Bible contains not one account of any sinner who was not a Christian being told by any inspired man to "pray the sinner's prayer." There is not even one example in the entirety of the New Testament suggesting that any sinner was saved through praying such a prayer. The book of Acts contains records of the conversions of several people, yet, none of those records contain any reference whatsoever that their conversion to Christ was the result of "praying the sinner's prayer." On the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 when sinners asked, "Men and brethren, what must we do?" Peter did not answer them by saying, "pray the sinner's prayer." Instead he instructed them to "...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38). The response of these sinners is found in verse forty-one, "Then they that gladly received his word" prayed the sinner's prayer?? Is this what the Bible says? No friends. Those who "gladly received his word were baptized." Did Jesus say, "He that believes and prays the sinner's prayer shall be saved? Or, did Jesus say, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved?" (Mark 16:16). In every single case of conversion in the book of Acts baptism is stated as a condition to salvation while prayer, as a condition of salvation, is conspicuously absent. Yet many will deny the necessity of baptism while accepting the concept of the "sinner's prayer. Think about it.

The concept of the so-called "sinner's prayer" or "salvation prayer" comes from a misunderstanding of Romans 10:13 which reads, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Advocates of the "sinner's prayer" equate "calling upon the name of the Lord" with prayer. However, calling upon the name of the Lord is simply a reference to submitting to the authority of Jesus Christ. An example of this is found in the case of Saul. Ananias told Saul "And now why are you waiting? arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling upon the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). How did Saul call upon the name of the Lord? The answer - by obeying the Lord's command to be baptized thus submitting to His authority. No one will be saved who refuses to submit to the authority of Jesus Christ by believing and obeying the gospel (See Romans 10:14-16). The "sinner's prayer" is not found in the Word of God. The absence of any example of its use or command to use it or the words which are supposedly to be uttered in such a prayer indicates that "the sinner's prayer" is without divine authority.