

THE BIBLE VIEW

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It Isn't That Easy

Bill Brinkworth

Being saved from the punishment of our sins is not as easy as many believe. Being born-again is not accomplished by just saying a prayer. There are no “magic words” that will get a person God’s promise of an eternity with Him.

There also is no particular place that will guarantee that heavenly promise. The church altar in front of a church is a marvelous place to get alone with God and make commitments, beg for forgiveness of one’s transgressions, ask for His direction in a matter, and even to be born-again. However, just praying there will not make one saved.

No matter who or what is used to deliver God’s message of salvation or where it was understood, it is only the Holy Spirit of God that can prick the heart of the lost person to be saved. He must be involved to do the heart’s tugging, convicting, and understanding to get anyone saved.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:44

“And he [Jesus] said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.” John 6:65

The work in receiving salvation is then done in one's "heart." One must come to the point that their sins grieve them so much, and the weight of that conviction demands them to do what God says one must do to be saved. In desperation, they, at last, must realize that there is nothing they can do to escape their eternal punishment, but there is someone that paid the price so that they would never have to experience everlasting agony. That Saviour is Jesus!

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:10

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;" Romans 3:23-25

When the sincere, earnest "heart" gets in that honest-to-self and honest-to-God position, one can genuinely be saved. The exact words that are cried out are not important. It does not matter where they are said. It is what the heart earnestly, desperately trusts that will save anyone. God will know if one is depending on what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary for their admittance into eternity with Him.

God reads "hearts" more than words that are spoken, and certainly realizes that what is believed is genuine. One can cry, scream, and be emotional, but if absolute trust in Jesus and sincerity are not present, one will be as lost as they were before they sought salvation.

Many say, "Why, I believe in God," or "I believe in Jesus." That alone is not the key to Heaven, either. The devils believe, but they are not going to be with Jesus. Satan believes; he has talked with God often, but he too is not going anyplace but the Lake of Fire.

Good works, religious deeds, ceremonies, and unbiblical teachings must also be stricken from the salvation equation. There must be absolute trust that Jesus is the only way to Heaven attached to the belief.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” James 2:19

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Rev. 20:10

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

After a confessing heart cries out to God and relies solely on Jesus' work at Calvary for salvation, there will be many changes in one's life. Too many, sadly, pray a prayer, but there is no transformation in their life. They may have fooled themselves that they were saved, but they will not deceive God.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Rom. 10:9

Those with false assurance have no repentance nor no change of belief. They do not seek God's will and way. No lifestyle is altered. There is no conversion. They are the same as they were before they prayed some words. God is not deceived by their insincerity and false profession.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Cor. 5:17

Unfortunately, many that claim to be saved may not be born-again (John 3:3). What a shocking surprise they will have when they open their eyes in the next world and discover it to be Hell. One can fool a preacher, a soul-winner, a parent, a Sunday school teacher, but one cannot fool God. Are you really saved?

*“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”
Mat. 7:22-23*

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Mat. 7:13

“We are saved by someone doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.” — Lester

How Can I Know I Am Saved?

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A person can know if he is saved. If he has trusted in Christ's death as payment for his sins as the only way to Heaven, he will see himself changed. He will see new things happen in his life.

Here is an examination of some of those new things:
A NEW belief. A saved person believes differently than he believed before.

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: ...These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:10-13

A NEW Life. A saved person gets a second chance at life. He gets to start over; this time with God's guidance and help.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

The new life may include things that one would never have suspected that he would do, such as: repenting (turning from) sins, reading the Bible, desiring a ministry, being faithful to church attendance, etc. He will also find he no longer has a desire to do many of the wrong things he used to do, and even has a conviction against doing them.

A NEW Master. A saved person is attentive and interested in obeying a new Master — God!

“Jesus answered them, ... But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.” John 10:25-29

A NEW Trust. A saved person has a God that he can trust and rely on.

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep**

that which I have committed unto him against that day.” II Tim. 1:12

A NEW fruit — NEW interests.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” Gal. 5:22-25

A NEW interest in God’s people.

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” I John 3:14-16 The “brethren” are other saved people.

When the Spirit of God indwells us, there are some things He wants done in our lives and around us. These changes that we allow Him to do in us and with us are proofs of our salvation.

“The Lord is my Shepherd,” not was, not maybe, not will be.

“The Lord is my Shepherd” on Sunday, Monday, and is through every day of the week; is in January, is in December, and every month of the year; is at home, and is in China; is in peace, and is in war; in abundance and in poverty. — H. Taylor

How Does the Bible Tell One to be Saved?

- Know that you are a sinner: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23* Also: Romans 5:12, I John 1:10.
- Know that Hell is the payment for all that have sinned. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:23*
“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12
- **BUT**, there is good news! Jesus’ death on the cross is the payment for the sins of all that call upon Him for salvation!
“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”
Romans 10:9
“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Rom. 10:13

“Human nature's way of salvation is, ‘Do, do, do.’ But God's way of salvation is, ‘Done, done; it is all done.’ You have but to rely by faith on the atonement that Christ accomplished on the cross.” — Spurgeon