

THE THREE TIER SINNERS PRAYER

There is no doubt that any person who honestly approaches our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seeking Biblical salvation, will instantly receive it. Salvation is a free gift of God as Romans 6:23 so clearly points out. The only two prerequisites for this permanent new birth into the family of God are repentance and faith in our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation or deliverance from the penalty of sin, cannot be attained from church membership, baptism, good works/religious works no matter how well intentioned, decisions, or commitments to God since they can be changed or broken. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us we are saved by grace (unmerited favor) through faith, not of works lest any man should boast. Only the new birth into the family of God is irrevocable, and once a person experiences it, he is permanently the recipient of redemption and eternal life.

I personally have, over the many years of personal soul winning/ministering, doing personal evangelism on the street, in the homes of the unsaved, or in prison ministries, developed a very effective prayer in which to lead someone to pray to receive the new birth experience. Someone asks, "Must one pray a certain precisely worded prayer to be saved?" The simple answer is, "Of course not, even the shortest prayer of few words is fine, as long as the seeking sinner conveys the same basic sentiments in honesty and sincerity of true repentance and is exercising faith in our Savior for salvation." Then also, there are those who belittle this basic prayer for salvation, saying that the seeking sinner who prays such a similar prayer will be placing his faith in 'saying a prayer to be saved' thinking that this automatically means they are now a born again Christian.

While such could possibly be true, we teach that when attempting to lead the lost person in a prayer for salvation, it is utterly a top priority to emphasize to them that they must truly mean that prayer with all their heart. The scripture is plain Jeremiah 29:13, "...You shall find me when you seek for me with all your heart." I always tell the person about to follow me in prayer not to repeat the prayer after me unless he truly means it, and also that if he does pray the prayer and not mean it, that he will not experience the new birth.

Three essential ingredients go right along with the prayer for a person to experience the true new birth into the family of God. He must (1) Mean it, (2) Truly believe it, and (3) Understand it. Simply put, if a person doesn't understand the message, then he cannot believe it, nor can he mean it when he attempts to reach the Lord for salvation, and so will not become born again. Do I as a soul winner believe of the hundreds or thousands I have personally dealt with over the last 60 years and led in the sinner's prayer, that everyone experienced the new birth? The answer is simple. Absolutely not, but many have and only at the last judgment will it be revealed just how many. If they followed in prayer and did not immediately experience the new birth, then the fault lays in one or more of the three listed ingredients above. I always ask them after they pray after me, if they experienced the new birth and now know that they are saved. If they say no, then I never give them the false assurance that, "Well God doesn't lie, and said if you called on Him you would be saved so then what does that mean? Many personal workers use that false narrative to give a still unsaved soul false assurance of salvation, which could well wind up leading him to still die in his sins and go to Hell! Now this brings about a final warning about using the threat of going to Hell 'forever' to coax someone to follow in the sinner's prayer.

Yes, I am guilty of doing just that for years, when I believed in the doctrine of endless punishment in Hell and the Lake of Fire. Since no rational person would want to go to Hell or the Lake of Fire for eternity, many 'Hell fire brimstone preachers erroneously use that false doctrine to bring people young and old (especially small children) streaming to the altar to squeeze out a prayer begging not to be sent to Hell forever, and to be saved from such a horrible fate. Now that is not a salvation or new birth experience, nor is it credible to move the Lord to produce the new birth experience in that seeking sinner! God will not/cannot honor a lie.

The Biblical fact is that our Lord Jesus did not come to save us from Hell and the Lake of Fire, but rather came to save us from our sins. The angel told Mary, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins." 2 Cor. 7:10 tells us "Godly sorrow worketh salvation unto repentance..." If that seeking sinner is fearfully praying to be saved from Hell and the Lake of Fire, God will **not** save him, and no doubt that false preaching will ultimately give the sinner a false assurance of salvation and lead him to be lost in Hell. So...one asks "Just where then does that 'godly sorrow' come from which can and should lead a lost soul to be a candidate for the new birth?" That answer should be very evident and is clearly stated in John 16:8. Speaking of the blessed Holy Spirit, "...when He is come, He will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment..." The bottom line here is, when the preachers/teachers, evangelists of today 'tickle the ears of their parishioners by refusing to preach and teach against sin, the Holy Spirit's influence to convict of sin is quenched and souls are lost. Thus follows 'easy believism, pacifist sin compromising ministers, who will surely see their works go up in smoke in the day of judgment, and many many souls will end up in a literal Hell.

Yes, certainly the doctrine of universal Christian redemption is a Biblical fact, but think of the terrible suffering a lost soul must face until after the last judgment in the Lake of Fire when finally "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." and then true repentance and salvation is then fulfilled for all. Following is the three tier sinner's prayer, which is a very very effective in bringing one into a saving relationship with our blessed Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. We must remind you that this prayer is only a basic guide in bringing one to experience salvation and of course not a word for word essential. Romans 10:9&10-13, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

One important comment on this following prayer is the length of it and the fact that it addresses the three members of the Trinity. The length of it is purposeful since it tends to relax the person praying/repeating it into a good prayerful mental state. Simply having a lost soul to quickly pray a 5-10 word prayer for salvation, in this author's estimation is possibly too brief to put one in a fully prayerful mode. Then the point to have them address the three members of the Trinity is indeed scriptural since our Lord Jesus said, "No man cometh to the father but by me." Thus starting by having them pray to Jesus first is Biblical, and then to the Spirit of God since He it is that gives regeneration, applying the Blood of Jesus to their sins, and then entering their heart to make their body the temple of God. Simply asking someone "Are you a Christian" or "Have you made a commitment/decision for Christ," or "Have you put your trust in Jesus," is absolutely a bad idea. The fact is that every unsaved person who believes the facts about our Savior would answer all of those questions in the affirmative, but has not experienced the new birth into the

family of God, so why give them false assurance of salvation? It is best to be pointed, and ask “Are you saved,” or “Have you experienced the new birth, and “No I don’t mean baptism or church member ship.” Or even “Are you sure you are saved and going to heaven if you die today?

Following is the “Three Tier Sinner’s Prayer.” I must say that I am convinced that 100% of all the hundreds or thousands of souls I have prayed with over the last 60 or so years, who prayed in this similar fashion (truly meaning it) have or did experience the new birth into the family of God.

THE THREE TIER SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus: I come to you as a guilty sinner. I take full responsibility for all my sins. Please Lord Jesus have mercy on me and come into my heart right now, and save me from all my sins, past, present and future. I accept you as my God and Savior, please make me born again right now. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and were raised from the dead. Please come into my heart and wash all my sins away in your precious blood. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Dear Holy Spirit of God: Please come into my heart and make me born again right now, I accept you to come into my body and soul, to make me the temple of God for you to dwell in. Please wash all my sins away in the blood of Jesus Christ and make my heart clean and pure. I accept you as my comforter, my guide and my strength.

Dear God the Father: I accept your Son Jesus Christ as my God and Savior, I also accept the free gift of eternal life so I can be born again right now. Thank you Father for the free gift of eternal life. I mean this prayer with all my heart. I love you Father, I love you Lord Jesus, I love you Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.

OR THE SIMPLEST PRAYER CAN AS WELL WORK

God have mercy on me a sinner, Forgive me I pray and Lord Jesus please come into my heart and save me, right now. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Terry Lee Miller Sr.