

## The Sinner's Prayer

- I. "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen." - Billy Graham
- II. This prayer is supposed by some to be the means to eternal salvation.
- III. This is nonsense because one already must have eternal life to truly and sincerely pray this prayer.
- IV. Let's look at it phrase by phrase:
  1. "Lord Jesus"
    - A. One must already have the Holy Spirit dwelling in him to call Jesus "Lord".
    - B. **1Co 12:3** - Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
    - C. If one truly calls Jesus "Lord", it is because he is born again and has the Spirit of God dwelling in him; it doesn't cause him to be born again.
  2. "I know that I am a sinner"
    - A. Sin is the transgression of the law, and unregenerate sinners are not subject to the law of God, and therefore do not know that they are sinners.
    - B. **1Jn 3:4** - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
    - C. **Rom 8:5** - For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
    - D. **Rom 8:6** - For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
    - E. **Rom 8:7** - Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
    - F. If a person knows that he is sinner, it is because he is born again and is spiritually minded; it doesn't make him spiritually minded.
  3. "I ask your forgiveness"
    - A. Those who have eternal life and whose sins are already eternally forgiven are those who know they are sinners and will ask for forgiveness and receive it in this life.
    - B. **1Jn 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
    - C. **1Jn 2:12** - I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.
    - D. **1Jn 5:13** - 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.
    - E. If a person asks for forgiveness, it is because he has eternal life; it doesn't give him eternal life.
  4. "I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead."
    - A. Those that believe that Jesus is the Son of God are already born of God.
      - i. **1Jn 5:1** - Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...
    - B. One must already be saved to believe the gospel, else it is foolishness.

- i. **1Co 1:18** - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
    - C. If a person believes that Jesus died for their sins, it is because they are born of God and already have eternal life; it doesn't make them born of God, nor give them eternal life.
  - 5. "I turn from my sins"
    - A. Turning from one's sins is a good thing which unregenerate sinners cannot do.
      - i. **Rom 3:10** - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
      - ii. **Rom 3:11** - There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
      - iii. **Rom 3:12** - They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
    - B. A person who turns from their sins and does righteousness is born of God; he doesn't become born of God by doing so.
      - i. **1Jn 2:29** - If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.
  - 6. "and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior."
    - A. If a person truly prays this prayer, Christ is already in them for the aforementioned reasons.
    - B. **Rom 8:9** - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
    - C. **Rom 8:10** - And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
    - D. **Rom 8:11** - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

V. The "Sinner's Prayer" is nowhere found in the Bible.

1. The proper response to hearing the gospel with conviction is to repent and be baptized and be added to a local church where one worships Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth for the rest of his life, not to pray some four sentence prayer and go on your merry way thinking you just acquired eternal life.
2. **Act 2:37** - Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
3. **Act 2:38** - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
4. **Act 2:41** - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
5. **Act 2:42** - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.