

– CHAPTER NINE –

## The Sinner's Prayer for Salvation

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On the heels of the previous chapters presented on the need for salvation, it is time to address how one acquires that salvation and enters the new covenant. Believe me, many different methods are floating around even in Christianity on how one achieves this status, and I do not see why there should be so many different roads to grace when there is just one way. Why Christians make the gospel so complicated by adding their layer of man-made rules over its simple yet profound process, is beyond me.

This research focuses on what about Jesus' death that saves, so I will not elaborate on evangelizing here. The previous pages were about evangelism as they answer the question regarding the need for salvation. However, no argument on God's plan of salvation can be complete without an invitation to this salvation. That is my focus here. And unlike Christians who try to complicate the simple procedure, I want to peel away all the confusing layers and present the key that invites one to salvation in its simplest and purest sense.

If you accepted salvation through Christ, whatever process you took to get there, reading this could explain exactly how and why you came to take that step. If today you are not saved by grace, then you could know what you needed to do to acquire salvation. And how easy it is!

*Question 80: What is the process of being 'born again'?*

The process of becoming saved should not take you as long as sitting on a front-row seat in your church for months, weeks, or days in a white outfit along with other candidates until your Pastor determines you are ready to get baptized. Rather, it takes as long as it will take you to say a simple and short prayer meaningfully. That is it. And then you would be saved. After which you must seek to be a part of the family of believers who should mentor you into becoming a disciple (one who follows Jesus and shares the gospel). Then be baptized in water, which is your symbolic gesture to show the world that you have crossed over from spiritual death to spiritual life and are “born anew” or “born again”. It is NOT the baptism that grants you salvation, it is a declaration that you speak from something you genuinely believe. Look at the following scripture that confirms that.

*Assurance of salvation*

*1 John 1:9 (NIV)*

*<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*Romans 10:9 (NIV)*

*<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.***

So, while I am not here to debate how different denominations orchestrate the process to enter salvation and whose process is wrong or right, I simply want to present the legitimacy behind that declaration ... popularly known as “The prayer of salvation” or as many also call it “The sinner’s prayer”.

While I was taking a class on the Hebraic Translation of Scriptures, my professor gave an assignment on popular scriptures in The Bible that Christians often misinterpret, and as a result, the scripture loses its true meaning. He presented two of those scriptures and we were to write a paper on how they were misinterpreted, and then give their true interpretation. One of those scriptures was Matthew 16:19 when it spoke of whatever we bound or loose in heaven will be bound and loosed in the earth.

That scripture on its own has little to do with what I am presenting here, but here’s the thing. I learned in those Hebrew classes that to correctly translate any scripture, you had to read its full chapter, and if necessary, the whole book, or as far back as you can trace information that would determine the correct context that scripture was written in to get its true meaning. I did that. And while doing

that, it did not take me long before I hit upon a golden nugget in the same chapter of Matthew 16 that was an “Aha!” moment for me. It blew my mind wide open when I came across it, and what I found had nothing to do with what I needed to present for my class project, instead, I uncovered the origin of “The prayer of Salvation!” modeled right there in that chapter.

No matter how many layers the body of Christ places over the simple process to salvation, we know all roads lead to meaningfully praying a “Prayer of salvation.” But how many of us knew that prayer was modeled in The Bible? And that Jesus immediately chose to use that instance as the benchmark process that future candidates for salvation must follow to acquire it. Here is what I found while having to dissect the whole chapter of Matthew 16. I noticed an interesting thing happening. Please read the following verses, and pay close attention to words underlined for emphasis:

***Matthew 16:13-19 (NIV)***

***Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah***

*<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

*<sup>14</sup> They [all the disciples] replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

*<sup>15</sup> “But what about you [the disciples]?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock [the firm hard foundation of who Jesus is] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

To unpack this, Jesus was having a conversation with his disciples, first, he asked them all, who do PEOPLE say [He] the “son of man” is? They named various biblical persons such as John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah because the people at that time did not have the revelation that Jesus is indeed the son of God. But Jesus, not interested in what everyone else had to say about him, went on to ask

his disciples “but who do YOU (my followers) say that I am?” And ONLY PETER responded, “You are the Messiah (Savior), the son of God”.

Of all the disciples, Peter was the only one that received the revelation of who Jesus truly was and declared it out loud at that moment! It is interesting to me that after Peter declared the deity of Jesus Christ, Jesus then said to Peter “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven...” Remember, it is God who draws men unto himself and reveals Christ to them and not something we come into on our own. And this goes right back to the Holy Trinity’s components of the spirit of the Father and the spirit of the Son at work here. To recognize Jesus as the son of God even in his human form, you must first acknowledge his spiritual embodiment as the Holy Trinity’s component of the spirit of a Son.

*Question 81: Why was Peter the only one Jesus promised the keys to heaven in Caesarea?*

But here’s the clincher, Jesus then proceeds in verse 19 still speaking to Peter he said “I WILL give you (Peter) the keys of the kingdom of heaven (not I am giving you now, but I WILL, for Jesus was not yet dead and risen), and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” What just happened here?

Could this be the model for the ‘prayer of salvation’ we use today? Like Peter’s response, we ask God into our hearts by declaring he is the son of God, the promised Messiah who dies to redeem our sins. Peter’s verbal acknowledgment that Jesus is the promised Messiah and God’s son was Peter modeling that prayer we pray today!

*Question 82: Who is the 'rock' that Jesus was referring to that he will build his church on?*

To affirm this, Jesus went on to tell Peter that “upon this ROCK I will build my church”! This is another scripture that is severely misinterpreted as many think it to mean that Jesus was calling Peter the rock that he will build his church on, how misguided? How can Christ who is the rock build his church on any human being? The rock that Jesus speaks of here, means that the church will be built on top of the verbal acknowledgment of Jesus’ deity as the promised Messiah of salvation and Peter demonstrated that in his declaration. That declaration now becomes the ‘initiation ceremony’ of Christianity! Now for anyone to be saved they must speak that declaration and come into agreement with it. And that is the firm solid foundation that the Christian faith is built on, Jesus’ deity, the one that saves... the rock!

The thing is, many Christians are unaware of what happens after one says that prayer and becomes saved as Christians. This is where we miss out because something magnificent occurs in the spirit realm right after this prayer. Remember, our human spirits that have been dead and disconnected from God since the fall when Adam's spirit died and caused all of mankind's spirits to be dead to God, now instantly come alive after that declaration!

*Question 83: What do the 'keys' to the Spiritual Kingdom unlock?*

Like Peter, we too become eligible to receive the gift of salvation and the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven given by the key holder Jesus! These keys unlock the doors to the powers and mysteries of the spiritual Kingdom we are now a part of. These keys enable our once dead human spirits to come alive through Christ the key-giver and we now have direct access to our Heavenly Father in his spiritual realm, right where he wants us!

We now can be used as a portal between both the spiritual Kingdom and the earthly realm via our human spirit. We can now create heavenly cultural environments on the earth by using the resources of the spiritual kingdom to permit or forbid things in the earthly dimension by binding (stopping/forbid) and loosing (allowing/permitting) because everything is already set up in the Kingdom of heaven waiting to be accessed if we knew we were to use those keys to unlock the door to get to them. This corresponds with Jesus' prayer of letting God's Kingdom come on the earth as it is set up in heaven! This is how that happens.

But let's dive deeper because every section of this passage of scripture has profound meaning. Remember the questions Jesus asked, "Who do men say that I am?" followed by "Who do you (disciples) say that I am?" In so doing, Jesus was pulling out responses that would categorize three types of people's spirituality who claim to believe in God today by asking both questions. Here's that breakdown.

*Question 84: State the 3 categories of spirituality represented by the responses the disciples gave*

The response to the first question where they referred to Jesus as simply a reincarnation of other biblical figures, represents the people who have a head knowledge of God but lack divine wisdom and revelation of Christ, or "having a form of Godliness but denying its power" source. These people have not received the gift of salvation and believe that simply hearing of Jesus or living a good life that checks off many items on God's 'good works' to-do list will get them to God.

This belief system certainly does not stop them from accepting alternative routes (religion or spirituality) to God as they feel that one does not necessarily need to go through Christ. These are the ones who avoid God's front door (Jesus) and break in like thieves through back doors and windows to illegally get to him, only to be evicted for trespassing. These people are not saved and are dead in their spirit to God. However, many in this condition may have very well found that their spirits are alive by another source of power, as they connect their spirits to the evil realms of the spirit world and utilize Satan's counterfeited and evil powers in their lives and think very highly of their so-called 'enlightened' spirituality.

Remember, our human spirit cannot just access God and his angels, it can access the spirit world in general where even the Devil and his angels live. The door to the devil and his angels has been opened for you from birth since you were born a sinner. You must choose which connection you will use, either you remain plugged up to darkness or obtain salvation so you can close the door to Satan and unlock the door to God. Because God's power gives you spiritual life and I swear it makes you youthful and glowing, but the other gives you spiritual death, that one makes you look old and tired. Ask any witch, it's why they are often perceived as looking old and wrinkly with a scowl.

Next, there were his disciples who lived and walked with him for years and had front row seats to everything Jesus did, yet eleven of them could not readily say out loud who Jesus truly was. These represent the people who are Christians yet do not have a true relationship with God through Christ. And despite that they did receive the gift of salvation and their spirits were made alive enough to stand up, they lack power in their lives as they did nothing with the keys they received and so they are wishy-washy with their spirits wobbling and limping around instead of being renewed daily with activated power. Their lives do not exhibit the authority that comes with one who uses the keys of heaven that unlocks its supernatural powers.

Then there was Peter who fully understood who Christ was by divine revelation from God, and so it was Peter who was promised the Keys to the Kingdom. Peter represents the Believers who truly grasp Christ's deity, and their spirits are alive and activated and they have used their keys to unlock the spiritual authority that is exhibited in their lives.

You may ask "Since all the disciples walked with Christ daily and performed miracles, why did they all have to respond like Peter? Who said they did not agree with him and it's just that Peter was the only one who spoke up? They would not be disciples if they did not know who Jesus was. No, salvation is every man for themselves. They all spoke up and answered what other people thought of who Jesus was, but then went silent when Jesus asked who they thought he was.

This is not to say that they did not agree with Peter, but by not vocalizing it, they missed an opportunity to be leveled up in their faith.

We see this in verse 17 where Jesus specifically addressed Peter by his name saying “*Blessed are YOU, SIMON SON OF JONAH (not all the disciples but Peter alone), for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.*” This is to ensure you knew he was not addressing all the disciples as a group because they all needed to make that public acknowledgment for themselves based on each of them coming into that divine revelation of Jesus being extended to them individually by God.

The other disciples could not receive their keys or revelation based on Peter’s declaration, salvation is not a group thing, it is an individual thing. But by Jesus singling out Peter because of his public declaration of the “Prayer of Salvation,” maybe all the other disciples could work their way up to doing what was required to receive their keys. Now the model to acquire salvation was set as Jesus was saying that to be saved and to receive the keys to his Kingdom, you must first believe and make the acknowledgment that Peter did.

Later after Jesus died and rose from the dead fulfilling the requirements needed for salvation, upon his descent into heaven, (after he settled all the salvation scores with the disciples including Thomas who was wishy-washy in his faith to doubt Jesus could come alive after he died) he told all the disciples including Peter they were to wait for a particular member of the Holy Trinity (the component of the spirit of the Holy Spirit of power and execution) that will give them power (the keys). I believe that it was at Pentecost as all the disciples waited together in the belief of the power that Jesus promised them, (The Bible did say that they were all in one accord which meant they were in one belief) when the Holy Spirit came to that upper room and rested upon their heads in the form of tongues of fire, that was when they all formerly received the keys to the Kingdom of heaven, and they unlocked the door and access the heavenly powers. And one of the benefits that action afforded them would become evident to many as they began to speak supernaturally in other languages (not heavenly tongues) of many nations, because as the scripture states below:

***Mark 16:17-18 (NIV)***

*<sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name, they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”*

Believers are believers because they believe and exhibit that belief in their actions. That is spiritual maturity. They do not simply become saved and then continue to live the same lives they did before they were saved. Believers are encouraged to grow in faith to maturity every day. It may be the difference between mere Christians and true Believers. Because you can be a Christian and not be changed, but it is hard to be a Believer without exhibiting the powerful lives that The Bible said believers would.

## The Prayer of Salvation

Now that I have laid the foundation which is the rock that salvation is built on, the declaration of Jesus' deity. Here is my question to you, are YOU saved? Have you yet accepted the invitation of Salvation from God through Jesus Christ? Have you yet been 'rescued' from Satan for God?

If you were with Jesus and his disciples in Caesarea Philippi that day, and he asked you "Forget about who everyone says that I am, who do YOU \_\_\_\_\_ (your name here) say that I am?" Reading the three responses his disciples and Peter gave, which would be your response?

If your response is not the response of Peter's and you never said the "Prayer of salvation," and you see the need to become saved, become a legitimate child of God, and no longer a child of the devil. Then I invite you to say the following simple prayer very meaningfully to be rescued. This is all that is required. Make sure you mean it and do not just recite it from your head. Mean it from your heart:

### THE PRAYER OF SALVATION

*Heavenly Father, you said in Your Word that if I acknowledge that I am a sinner and declare who Jesus is with my mouth, and believe it in my heart, then I will be saved.*

*Therefore, Father, I confess that I am a sinner that needs to be rescued, and I declare that Jesus is your only son and the one*

*true Savior that died for my sins and was brought alive from the dead and became the only way to salvation. I, therefore, accept your offer of salvation and to make*



*Jesus the Lord of my life. I now renounce my past life with Satan and close the door to any of his devices.*

*Thank You for forgiving me of all my sins and allowing me to be born again and to become your child. My old life is now dead, and I have become a new creation in Jesus' name.*

*Amen.*

*Question 85: Write your own short version of the "prayer of Salvation."*

If you prayed this prayer, let me formerly WELCOME YOU INTO THE NATION OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE FAMILY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

*Question 86: What happens spiritually after one meaningfully prays the Prayer of Salvation?*

How do you feel now? And if you were already saved, do you remember how you felt after saying a version of that prayer? You may feel either curious, excited, or clueless, as you ponder what just happened. If you do not hear or feel anything dramatic such as a voice sounding off from heaven, a dove flying down to rest on your head, or the angel's choir singing, this is normal. Some may feel simply at peace, as if a weight were lifted off their shoulders, or not. Either way, something major did happen, but it took place in the spirit world (that you cannot see where God rules) and not in the physical world (where you live that Satan rules over). Remember, we are now under a spiritual covenant so EVERYTHING about the new converted life to Jesus Christ will be spiritual. Let us look at what happens spiritually, right after one says that prayer.

### “Now that I'm saved – what now?”

You could be asking this question long after you got saved and still have no idea what should have happened next. Or you just said this prayer and are curious. Either way, immediately after you accepted salvation and confessed with your mouth from your heart as Peter did, that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah (Savior) of God and the only son of God that can pardon sins. Imagine everything I will tell you because these images are exactly what happened and should mean

more to you than anything you could feel or see in the natural. Because as Believers we are called

to live by faith, which is to believe despite what we can see or feel. You must accept these things based on faith regardless of how much you know or what you can see, hear, touch, feel, or taste. This acceptance must live outside of your five senses where faith resides.

After saying that prayer, the first thing that happened was God rescued you away from Satan. You made that possible because despite Satan's ownership and hold on you, you broke your covenant with him, and you did it of your own free will. Therefore, God was able to acquire you legally through a condition in the agreement for salvation, that states that anyone who freely chooses to accept God's advances of salvation to them, then Satan MUST release that person over to God.

So Satan then begrudgingly hands over your title deed to Jesus Christ because of course salvation must come through Jesus and it is he who acquired you. Then Jesus dips his stamp in his blood and stamps your title deed with the words "IT IS FINISHED, PAID IN FULL, REDEEMED". And just like that, you entered the new spiritual covenant. You then walk through the gate onto the bridge Christ laid out between mankind and God and you spiritually walk the full length of that bridge over to the other side where God and his angels are eagerly waiting to receive you. And the angels celebrate and throw a big party for you in heaven rejoicing that one more soul, yours, made it into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now your spirit is alive and the door that shuts you out from accessing God, you now receive the keys to open! Consider your spirit was like a plastic blow-up doll deflated on the ground waiting to be blown up. After you said that prayer, God opened your plastic plug and breathed his breath into your deflated doll until it was fully blown up to an upright standing position.

*Question 87: What is one's responsibility to themselves after becoming 'saved'?*

*Question 88: What happens to your spirit right after you get saved?*

What happens with your spirit after that is now up to you, because to keep it inflated strong and firm, you must begin to live life as a renewed person thus strengthening your spirit by deepening your relationship with God daily. The relationship he desired of you which was the reason he created you in the first place. If you do not maintain the strength of your spirit, even though you are saved, your spirit will become limp and wobbly as it will lose air each day from

inactivity, and you will live an ineffective wishy-washy life that exhibits no power.

Finally, you become a free agent of God and have rightfully earned the coveted status of a child of God through salvation. You are now a part of the Nation of Jesus called Christians and you enter the room that Isaac held open for Jesus to fill under the New Covenant that is spiritual and eternal. Now everything God did from the book of Genesis to Jesus in his plan of salvation, was all for you. You accepted the invitation and all the beatings and the six hours of torture that God came to earth in the form of a human called Jesus to endure to bring about that salvation, was all for you. All you ever needed to do was to make a simple and meaningful declaration while Jesus did all the work. God made it easy for you, and you accepted it. You made Jesus' grueling sacrifice worth it. BRAVO!

Now live in power and grow in faith daily! Grab your keys and throw that spiritual door open and run like an eager child of a King into your Daddy's arm and spend time with him every day of your life. Because even though you were not required to give one drop of blood towards your salvation, it did not come to you cheaply. You were paid and bought for through blood, sweat, and tears, and that... is PRICELESS. That is exactly your worth to God... INVALUABLE and PRICELESS. Now live like it!

You are now Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's fruit of their labor.