

Philippians 2:12

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

I believe that one of the greatest injustices in the church today, is that far too often people are told how to pray the sinner's prayer, but really nothing more. They are not trained in Christian discipleship of any kind. Christianity is much more than a single prayer! It is a life changing experience that should never stop growing or developing. I can personally attest for myself, that for the first thirty years of my Christian life, I took my salvation for granted. But ever since, it has become the most precious thing in my life! Why the change you may ask? Because it was then that I asked Jesus to be my Lord as well as my Savior. I surrendered not only my eternity to Him, but my life here on earth. Years ago, I heard a question asked that has kept with me since, "If being a follower of Jesus Christ was outlawed and you were placed on trial for being a believer is there enough evidence to find you guilty?" You see, my life didn't add up to my confessions! **Matthew 7:16** puts it very clearly, "**You will know them by their fruits.**" Now I understand that Jesus was talking about false prophets here, yet I know that many people are deceived into believing that they are saved, when in all actuality they are no different today, than before they said a prayer, years earlier. Now I realize that this is offending many people who are hearing this. But let me ask you a question, why does this verse talk about working your salvation out with fear and trembling? Could it be that the Apostle Paul knew that being a Christian was more than saying one prayer? **Galatians 6:7** says, "**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**"

Friend, what are you sowing in your life today? Do you think that you can do whatever you want outside of God's law and still make it to heaven? Perhaps you believe that by saying a prayer this is your license to eternal life, and that you are now locked in regardless of your current choices. I know many people who claim to be Christians, but their life does not add up to it. They live lives of immorality, and their language is worse than a long shore man's. They don't go to church, they don't tithe, nothing. Nothing in their life gives evidence that Jesus the Son of God is their Savior. The word Christian means little Christ; which means that a Christian is, one who is a reflection of our Savior. Do people see Jesus in your life? Has anything changed since you asked Him to be your Lord and Savior? If not, then consider **Matthew 3:8** "**Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.**" Repent means to turn or change. So if a sinner asks Jesus into their heart and they repent; then they will stop living the lifestyle they had prior to their conversion.

I want to leave you with **Ephesians 3:8**, **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.** Please don't misunderstand my message, because I am in no way saying that any of us can be saved by works. But I also know that when Jesus becomes your Lord and Savior something changes as well. Beloved don't take your eternity for granted, make things right with your Savior today!