

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel****Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel, on: 2009/5/31 5:19**

"Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart  
By Todd Friel

The music weeps, the preacher pleads, "Give your heart to Jesus. You have a God shaped hole in your heart and only Jesus can fill it." Dozens, hundreds or thousands of people who want to get their spiritual life on track make their way to the altar. They ask Jesus into their heart.

Cut to three months later. Nobody has seen our new convert in church. The follow up committee calls him and encourages him to attend a Bible study, but to no avail. We label him a backslider and get ready for the next outreach event.

Our beloved child lies in her snuggly warm bed and says, "Yes, Daddy. I want to ask Jesus into my heart." You lead her in "the prayer" and hope that it sticks. You spend the next ten years questioning if she really, really meant it. Puberty hits and the answer reveals itself. She backslides. We spend the next ten years praying that she will come to her senses. Telling someone to ask Jesus into their hearts has a very typical result, backsliding. The Bible says that a person who is soundly saved puts his hand to the plow and does not look back because he is fit for service. In other words, a true convert cannot backslide. If a person backslides, he never slid forward in the first place. "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation." (II Cor.5) No backsliding there.

Brace yourself for this one: with very few if any exceptions, anyone who asked Jesus into their hearts to be saved...is not. If you asked Jesus into your heart because you were told that is what you have to do to become a Christian, you were mis-informed.

If you have ever told someone to ask Jesus into their heart (like I have), you produced a false convert. Here is why.

#### 1. It is not in the Bible.

There is not a single verse that even hints we should say a prayer inviting Jesus into our hearts. Some use Rev. 3:20. That tells us that Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts begging to come in.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." There are two reasons that interpretation is wrong.

The context tells us that the door Jesus is knocking on is the door of the church, not the human heart. Jesus is not knocking to enter someone's heart but to have fellowship with His church.

Even if the context didn't tell us this, we would be forcing a meaning into the text (eisegesis). How do we know it is our heart he is knocking at? Why not our car door? How do we know he isn't knocking on our foot? To suggest that he is knocking on the door of our heart is superimposing a meaning on the text that simply does not exist.

The Bible does not instruct us to ask Jesus into our heart. This alone should resolve the issue, nevertheless, here are nine more reasons.

#### 2. Asking Jesus into your heart is a saying that makes no sense.

What does it mean to ask Jesus into your heart? If I say the right incantation will He somehow enter my heart? Is it literal

? Does He reside in the upper or lower ventricle? Is this a metaphysical experience? Is it figurative? If it is, what exactly does it mean? While I am certain that most adults cannot articulate its meaning, I am certain that no child can explain it. Pastor Dennis Rokser reminds us that little children think literally and can easily be confused (or frightened) at the prospect of asking Jesus into their heart.

3. In order to be saved, a man must repent (Acts 2:38). Asking Jesus into your heart leaves out the requirement of repentance.

4. In order to be saved, a man must trust in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31). Asking Jesus into your heart leaves out the requirement of faith.

5. The person who wrongly believes they are saved will have a false sense of security. Millions of people who sincerely, but wrongly, asked Jesus into their hearts think they are saved but struggle to feel secure. They live in doubt and fear because they do not have the Holy Spirit giving them assurance of salvation.

6. The person who asks Jesus into his heart will likely end up inoculated, bitter and backslidden. Because he did not get saved by reciting a formulaic prayer, he will grow disillusioned with Jesus, the Bible, church and fellow believers. His latter end will be worse than the first.

7. It presents God as a beggar just hoping you will let Him into your busy life. This presentation of God robs Him of His sovereignty.

8. The cause of Christ is ridiculed. Visit an atheist web-site and read the pagans who scoff, "How dare those Christians tell us how to live when they get divorced more than we do? Who are they to say homosexuals shouldn't adopt kids when tens of thousands of orphans don't get adopted by Christians?" Born again believers adopt kids and don't get divorced.

People who ask Jesus into their hearts do. Jesus gets mocked when false converts give Him a bad name.

9. The cause of evangelism is hindered. While it is certainly easier to get church members by telling them to ask Jesus into their hearts, try pleading with someone to make today the day of their salvation. Get ready for a painful response. "Why should I become a Christian when I have seen so called Christians act worse than a pagan?" People who ask Jesus into their hearts give pagans an excuse for not repenting.

10. Here is the scary one. People who ask Jesus into their hearts are not saved and they will perish on the Day of Judgment. How tragic that millions of people think they are right with God when they are not. How many people who will cry out, "Lord, Lord" on judgment day will be "Christians" who asked Jesus into their hearts?

So, what must one do to be saved? Repent and trust. (Heb.6:1) The Bible makes it clear that all men must repent and place their trust in Jesus Christ. Every man does have a "God shaped hole in their hearts," but that hole is not contentment, fulfillment and peace. Every man's heart problem is righteousness. Instead of preaching that Jesus fulfills, we must preach that God judges and Jesus satisfies God's judgment...if a man will repent and place his trust in Him.

If you are reading this and you asked Jesus into your heart, chances are good you had a spiritual buzz for a while, but now you struggle to read your Bible, tithe, attend church and pray. Perhaps you were told you would have contentment, purpose and a better life if you just ask Jesus into your heart. I am sorry, that was a lie."

Re: Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/5/31 9:03

Quote:

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BrianMira wrote:  
Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart  
By Todd Friel

10. Here is the scary one. People who ask Jesus into their hearts are not saved and they will perish on the Day of Judgment. How tragic that millions of people think they are right with God when they are not. How many people who will cry out, "Lord, Lord" on judgment day will be "Christians" who asked Jesus into their hearts?

-----  
I only have a few minutes before I have to leave the computer but felt I needed to reply.

Although I agree with much in the article and understand the dangers of soulish preaching I must also say that it is dangerous to also make legalistic statement as in number 10.

The night I was saved for example, I was crying out to God the Father telling Him that I was tired of living like I was living and wanted Jesus in my heart.

I believe there are multitudes who have asked Jesus into their hearts and have not been born of God but I also believe that there are those who followed through to repentance and true faith in Jesus to the new birth.

I understand somewhat of where he is coming from, but I just think he went a little overboard in his teaching.

Blessings to you!

Re: Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel, on: 2009/5/31 12:14

I think Todd is wrong and bit of a nit picker. To come out and blatantly say that just because their formulae wasn't exactly the way Peter described on the day of Pentecost that these people are not saved. Poppycock!!

People like the early Jews didn't know what to do when they were convicted, they said to Peter, "What must we do?"

Today we here preachers say, "Give your heart to Jesus, accept Him into your heart". What is wrong with that?

When the LORD came to me I was weeping, I had no idea what was going on, I had no idea what to do, I had no idea what to say. But I remember someone had said to accept Him into your heart. I stumbled through the words, but the words really didn't matter, the holy Ghost was doing something on the inside of me that I could not understand or comprehend. And there was no "buzz", no "feel good" stuff, just weeping and a cry for change.

Quote:  
-----If you are reading this and you asked Jesus into your heart, chances are good you had a spiritual buzz for a while, but now you struggle to read your Bible, tithe, attend church and pray. Perhaps you were told you would have contentment, purpose and a better life if you just ask Jesus into your heart. I am sorry, that was a lie."  
-----

Todd sounds like a Baptist that if you trip up in your Christian walk you were never saved to begin with.

You know, God loved us and sent Jesus to us and died for us WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, HOW MUCH MORE NOW we are His children. I mean think about it. God raised the bar quite high in that He has stooped low enough to love fallen humanity. And now that He has placed me in heavenly places with Christ and I should sin or do something that is unchristian that He is just going to push me over the edge of heaven and say, "Sorry, but you didn't get the formula right, and because you stopped praying and reading the bible, that proves that you never were a believer"

HELLO??

God forbid if any one of us is stripped of our bibles and put in solitary confinement and unable to tithe and go to Church, that would mean that you were never saved.

And the LORD told me that I would have a better life with Him, and I have a better life and contentment which is by the way a godly thing and great gain. And He told me that I would have a purpose for living when I thought that my life was not worth living.

Todd Friel, your out to lunch, or smoking something.

**Re: Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel, on: 2009/5/31 12:27**

Dear Brother Brian, this is not directed at you at all. Not in the very least, so please know that before reading my "heart" in this.

If you have an e-sword or any concordance - see that in the KJV N.T. that "heart" is in 99 Verses and mentined 106 times and SEE HOW it is used easily interchangeably with our inward man or spirit and that again is just the N.T..

These sudden flood of anti-heart articles are breaking my heart.

I asked Jesus into my heart 33 yrs ago and it was like a tsunami came in the first day and transformed a total Chief of sinners into something thought impossible by my family, friends and mostly me.

It does break my heart to see these so-called critiques and feel they've done nothing whatsoever but confuse Many.

I wish I could word this all better, but when it's an emotional subject, words are not coming easy for me to express.

A concordance could express it all much better.

LORD Bless you and yours Brother.

editing to add just one of the 99 that speak to my heart -

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/5/31 13:32**

The reason i think todd friel's articles is right because it is biblical, you never ask jesus into your heart in the Bible it is always repnt and believe the gospel or believe the gospel, believe on the lord jesus, call on the name of the lord jesus and though shall be saved. Most likely if you were saved it was not because you asked him into your heart but it was because it was the desire of your to be saved and the lord saved you. Paul washer has great sermons on these but i many don't like his sermons because he is calvinistic and teaches exactly what todd friel teaches and preaches against it, with the sinners prayer or asking jesus into your heart, he makes it clear paul washer that you were not saved because some magical formula or because you asked him into your heart but that you repented of your sins and believed the gospel, you say it was the prayer god says it was your repentance in your heart and you believed the gospel in your heart. I understand that many our saying that they were saved because they asked jesus into your heart but the bible says you must have a repentant heart, a surrender of yourselves before God and a belief of the gospel and then remember God also saves in his own time. He might save you right their, but you might have to wait upon the Lord. Brothers and sisters i understand you were saved when you said the prayer into your heart, but wasn't because you had repentance and believed jesus to o. You know what maybe Christ does save people when they do this ask him into their hearts but you must have wanted the lord jesus with your whole life, full surrender. But i don't think Todd friel is wrong though for this final thing it is unbiblical teaching and also that has only been taught for less than 100 years to do that, the bible doesn't teach this, you most likely heard this from a tract, some preacher or some other christian but not in the bible or for the first 1900 years of christianity, so you can't say he is wrong, i know the bible says believe with your heart but never ask him into your heart, so todd is not wrong their but he could be wrong on this fact, that some have prayed this prayer and have been saved and we can't really say they haven't. But anyways kudos Todd friel, if this was preached more than 50 years ago their would b

more positive comments. Brothers check out Paul washers sermons that i posted on here called repent and believe, and what is the gospel on articles and sermons, he talks about this.

Re: , on: 2009/5/31 18:17

Pro 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

How can a "heart" be appealed to, to "understand" or be the determining factor of whether "the seed" / "The Word of GOD" takes root or not and how can it "Believe"? Rom 10:8-10

The "heart" is mentioned 727 times in the O.T. as well.

Brother, I don't truly care what any modern day teacher or preacher has to say and I'm not trying to be rude or hurtful by saying that. We're living in the Apostasy - the great falling away, and these that are on the scene now do nothing to change that at all, from all that we've seen so far, so I haven't the time nor leading nor desire to listen to any of these that are just coming up, making names for themselves since this Apostasy began a few decades ago. I have Not Seen Any Fruit from their ministries anywhere on the internet - just their "followings" - many of which don't even know if they're saved or not and loads of legalism, as Paul warned in 1 Tim 4 and as a bunch of "Angry Watchmen" shouting at the sheep or sounding like they're on opium - and their followers quoting more from them than searching The Word for answers to everyone's questions - so unlike how we should be taught, to test all teachings as Bereans, by studying the Word. Any person can come up with ANY teaching by picking and choosing a few verses here and there, just to be "unique" to gain a following and cause Another Division in the Body of Christ.

If someone wants to preach Against "Easy Believism" or OSAS, believe me - I'm All Ears.

**But if men of old like Albert Barnes and Adam Clarke and many other pre-apostasy-era men refer to "the heart" in their commentaries on Rev 3:20 - than that will stand good enough for me** and again, no offense intended to you at all and I do know, my opinion is just that - 'my opinion' but I know GOD puts much emphasis on our heart's condition, before we make Him LORD and right up until we see Him Face to face.

Editing to add -

Quote:  
-----"Brace yourself for this one: with very few if any exceptions, anyone who asked Jesus into their hearts to be saved...is not."  
-----

This takes more audacity then I've heard in quite a while.

Quote:  
-----"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." There are two reasons that interpretation is wrong.

The context tells us that the door Jesus is knocking on is the door of the church, not the human heart. Jesus is not knocking to enter someone's heart but to have fellowship with His church.  
-----

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any **man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to **him**, and will sup with **him**, and **he** with me.

Playing on the same Scriptural Ignorance that these men thrive on and produce in young Christians.

Quote:  
-----How do we know it is our heart he is knocking at? Why not our car door? How do we know he isn't knocking on our foot? To suggest that he is knocking on the door of our heart is superimposing a meaning on the text that simply does not exist.  
-----

And this is called Hermeneutics? How dare he belittle people's intelligence.

No, his use of Scripture means nothing - but the confusion this will cause many is abominable.

He claims we'll backslide and not want to read our Bibles, etc. if we've asked Jesus to come into our lives in this fashion - Well Todd, 33 yrs later, I haven't backslid, lost my zeal nor been involved in any counterfeit movements and have studied apologetics all of these yrs - imagine that - I'm still saved.

Sorry for this addition, but I just now Fully read his article and am a bit amazed at his reasonings which he even went so far as to number.

More harm than good is all I see and it's very very sad.

**Re: - posted by poet (), on: 2009/5/31 20:08**

When I asked Jesus into my heart I knew what it meant.  
Not my organ, but my will, for him to rule and reign my will and life.  
There are some countrys that dont use the term  
Heart, they believe there feelings or will resides in their liver...  
Maybe a small child would be confused, but I would hope most mature adults with a mind would never think that the 'heart word' would be literal.  
I don't think many people backslide due to the fact they said "Jesus come into my Heart"  
I believe it is due to the fact that they are examples of the Soil Parable, some seed fell on stony ground, you know what I mean.  
Let's when we Ask Jesus into our heart. To rule and reign our lives, that we would build our lives on The Rock by following His commandments, or teachings.  
I do love the scripture quotes about confession, and repentance, these are building blocks to a great relationship with the Lord.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/5/31 23:03**

how do you guys feel about paul washer sermons, just wondering

**Re: - posted by poet (), on: 2009/5/31 23:48**

I really like Paul Washer Sermons,  
He's passionate, truthful, says it like it is with tears.

**Re: , on: 2009/5/31 23:49**

Quote:  
-----Most likely if you were saved it was not because you asked him into your heart but it was because it was the desire of your to be saved and the lord saved you  
-----

Hmm, what happened to "the LORD ADDED to the Church daily SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED". Acts 2:47

And what happened to John 6:44 "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up on the last day."

Oh sure they told us to repent. But haven't you asked the LORD to come into your heart and still repent and cry out to th

e LORD??

Peter told the first believers to repent and be baptized and they would receive the Holy Spirit. That was the formula it seemed until Peter met Cornilius when the Holy Ghost came upon them WHILE THEY HEARD THE WORD PREACHED. And it didn't say anything there that they repented or called out to God to save them, and they were baptized in water AFTER their conversion, so the formula was changed.

This is not a good thing your doing. I don't care who Todd Friel is, he is wrong and needs to get his act together, because the same measure he is meting out, the same judgement is going to come back at him if he should offend any of these little ones that didn't know any better when all they had was a hem of truth come their way and they asked the LORD to come into their heart. No one knows the state of any man's heart and what God does in peoples lives. "Who are we to judge a another man's servant?"

Nay, Todd Friel errs and is in deep trouble.

**Re: Ten Reasons To Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart By Todd Friel - posted by crsschk (), on: 2009/6/1 0:17**

Quote:  
-----Telling someone to ask Jesus into their hearts has a very typical result, backsliding. the Bible says that a person who is soundly saved puts his hand to the plow and does not look back because he is fit for service. In other words, a true convert cannot backslide. If a person backslides, he never slid forward in the first place. "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation." (II Cor.5) No backsliding there.

-----

This is not true.

Quote:  
-----If you have ever told someone to ask Jesus into their heart (like I have), you produced a false convert. Here is why.  
-----

Not necessarily.

Quote:  
-----1. It is not in the Bible.

There is not a single verse that even hints we should say a prayer inviting Jesus into our hearts. Some use Rev. 3:20. To tell us that Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts begging to come in.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." There are two reasons that interpretation is wrong.

-----

True.

Quote:  
-----2. Asking Jesus into your heart is a saying that makes no sense.

What does it mean to ask Jesus into your heart? If I say the right incantation will He somehow enter my heart? Is it literal? Does He reside in the upper or lower ventricle? Is this a metaphysical experience? Is it figurative? If it is, what exactly does it mean?

-----

That's ridiculous, the metaphor is not lost on many and this really gives less credence to his premise.

Skipping the next several ...

Quote:  
-----7. It presents God as a beggar just hoping you will let Him into your busy life. This presentation of God robs Him of His sovereignty.  
-----

Here I agree somewhat and maybe it's the best place to put my impression after reading through it earlier. Its mixed, but ultimately he fails here. Part of me does not like the particular language at all - The "asking ... or *making Jesus your Lord and personal Saviour* always leaves me with a connotation that sounds more like "*Your personal servant*". Someone to rescue you in a bind or do special favors on your behalf. Am using my own hyperbole here, but at bottom it usually make s me cringe because it sounds like a sales pitch, even "*asking Jesus into your heart*".

The problem with all this however is, like others have mentioned and I would have to wonder just how many still going st rong did something exactly like this? Really, it seems to me that he is chastising the wrong element, the recipients - If an ything it ought to be directed at the ... sellers .. for lack of a better term.

Quote:  
-----10. Here is the scary one. People who ask Jesus into their hearts are not saved and they will perish on the Day of Judgment.  
-----

Hard to believe anyone could make such a statement or assume such a thing ... It begs the earlier admission;

Quote:  
-----If you have ever told someone to ask Jesus into their heart (like I have), you produced a false convert.  
-----

One would have to wonder if he has gone back to all those that he told the former and made a correction ...

Very poor. Even if there is a great deal to be said against it, this is even more wrongheaded.

**Re: , on: 2009/6/1 0:33**

I edited my last post but this is part of it -

Quote:  
-----Todd said:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." There are two reasons that interpretation is wrong.

The context tells us that the door Jesus is knocking on is the door of the church, not the human heart. Jesus is not knocking to enter someone's heart but to have fellowship with His church.  
-----



Jesus said:

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any **man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to **him**, and will sup with **him**, and **he** with me.

If men of old like Albert Barnes and Adam Clarke and many other pre-apostasy-era men refer to "the heart" in their commentaries on Rev 3:20 - than that will stand good enough for me.

Have an e-sword, check these "men of old" on Rev 3:20.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/6/1 0:53**

Paul washer preaches totally against the sinners prayer and asking jesus into your heart, he actually in one of his sermons says he is at war against it. I actually noticed on here many have not listened to more of his sermons, i wonder why. He speaks truth but biblical truth, todd friel is saying what is according to the Bible, so he has the right to say something. The Bibles to believe the gospel with our hearts, repent and believe the gospel, it does not have any verses on asking christ to come into our hearts, but it says believe with your hearts on the lord jesus. Maybe you were saved after you said you asked him into your heart but wasn't that you had a heart that was repentant and wanted to be saved and you believed on the lord jesus for salvation, i think God looks at our hearts intentions, and we must have had a repentant heart and believed on the lord jesus. As much as you want to justify this it is unbiblical and this would have never been known but from someone making this up, it is not in the Bible and that is where todd friel is right. Yes you might have been saved by that, but truly it had to be because you had a repentant heart and believed on jesus, that is what saved you. Deepthinker i agree with you, salvation is a work of God, for that person to believe and repent is by the power of God, salvation is by the power of God, my reason for standing for this is that todd friel is right in his assesment that it is unbiblical, but we have no clue how some truly got saved. My friend has been seeking God but i would never tell him to ask jesus into his heart, i have explained to him Gods holiness, Gods law, how we broke that law, how we fell, how we our god hating sinners and we need to be saved and repent, i have told of the grace of god through jesus christ but i will not tell him to say this prayer or ask him into his heart. God will open his eyes and he will repent and believe on his own accord when God does that. I think the church is wrong in teaching that doctrine.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/6/1 0:55**

here listen to this paul washer sermon, he brings this up in it.

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=13924&commentView=postComment>

repent and believe by paul washer

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/6/1 0:57**

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?commentView=itemComments&lid=13922>

what is the gospel by paul washer

**Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2009/6/1 1:18**

'Crsschk', had pointed out statements from the article that are too presumptuous which makes us wary in endorsing its scriptural soundness. We must be careful with sweeping statements to avoid putting stumbling to others as the Lord had warned us.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/6/1 3:27**

o.k

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/6/1 3:42**

father i ask you to forgive me if i have been wrong at all on my view of this article, i don't how you save all the time so for give me for being foolish in my words at times and preassuming things when i don't know all things, humble my heart, for i am a wicked man, i have a heart for the complete truth and sometimes i can come on too strong forgive me if i was wro ng in anyway in jesus name.

**Re: , on: 2009/6/1 5:32**

To clarify:

Someone I know asked me to post Todd's letter to get a point of view from SI.

I did that because I was asked, but also because I have been torn lately.

With my limited understanding, this is what I have been experiencing...

I like Poonen, John Mac, and a lot of the past preaching Saints compiled by Greg, however, I have been challenged by a particular person who is in favor of calvin, along with the WOTM preaching methods and style. This somewhat opposes Poonen and his (what I am gathering) arminian beliefs.

See...I care little for calvinism or arminianism (the people may have been likeable...but their follows are like splinters off of a chicken bone).

I just want the truth. I see both sides and how both sides are led, but at the moment I feel as though I am in the middle o f traffic.

Throw the scriptures at me and tell me that Jesus is the only way...I know. But we all obviously listen to sermons and th ese sermons are contradicting.

Thus, the tear...the rip and the pain.

Sorry if I caused tension by posting this article.

Blessings,  
Brian

**Re: - posted by thomasm (), on: 2009/6/1 6:25**

I don't agree nesasarly, with any method, the Holy Spirit convicts our heart of our need for Jesus, and when He does, we either accept or reject the Truth.

I believed in God and Jesus all my life, but I didn't know Him. i was raised Catholic. In my twenties, I was a drunkard foul mouthed, brokenhearted man who hated himself, and really wanted to die, couldn't kill myself, because it was a mortal sin, one night I was at the end of myself, and cry out to God, "God if your real take m y life or I will" I wanted Him to strike me dead. Much to my surprise He did take it, but not the way I wanted, it was better. I was instantly changed in a twinkling of a eye, sober, swearing gone, hate for self gone broken heart gone, delivered fro m alcohol and drugs, full of peace love and joy, preaching the love of God, and Jesus to everyone I met the next day, ba sically my whole world turned right side up.

No one preached or led me to the Lord, the Holy Spirit came in, when I came to the end of myself.

If someone asks Jesus into their heart good, or if they cry out Jesus save me, who am I to say whether the Holy Spirit C onvinced them of their unbelief and need for Jesus, and the righteousness found in Him, It's my job to testify of Gods lov e that came at the Cross of Christ, not Judge the heart of another.

Love in CHRIST tom

Re: , on: 2009/6/1 9:05

Quote:  
-----No one preached or led me to the Lord, the Holy Spirit came in, when I came to the end of myself.  
-----  
Thanks Tom for that word. That's how the LORD came to me as well or I should say, drew me.  
  
I was reading the living bible at 15 when things changed for the better. I wept all the way through that bible soaking up every line and I remember crying out to God to save me.  
  
I wept last night when I wrote my last post to think that anyone of these little ones reading Todd's message the thought of seeing them question their salvation was unbearable. I've stumbled all my life and Jesus has proven to be that Faithful One, that altogether Lovely One. I would never trade that for anything, for each time that I failed, I turned to Him again. He is the Saviour, He is the God. Holiness to the LORD.

Re: , on: 2009/6/1 15:25

Quote:  
-----  
DeepThinker wrote:  
  
Peter told the first believers to repent and be baptized and they would receive the Holy Spirit. That was the formula it seemed until Peter met Cornilius when the Holy Ghost came upon them WHILE THEY HEARD THE WORD PREACHED. And it didn't say anything there that they repented or called out to God to save them, and they were baptized in water AFTER their conversion, so the formula was changed.  
-----  
  
Amen - and the thief on the Cross got saved how?  
  
These folks with "methods" of sharing The Glad Tidings upset me inside very much.  
  
Jesus had No Method. He was led by the Holy Spirit and 'knew' the person who He was speaking to before they even opened their mouths.  
  
GOD FORBID we resort to methods!  
  
To say that the Only way to share the Gospel is to say "Repent" - which means to, Turn from your sins --- is IMPOSSIBLE to an unsaved person.  
  
They must first be told the Good News - be "willing" to turn from, "sin" and be 'willing' to count the cost of asking The LORD to actually enter their lives in submission to Him before they can "TURN" from their sins by the power of the indwelling Spirit.  
If they could turn from their sins before regeneration, why did Jesus die and then send His Spirit to indwell us?  
  
Jesus, John the baptist and Peter could say "repent" to that Religious crowd, because they KNEW the Law - but to tell people now-a-days to "repent" before they are regenerated, when the Holy Spirit truly convicts of what "sin" is, is just as cruel of a statement as telling those who have been saved for years that they're Not saved, because of the "method" they were won by.  
  
Jesus used NO METHODS and forgive me if that teaching bothers me completely.  
  
I've never witnessed to the unsaved by asking them to "ask Jesus into their hearts", but if anyone tells me that they have "asked Jesus into their heart", I'd say PRAISE GOD. It's the fruit of their lives that will bear out whether one is truly regenerated or not, regardless of HOW they submitted to Him initially.  
  
Methods are NOT the way the Holy Spirit worked through-out Jesus' ministry. Nor any of His Apostles. They walked by the leading of His Spirit and dealt with each individual by "knowledge" from His Spirit.

'Methods' are killing evangelization and truly making Christians look very very bad and Un-doing "the witness" to the world . Those out there doing methods or screaming in the streets for the gentiles to "repent" are ruining Jesus' Name to the world.

As Art Katz said, YOU must have that living - 'hearing' relationship with Him before you are "sent". You must "be" first.

How dare anyone pervert the Gospel with "methods".

We should have such a walk with Him that His Spirit is heard and we only say what He reveals to us to say - just "as Jesus Did".

These "evangelists" need to come to HIM as a little child that know Nothing and know that they can DO Nothing without His Spirit.

As a little child, listening to His Voice and He "will" reveal an individual's need or life before they open their mouths and He Will tell the evangelizer what to say to them! Read about it in His Word.

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/6/1 17:21**

Quote:

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Jesus-is-GOD wrote:

Jesus had No Method. He was led by the Holy Spirit and 'knew' the person who He was speaking to before they even opened their mouths.

GOD FORBID we resort to methods!

To say that the Only way to share the Gospel is to say "Repent" - which means to, Turn from your sins --- is IMPOSSIBLE to an unsaved person.

They must first be told the Good News - be "willing" to turn from, "sin" and be 'willing' to count the cost of asking The LORD to actually enter their lives in submission to Him before they can "TURN" from their sins by the power of the indwelling Spirit.

If they could turn from their sins before regeneration, why did Jesus die and then send His Spirit to indwell us?

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Thank you for your outstanding post! I thank my God for how this thread has finally turn out.

Brethren, it is clear from scripture that the disciples were told to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts tells us how the disciples presented the gospel to the people. Every where they went they preached Jesus Christ and How he was crucified for the sin of all people. They wanted people to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for them. Those who heard were told to repent and be baptized. Those who truly believed were baptized.

Telling people to repent without first telling them about Jesus Christ and Him dying for our sins is like trying to take bone away from a dog when that is all he's got, believe me he won't like you to well.

The gospel is the good news. We must make the good news of Jesus Christ so real to people that they will receive the conviction and enablement of the Holy Spirit that will cause them to be able to repent and trust in Christ as their Lord & Savior.

Blessings to you!

**Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2009/6/1 21:00**

Quote:  
-----Throw the scriptures at me and tell me that Jesus is the only way...I know. But we all obviously listen to sermons and these sermons are contradicting.

Thus, the tear...the rip and the pain. Sorry if I caused tension by posting this article.  
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We understand, though it doesn't need to be that way, I believe we need to talk about this topic at times for the edification of the body.

My respect to the author of the article is not really lost, no intent to discredit his personality is meant, there are just statements which we are very cautious.

I believe there are declarations and statements that belong only to God or that we must respectfully leave to Him alone.

On the otherhand, I also believe, very strong warnings and diligent exhortations are really much needed in our time where so much is so deceiving and so enticing.

Blessings to you brother.

**Re: , on: 2009/6/1 23:59**

Quote:  
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passerby wrote:

...I believe we need to talk about this topic at times for the edification of the body.

...I also believe, very strong warnings and diligent exhortations are really much needed in our time where so much is so deceiving and so enticing.

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I agree. Where is that balance?

**Re: , on: 2009/6/2 1:05**

I believe the balance comes from praying diligently and whole-heartedly for the mind of Christ. For His heart and to have His eyes for mankind.

To ask Him to show us through His Word how He walked in total dependence on the Father, through the Spirit and not by methods made by man that compensate for the lack of their depending on the complete leaning on His Spirit.

That's where "the cost" lies. It's much easier to depend on other men or methods than to work to know the mind of GOD Himself.

That would take dying to "what we want to do."

Or our plans or desires.

Study Jesus. Just study Jesus.

I just now finished listening to this message and if you can't feel the love for individuals in this - then maybe listen to it a second time.

I did.

Reminds me of that song, "Give me Your eyes" - and we add, and Your heart and Your mind - YOUR LOVE for every soul on earth - Your creations.

LORD Bless us this way -

(<http://www.tscnyc.org/sermons.php>) You Can Cause Angels To Shout!

:)

**Re: , on: 2009/6/2 1:24**

the link doesn't work

**Re: , on: 2009/6/2 1:25**

Quote:

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Jesus-is-GOD wrote:

To ask Him to show us through His Word how He walked in total dependence on the Father, through the Spirit and not by methods made by man that compensate for the lack of their depending on the complete leaning on His Spirit.

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thus your point in a faulty link ;)

**Re: , on: 2009/6/2 1:28**

:)

**Re: , on: 2009/6/2 9:12**

Quote:

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(<http://www.tscnyc.org/sermons.php>) You Can Cause Angels To Shout!

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Good word. Well worth the listen.

Thanks Jesus-is-GOD.

Quote:  
-----"And if you and I can get that heart, you - we have found this treasure in the field that is spoken of in the scriptures. We hide it deep within. We cherish this deep revelation of God. You and I know you can't package this, you can't export this. It's a sovereign work. There are no steps to this. You can't teach this.

You either have it or you don't have it.

You either have Christ's heart within you or your don't have Christ's heart within you.

It's that simple."

- Carter Conlon (21 minute mark of "You Can Cause Angels To Shout!")

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**Re: - posted by menderofnets (), on: 2009/6/2 20:22**

Our churches are filled with many claiming to know God but whose lives don't show it at best and at worst are no different from anyone else. Both in the world and of it.

Paul spoke of one Gospel and only one. No more. When we mere humans add to, distort, alter, or in any way change the Gospel we don't have a different Gospel, we have none at all. In fact what we have is a deception which will only produce people who can't understand why they don't have the witness of the Spirit within them.

I didn't ask Jesus into my heart, I asked him to forgive and he did. I have made mistakes in my time but he has forgiven me those and will go on doing so, not that he condones anything or lets things go, but he chooses to not remember.

Judgement begins with the household of God. If we cannot get even the basics right (which historically we have an interesting history of...) then we have no right to share our false gospel with anyone at all.

We have the death and resurrection of Christ as our Gospel, and the justice, mercy and grace of God. Against such things there is no argument.

**Re: - posted by bible1985, on: 2009/6/3 13:21**

amen man your right on.