

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

By Keith Greer

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” {Romans 10:12,13} Unfortunately, many in the religious world have abused and perverted the meaning of “**calling on the name of the Lord.**” Calling on the name of the Lord involves:

Recognizing God. *“But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’” {Luke 12:20}* The rich farmer had forgotten to recognize God’s part in supplying his abundant harvest. One cannot truly call on God unless he recognizes who God is and that He is much greater than us.

Realizing Need. *“But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’” {Matthew 14:30,31}* Jesus was walking on the water, and Peter asked to join Him. However, when the waves began to howl about Peter’s legs, he began to sink and called out to the Lord. Peter knew He could not help himself. There are times in our lives when we need God’s help. The question is, will we recognize the need and seek out His help, or will we try to make it alone?

More Than Prayer. *“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” {1 Peter 3:12}* Prayer is involved, but not just prayer. Their attitudes and conduct have much to do with God’s willingness to answer His children’s prayers.

More Than Faith Alone. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 7:21}* A person’s belief in God’s existence, His power, and His ability to help in any situation does not assure that he will receive an answer when he calls on God.

Hearing a Preacher. *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” {Romans 10:14,15}* It may be good to sit at the feet of a preacher and listen to a lesson, but he must be preaching God’s words and not human opinion. And listeners must also be willing to make personal application of the preacher’s words.

Believing in the Lord. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” {Hebrews 11:6}* Many people believe in the Lord, but the proof of the believing is in the doing of what he says!

Obedying the Gospel. *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” {Acts 22:16}* Calling on the name of the Lord

includes all of the things we've discussed and culminates in obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. It's more than making a statement or lifting one's hands high in the air, accepting Jesus as our personal Savior, and asking Him to forgive our sins." Millions have been misled to believe this is ALL that's involved in calling on the name of the Lord. But there's no Bible passage or example of being saved in this manner. The only way to call on the Lord is to meet the conditions revealed through the gospel of Christ. Have you properly called on the Lord? ***