



Shining New Light

on an

Old Message

By L. M. Fontaine

Have you heard the message that the way to receive Christ is to ask Him into your heart? If so, you may be surprised to find out that this message is old, but not 2,000 years old. Rather it originated from a song written around 250 years ago. People assume it's biblical because they have heard it so often.

Picture yourself living at the time of Christ and personally hearing Jesus say, *"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."*¹ After hearing these words, can you imagine yourself praying, "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart"?

Why is it then that millions of people have said that prayer (myself included)? The simple answer is that someone told them that this was the way to receive salvation.

But do you receive Christ by asking, or by believing?

Jesus said, *"I have come in My Father's name and you did not receive Me, if another comes in his own name, you will receive him."*² Jesus was prophesying that those who rejected Him would someday accept a false Christ. And how do you think they would go about accepting a false Christ? Would they ask him into their hearts? Or would they simply believe?

Clearly, the way to receive a person is to believe in him.

Further proof is found in John 1:12, which says, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*

You receive Jesus by believing in Him – plain and simple.

When I share the Gospel, I point out that the expression, "ask Jesus into your heart," comes from a song, not the Bible. In reaction to this, I've had people say to me, "What's the big deal? It's just a way of believing."

But is it a way of believing or is it a false gospel? Did Paul or any of the other apostles preach to ask Jesus into your heart? No, they didn't. Then what biblical basis does anyone have to preach it? If you carefully read Galatians 1:8-10, you'll read that any message other than the one presented by Paul is a false message and therefore incapable of saving the hearer.

When the Apostle Paul was asked, *“What must I do to be saved?”* he responded, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”*³

Why is it so hard for some people to see this? One reason is because they have faith in the person who shared that message with them and in order for them to change their minds they have to come to the realization that they have been deceived.

Another thing that hinders some from accepting the truth is because they had an experience when they asked Jesus into their hearts. Tragically, many would rather trust their experience than the Word of God. Experience is no substitute for truth.

Also, it's of interest to note that many people have asked Jesus into their heart, not once, but many times (myself included). Why do you think that is? In my case it was because I didn't have an assurance that He had come in - and guess what? He hadn't.

The reality is that those who have invited Christ into their hearts or their lives have not understood the Gospel. Ephesians 2:8-9 say, “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Doing anything more than believing is doing something of yourself.

If you want scriptural assurance of your salvation, please sit down and read the Gospel of John. John explained that everything you need to know about how to go to heaven is contained in that book. He wrote, “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.”⁴

What you will see repeated over and over is that the sole condition to have eternal life is to believe in Jesus Christ. You'll discover in John 12:42-43, that there were people who believed in Jesus and never confessed Him. These obviously will be the people who will be in heaven without any rewards.⁵

You'll read that once you believe in Christ it is impossible to lose your salvation. Verses like John 5:24, John 6:37-40 and John 10:28, teach that once a person becomes a part of the family of God, he never can be cast out.

And what you won't find is the word *repentance*. The reason is the word means *a change of mind* and in order to trust Christ, you have to change your mind about doing anything more than believing in Jesus to go to heaven.

And lastly, you will not find anything about asking Jesus into your heart. Jesus does come in when a person believes in Him alone for salvation. A good example of this is recorded in Acts 10:43-44, where Peter explained the only condition to receive forgiveness of sins is to believe in His Name. While Peter was expressing this, God saw that they did believe and at that moment He did come into their hearts.

Peter, in recounting this event, said, "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Gospel and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."⁶

The message preached 2,000 years ago hasn't changed. Jesus said, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life."⁷ And you, my friend, can have the same assurance that your sins are forgiven if you recognize that the one and only condition to go to heaven is to believe, not ask. If you have any further questions concerning this or any verses, please feel free to write me at:

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Thank you and God bless.

¹ John 6:40

² John 5:43

³ Acts 16:30-31

⁴ John 20:31

⁵ First Corinthians 3:15

⁶ Acts 15:7-9

⁷ John 6:47