

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD?”

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The expression, “call upon the name of the Lord” is used several times in the New Testament. It sometimes refers to those who desire to become Christians and sometimes it refers to those who are already Christians.

Concerning those who desire to become Christians, Acts 2:21 reads, “*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (cf. Joel 2:32). This statement was made in the first Gospel sermon ever preached. It was on the day of Pentecost (ten days after Jesus ascended back up into heaven). This was the day the church of Christ began. Those who heard the sermon regarding Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection from the dead were pricked in their heart and cried out, “sirs, what shall we do?” They were told to “...**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**” (Acts 2:38). Verse 41 says, “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls.*” They called on the name of the Lord by being baptized.

When Saul of Tarsus desired to be saved, he was told to “...*arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,*

calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). He gladly did what he was commanded and his sins were washed away by the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7).

All who are Christians continue to call on the name of the Lord by the life they live in continual obedience to God’s Word (Acts 9:14,21).

To “call on the name of the Lord” is far more than simply pronouncing the words. It is not simply a verbal statement. It involves complete submission to the Lord’s Will. It involves doing things as the Lord instructs (Col. 3:17). It involves obedience to God’s Word! Jesus made this clear in Matthew 7:21-23. He said, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***”

Come judgment day, countless multitudes of people will cry and wail claiming they have called on His name, BUT the Lord will say “...*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” Though they were sincere, they had not obeyed His Word!

Calling on the name of the Lord involves the **acts we perform**, not simply the words we say.

Are you calling on the name of the Lord? Your continued obedience is a test of it. Are you obeying the Lord? If not, start right now!