

## Once You Are Saved, You Are Saved

Years ago, I went on a trip with several family members in Florida and on my vacation some in the place we were staying was watching one of these televangelists shows. The name of this person speaking at the time was Joseph Prince. I have never heard of this man, and he may be more local here than anything.

As I was watching this show he was speaking about James 4:8. The verse here reads "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*" In this lesson of his he speaks about this verse and says that when you are saved you are saved. Of course, this mentality comes from the belief once saved always saved. (Sermon #259 JosephPrince.org).

Sadly, as I was watching this, the people in the audience were clapping their hands and nodding their heads with approval. It was an is a message of convenience! I mean thinking about it in human terms it feeds the needs of the people, but not God! It is such convenience to have this type of religion. You can do whatever you want when you want.

It is unfortunate that there are many who want this message of convenience for themselves rather than a message of pleasing God. This is why Jesus forewarns all that many will go by the by the narrow way (**Matthew 7:13**). For the gate is wide and broad is the way which leads to destruction, and *many* go in that way. Why is that? Well, in **Matthew 7:21-23** we find our answer. Many will call Jesus Lord, yet not do the will of God. Many will say that on that day we have done this and that and great things in your name. Yet Jesus will say "*I never knew you depart from you who practice lawlessness.*"

Yet how can this be? Many do not want to hear that we must make changes in our lives. We like the pleasures of the world, and we want to keep these things. Yet with a message of convenience this would appease the world. The belief is as we can with this teaching "once saved always saved".

However, I want to stress that this belief is false, and we can search the scriptures to find the answer to this unlike what Joseph Prince says. In **Acts 8:13-25** we see Simon the sorcerer hears the gospel. He believed and was baptized. I believe that we can all say that he was in a condition of being saved. However, in this same context we see Simon see the apostles' performing signs and miracles through the power being bestowed on them by the Holy Spirit and he thought he could purchase this power.

However, in these events did Peter say do not worry when you are saved you are saved? Did he tell him to go on his way because he could rejoice in being saved already and he could never do wrong again? Did Peter encourage him that he could sin no more again after his baptism? Of course, looking at this, we can see that it is ludicrous to make these statements and the answer is no!

Peter in fact said his acts were sinful (**Acts 8:22**). He was told that he needed to repent of his wickedness. On top of this he was told that he needed to pray to God that his heart may be forgiven. He was shown the error of his ways and that just because you were saved you could still fall short of the glory of God.

We all have work to do! We all must seek to have our name written in the book of life (**Revelation 21:27**). I must live faithful to God. I must maintain a faithful and just life according to God. I must enter by the narrow way (**Matthew 7:14**). This is the way that is difficult but has eternal rewards

with God. This is the way of life. This is the way of God. This is a way that matters to God it is not a message of convenience for man but is a way that leads to the life with Him.

We have work that we need to do! We have goals that need to be accomplished. We have a message to preach, and a message that needs to be followed. We must be aware of the message that is being preached. There are many messages being preached but there is only one gospel (**Galatians 1:6-10**). Is it the message of convenience or the message of God? **Daniel Sanders**