

Review Ephesians 6:13.

Hear another faith story.

04

Spiritual Warfare!

BUILDING A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE NT

Part 2



Read Mark 1:21-28 and Luke 8:26-39 and answer the questions below.

What is the relationship of the unclean spirits to Jesus?

What do the evil spirits recognize about Jesus?

In the Mark passage, how do the people respond?

In the Luke passage, what do the disciples say, and what role do they have in this event?

How were the demons limited in this event?

What do we learn about Jesus and demons in these two passages?

What are the key points you would put into your theology based on these passages?

Memorize Ephesians 6:14-15. (ESV) *“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.”*

What Must I REALLY Do to Be Saved?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is simple and easy to understand when presented properly. But sometimes Christians make the gospel sound complicated by using terminology that is not Biblical or by using terminology theologically incorrect or unclear. With this in mind, here is a list of things that unbelievers are sometimes told they need to do in order to be saved!



Some Actions that Unbelievers Are Often Told to Take in Order to Be Saved

Accept Christ	Get Saved	Ask Jesus to Save You
Give your life to God	Be Baptized	Give your heart to Jesus
Be born again	Be Converted	Have your sins forgiven
Humble yourself before God	Be washed in the blood	Invite Jesus into your heart
Become a Christian	Look to Jesus and live	Believe in/believe on Jesus
Make a faith commitment	Call upon the Lord	Make Jesus your Lord
Cleanse your heart	Make your peace with God	Obeys the gospel
Come to Jesus	Commit your life to Jesus	Pray "the prayer"
Confess Jesus as Lord	"Pray through" (at a mourner's bench)	Confess publicly with your mouth
Prepare to meet your God	Confess your sins to God	Put your faith in Jesus
Convert to Christianity	Reach out to Jesus	Decide (make a decision) for Christ
Cry out to God to be saved	Receive Jesus	Receive the gift of salvation
Deny yourself and take up the cross	Repent of your sins	Draw near to God
Surrender your life to Christ/God	Drink/take water of life freely	Trust Jesus
Enter the narrow gate	Turn from your sins	Follow Jesus
Turn to the Lord	Forsake all to follow Jesus	Turn your life over to God
Get right with God	Yield your life to Jesus/God	

Suppose you went through this list and checked off the actions that you think have legitimate Biblical support as actions that result in salvation. Let's say that you selected 20 of them. Would you think of these as separate action steps to salvation? Or would you think of these simply as different ways to describe a single heart-action that results in salvation?

Wouldn't you agree that the simple "believes in Him" truth of John 3:16-18 is sufficient, even though this heart-action might be expressed in the New Testament through the use of a variety of metaphors and synonyms?

John 3:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Why is this issue so important?

Throughout **Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Training** and *The Story of Hope*, we emphasize that "faith" (believing/trusting) is the heart-action step that results in the salvation of a sinner. More specifically, it is faith that is focused on God's provision for man's spiritual needs—the death and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ.



Yet, frequently, we are asked "But what about ..."

- But what about **turning from sins**; when does the unbeliever do that?
- But what about **calling upon the name of the Lord** ("praying the prayer"); when does the unbeliever do that?
- But what about **receiving** Jesus and God's **gift of salvation**; when does the unbeliever do that?

These actions (and many of the others in the table above) are mentioned in a few passages in the New Testament. But the New Testament clearly teaches that there is **one single heart-action that brings salvation, and it is "faith" in Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Because of the various synonyms and synonymic metaphors used in the Bible to describe the act of "saving faith," some people seem to think that (genuine) faith in Christ is only one step that must be preceded or followed by other steps—turning from sins, praying a prayer, receiving the gift of salvation, and so forth. They fail to differentiate between the synonyms (and synonymic metaphors) for "faith in Christ" and the heart-action of (saving) faith in Christ itself. Consequently, the synonyms are misunderstood to be separate steps to salvation.

Does it not make better Biblical sense to think that a sinner is turning from his/her sins, calling upon the Lord in his heart, receiving God's gift of salvation, when he or she sincerely places his or her trust in Jesus Christ as Savior?