

## Romans 10:8-10

***But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Way back in the day when I was a kid, boys wanted to grow up to be cowboys or firemen and girls wanted to grow up to be ballerinas or ride horses. And we know that just because we said that as a kid, it did not mean it would come true, because most of us, or should I say at least 99% of us are not cowboys, firemen, ballerinas or ride horses for a living. I say this because I hear parents say, "My kid said the prayer 20 years ago when he was a little kid, so they are saved" yet their life does not represent that at all, in fact you would never had thought that they had even been to church, let alone said the sinners prayer at any point in their lives.

Look at today's verse that says "***that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus***" and some take that as if they said the prayer, they are set for life, no matter how they lived afterwards. But there is a second part to this statement, which is "***and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.***" So if little Johnny or little Jane said a prayer in Sunday school or VBS years ago, but lives like hell, where is the believing and where is the relationship with God in that?

I say these things because some parents are loving their adult children right into hell, because the sinners prayer is not magic words that save you, just like a kid can confess, "*When I grow up I am going to be a fireman*" then poof they are a fireman simple because they said it. Instead, he works for it, or it won't happen, and it was just empty talk from a child.

James talks about this very thing when he wrote:

† **James 2:17-20** *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

Paul also wrote:

† **Philippians 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

So yeah, you child may have said a prayer as a child, but as grownups, do they have a relationship with Jesus? Sure they may know of Him, but even as we just read that James said:

† **James 2:19** *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!*

We as parents need to wake up and remind, or even tell our kids for the first time what having a relationship with Jesus is really all about, because if you don't, then you are loving them straight into hell, because you have them believing that saying a prayer is magic words that will save them. But then maybe you think the same thing for yourself, where you said this prayer, therefore you are saved, yet your life does not match your prayer of repentance, wanting to change, and giving your life to Jesus.

For some it's time to tell your adult kids the truth, because you love them. As you do, also pray for them that they would truly give their life to Jesus and have an awesome relationship with Him.

† **Romans 5:11 (NLT2)** *So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*

† **Colossians 1:28 (NLT2)** *So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.*

† **Titus 3:7 (MSG)** *God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!*

† **1 John 4:15-16 (MSG)** *Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God. God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us.*