



# Lifelines by Patty McAlister

I'm sure many of you have heard or read stories about atheists who have researched to prove there is no God, only to find they were wrong. Finding their error, they went about trying to convince others of what they had discovered in their research. John Clayton, a scientist, is a good example. Since his conversion to Christianity, he has written many books and has a ministry, Does God Exist?

Sometime ago I read a book written by a young Muslim who wanted to prove that Jesus Christ was not the Messiah. Much like John Clayton, his research found the opposite. It was heartwarming and encouraging to me.

However, I was very disappointed in what he wrote at the end of his book. He had a believing friend who helped him in his journey to becoming a Christian. What he had been told, and what he believed, was that he just needed to put Jesus in his heart and quote the "sinner's prayer." That's what he wrote for others at the end of his book. He didn't get the whole story.

I've read and studied the whole Bible for more than 20 years. For the last 12 years I have read through the whole Bible and read the New Testament many times over. In all of my reading and studying I have yet to see anything that looks like the sinner's prayer for salvation. It wasn't used in the early church, so when did it get started? Most likely not too many years ago. It has to be a "tradition of men" that Jesus always condemned ([Matthew 15:3](#)). It was not inspired by the Holy Spirit, so why would it be taught?

Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is **baptized** will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned" ([Mark 16:15-16](#)). Jesus, our example, was baptized! He had no sin, but we do, and we need it washed away for our salvation.

The sinner's prayer sounds good and easy, but it can't wash away our sins. Many denominations say that Paul was saved on the road to Damascus. Read [Acts 9](#). When was Paul saved? If he was saved there, why did he ask the Lord what he needed to do. The Lord told him to go to the city, find a man and he would be told what he needed to do. Paul fasted and prayed for three days, so if the sinner's prayer was all he needed he should have been fine. But, that isn't the end of the story is it? Ananias told Paul, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" ([Acts 22:16](#)).

As believers we need and want the Holy Spirit in our lives. How does this happen? On Pentecost, the Jews asked Peter what they must do for salvation and become followers of Jesus. He told them, "Repent, and each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 2:38 NIV](#)).

Besides the baptisms of John the Baptist, there are more than 20 instances of baptism in the Holy inspired New Testament. Study the book of Acts. All of the people, who were converted, were baptized, immersed in water, to wash away their sins. None were asked to quote the sinner's prayer, no one! We teach baptism for salvation, "For as many of you were **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ...for you are all one in Christ Jesus" ([Galatians 3:27-28c](#)).

## Upcoming Events:

*Next Men's business meeting will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*

*Christmas baskets for our shut-ins will December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. More information later.*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 *Rhonda Horton*  
*Libby Widner*
- 02 *LeighAnne*  
*Forehand*
- 06 *Presley Williams*
- 10 *Paige Davis*
- 13 *Rhonda Lambert*
- 14 *Preston Nordin*
- 21 *Jamie Churchill*  
*Doreen Shinn*
- 22 *Alaynna*  
*Williams*  
*Mark Wimbush*
- 23 *Jamie Statler*
- 24 *Cara Williams*
- 25 *Amanda*  
*Besterfeldt*
- 26 *Rachael*  
*Robinson*  
*Addie Stamps*  
*Sonia Williams*
- 27 *Jeanne Mahan*  
*Jessica Walters*  
*Talvin Leavell*
- 28 *Kinsleigh Collins*
- 31 *Sierra Murphy*

## Russ Bus Items

### for this week:

### Vienna/Beanie Weenies and Fruit Cups

WE ARE SO BLESSED!  
So, this is a challenge to you starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. Let's celebrate the 25 days of Christmas! Gather these supplies every day until Christmas Day. We will gather the supplies in the back pack listed on day 24 and then give them to the Russ Bus for the homeless in our town. Hope you will accept this challenge!

- Dec. 1 –toothbrush
- Dec. 2 –small toothpaste
- Dec. 3 –small shampoo
- Dec. 4 - deodorant
- Dec. 5 –band aids
- Dec. 6 –chapstick
- Dec. 7 –small lotion
- Dec. 8 –disposable razors
- Dec. 9-small shaving cream
- Dec.10-toboggan cap
- Dec. 11- gloves
- Dec. 12 - scarf
- Dec.13- 2 cans pop open food
- Dec. 14 -fruit cups
- Dec. 15- peanut butter
- Dec. 16-crackers
- Dec. 17 - hand towel
- Dec. 18- 2-3 bottles water
- Dec. 19- plastic silverware
- Dec. 20- 3 apples
- Dec. 21- socks
- Dec. 22- small Bible
- Dec. 23- a surprise of your choosing
- Dec. 24- backpack