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As we continue to devote time to the subject of crying out for mercy, we must bear in mind that this can also be done in a mechanical way—which is nothing more than “lip service”—as the Bible warns in Isa 29:13, *“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”*

One of the conditions of crying out to God for mercy on God’s terms is the fact that God must draw a person to Himself for salvation, as one finds in Psa 65:4 for example: *“Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”*

We must remember that God always initiates salvation as Isa 46:13 underscores, *“I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.”* John 6:44 further teaches, *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”* The same idea is expressed in Jer 31:3, *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”*

Psa 10:17 instructs, *“LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear...”*

We would do well to heed the words of 1 Pet 5:5, *“...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”* What staggers our puny minds is that God Himself demonstrates the supreme example of humility in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we discover in Php 2:8, *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

Many people today think they are God’s children—usually because of something they have said or done. This is not a new concept, as we see from the frightening account in verses 1, 2, 5, 32 and 33 of Num 16: *“Now Korah... with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown... gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron... And he[Moses] spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him... And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.”*

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.”

