

HELPING AT THE ALTAR

Ge 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

The flood wiped everything out everything on earth. Once off the ark, Noah and his family would need shelter, they would need a place for livestock, and they would need other buildings. Yet, when Noah exited the ark, he did not build a house, a barn, or any of the other buildings, he built an altar. He made a place where he could meet with God. He was making a clean start.

God has always provided a place where His people could meet with Him. It may have been something elaborate like in the Temple or something simple like a few stones stacked together. But, God has always had a designated place where His people could meet with Him.

For this reason, baptist churches build an altar in the church house. It is a place we should reverence, it is a place we should love, and it is a place we should frequent.

One of the greatest sins of our modern churches is the neglect of the altar. Somehow, we have come to the place where we think it is for the lost, or the horribly backslidden. The fact is, it should be one of our favorite places. It should be our friend. We should be well acquainted with the altar.

Every God-called preacher preaches every message with a purpose in mind. Every message is preached in an attempt to change people. An invitation is given to provide the listeners with an opportunity to respond to the Holy Spirit and move to the altar.

Since the altar is a place where people can get help from God, there is a need for capable Christians who are willing, and able, to assist those who respond to God's message. God has always used His people to help people. This study seeks to provide aid to those who assist others at the altar.

1. **GETTING HELP AT THE ALTAR**

We can't expect to give help at the altar if we aren't willing to get help at the altar.

A. **THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF CONVERSION**

We know a lost person can get saved anywhere. But, one of the greatest places to meet the Lord is at a church altar.

B. **THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF COMMUNION**

The altar is a wonderful place to just talk with God. It is a place where we can simply thank the Lord for saving our unworthy souls. There is nothing wrong with going to the altar, simply to talk to the Lord.

C. **THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF COMMUNICATION**

The altar is a wonderful place to get direction from the Lord. We need His instruction. When you have a question, meet Him at the altar. When you are struggling with a decision, get the answer at the altar.

D. **THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF COMFORT**

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We live in troublesome days. We all need comfort from time to time.

2 Sa 22:33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

Jn 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

E. THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF COMPASSION

Our grandparents weren't ashamed to shed tears on the altar. They were quick to run to the altar to bring a lost loved one before the Lord.

Someone needs you to pray for them. Someone is struggling, someone is hurting, someone is afraid, and they need a friend to call their name before the Lord.

F. THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF CONSECRATION

Every Christian should regularly dedicate themselves to the Lord, and His will. There are few places better than the altar to do this. Find a spot, and lay your all on the altar for Him.

G. THE ALTAR SHOULD BE A PLACE OF CLEANSING

We all get our feet dirty. We need to confess. When the Lord deals with us, we need to move.

Ge 35:1-2 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Ps 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

2. **GIVING HELP AT THE ALTAR**

We need people who are willing to assist those who go to the altar. Some of the ones who go to the altar know little, or no scripture. The Holy Spirit has dealt with them, but they need someone to take the bible and help them.

The Ethiopian eunuch asked a searching question. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. He asked Philip, "How can I, except some man should guide me" (Acts 8:26-32).

Philip's response was to open the Word of God to the eunuch. That is exactly what this study is about. God uses people to assist people.

A. GETTING "ME" READY TO HELP SOMEONE

If I am to assist others, I must be right myself. How can I be ready to help those who go to the altar?

1. REALIZE

We need to realize how important this ministry is. An eternal soul may be at stake. The spiritual condition of a Christian may depend on us.

2. RIGHT

We need to be right with the Lord. No one is perfect, but there should be no unconfessed sin in our life. It is very unlikely that we can help someone if we are not right with the Lord ourselves.

3. READY

We need to be ready when the need arises. We need to be sensitive. We need to be alert. We need to be ready when the Holy Spirit speaks to us about going to pray with someone.

We should plan ahead. We need to rehearse in our minds what we would say under different circumstances. We need to be ready for anything.

We need to pray when we sense the invitation is about to be given and be ready to move as soon as someone goes to the altar.

4. REMEMBER

We should remember, we represent the church. More importantly, we represent the Lord. Assisting someone at the altar is an honor, but it is also a great responsibility.

We should remember, we are needed. Some of those who go to the altar are ignorant of spiritual matters. Some of them will not know what they need.

We should remember, we are no better than anyone who goes to the altar. A "holier than thou" attitude has no place in the house of God, especially at the altar.

5. RELY

It is common to be nervous, but there is no need for fear. The devil will tell us that we are not equipped to deal with those at the altar.

However, we can depend on the Lord to give us the words. The Lord will help us if we yield to Him. He knows the heart of the person at the altar, and He will give us the right words to say.

When we yield ourselves to Him, we are operating in His power and not our own.

2 Sa 22:33 God is my strength and power:

We need to ask Him to take over. The disciples prayed and they were filled with the Holy Spirit as a result (Acts 4:29-32).

No matter how much experience we have, we must depend on the Holy Spirit. There are no two cases alike. Every person has a unique need, so we need the Lord's assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Be clean. Use a breath mint. Always put a breath mint in a minute or two before the invitation is given.

Be ready and expecting.

Men should assist men, and women to assist women. If you must assist someone of the opposite sex, be very careful, and do not get too close.

Remember, time is limited. Use as few words as you can to say what you need to say.

Speak slowly and distinctly. This will help us to concentrate and help them to hear us better. We need to speak loud enough for them to hear us clearly.

Be kind. Make sure to not be abrupt or harsh.

Say what you need to say with as few words as possible. This is not the time to give our opinion or show how much we know. Get to the point as quickly and clearly as possible.

There will be times when you should pray with them, and go back to your seat. Tell them to pray as long as they need and leave. Such a case would be if they tell you they are praying for a friend. In this case, they don't really need your assistance, so they need to feel like they can pray as long as they desire. If we stay beside them, they may feel rushed.

Some problems should be referred to the pastor. For example, if someone you assist is talking about suicide, or if someone is being abused.

If you need help, call the pastor.

B. HOW TO ASSIST THOSE WHO COME TO THE ALTAR

NOTE: The information below is given to aid us in our attempt to assist someone at the altar. It has been given in an attempt to cover as many situations that may occur at the altar. I am not implying that we have to cover every detail of this information when we are assisting someone.

The Holy Spirit will show us which information is needed, and what we should say to each individual. We CAN and MUST trust the Holy Spirit to lead us.

Dealing with someone who has come to the altar is usually easier than witnessing to a person on the street. For one thing, we can assume the Lord is dealing with the person or they would not have come to the altar.

WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THREE THINGS.

1. WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE THEIR NEED

Our first step is to determine why they came to the altar.

There are generally five reasons why a person goes to an altar. These are not all the reasons, but they summarize the general needs of a person.

- A lost person getting saved
- A saved person getting assurance
- A saved person confessing sin and getting right
- A saved person getting encouragement
- A saved person praying for someone else

How do we determine their need? We start by simply asking them why they came to the altar.

When you kneel beside them, ask them, "Why did you come to the altar", or, "Is there anything I can help you pray about?". You can ask them, "If you were to die today, do you know for sure you would go to heaven?".

Let them answer. Listen intently to their answer. This will help us determine their need.

2. WE ARE TRYING TO GIVE THEM THE SOLUTION TO THEIR NEED

The answer to their need is in the bible. The Word of God is the solution to any need. Therefore, we need to be able to tell them what the bible says about their particular need, whatever that need is.

3. WE ARE TRYING TO BRING THEM TO THE POINT OF DECISION

Draw the net. The time comes when a decision must be made. Since they came to the altar there is a good chance they are ready to do business with God. We must be able to bring them to the point of calling on God for help.

C. HELPING A PERSON WHO IS LOST

What should we do when it becomes obvious the person we are assisting is lost?

A lost person needs to do the following to get saved. We should walk them through these points to make sure they understand what they must do to get saved.

THEY MUST ADMIT: They must be willing to admit they are sinners.

Ask them, "Do you realize you are a sinner, just like everyone else in this building?"

THEY MUST BELIEVE: They must believe the gospel. Salvation is by grace, through faith.

Ask them, "Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross, and rose again, to pay for your sin?"

THEY MUST REPENT: They must be willing to repent of their sin.

Ask them, "Are you willing to turn from your sin, and turn to the Lord for forgiveness"?

THEY MUST RECEIVE: They must receive the Lord and His forgiveness.

Ask them, "Are you ready to ask Jesus to forgive you?"

If they say "no".

Explain to them how serious this is and how they can not get saved whenever they want to. But, do not push them. Many people have prayed a prayer, just to get rid of an overaggressive Christian.

If they say "yes".

Read 1 John 1:9.

Tell them,

"The Bible says if a person confesses their sin God will forgive them and cleanse them from all sin. God does not lie. If He says something, we can believe it.

We want to get them to realize that God meant what He said and that they can expect Him to forgive them if they will simply do what he said.

Ask them, "Do you believe Jesus will forgive you, if you ask Him?"

If they answer "yes" to the these questions, ask them..."Do you have any questions about what I told you?"

If they don't have any questions, say something like, "I have done all I can do, I can pray with you, but I can't pray for you. You must ask the Lord to forgive you. Are you ready to do that?"

Ask them, "Are you ready to ask Him into your heart and trust Him as your Lord and Savior?"

Listen to their answer. DO NOT force them to pray. If they seem reluctant, explain how important it is to get saved while the Lord is speaking to them. Ask them again. Say something like, "I'm not pushing you, but this is so important, so I want to ask you again, are you ready to call on the Lord and ask Him to forgive you"?

If they say yes, read, Romans 10:13.

Say once again, "I can pray with you but you must ask Him for yourself". We should not put words in their mouths. It is fine to suggest the general content of a prayer, but leading them to repeat a prayer after you can be dangerous.

Tell them to talk to the Lord in their own words. You can say something like. "Just talk to the Lord in your own words, tell Him you know you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you". By doing this, you are letting them know what the content of their prayer should be without leading them through a prayer that may not be from their heart.

Tell them "We are going to pray now. I'm going to pray with you while you are praying. If you are sincere, call on the Lord and trust Him to forgive you". I usually tell them to pray as long as they need to and to tell me when they are finished.

Many people are uncomfortable about praying aloud, so don't force them. I always tell them they can pray aloud if they want to, but they don't have to. Pray quietly for them while they are praying. Simply ask God to hear their prayer and to save them. Pray that He will give them the assurance that He forgave them. Ask Him to not allow them to trust in this experience if it was not real. The fact is, we do not know that person's heart. We hope they are sincere and the experience is real. But, we dare not give them false assurance.

When they are finished praying, ask them, "Did you ask the Lord to forgive you?" If they say yes, ask them, "Did He forgive you?"

We want them to say that they did ask Him to forgive them and they know that He did. We must, however, be careful to not lead them into saying this without really meaning it.

Listen to their response. Do not be overly alarmed if they show some uncertainty. Many people have no idea what to expect.

Explain to them how salvation is by faith and not by feelings.

Do not ask, "How do you feel?" That implies there is a certain feeling they should have. Some people have a wonderful emotional experience when they get saved, but others show very little emotion. How they feel does not matter. What matters is that they repented and trusted the Lord.

Give them a verse of assurance.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Tell them that in this verse, Jesus says that He would not turn anyone away who comes to Him. Tell them, if they were sincere, they can be assured that the Lord forgave them. Be sure to stress, if they were sincere.

AFTER THEY HAVE PRAYED

It is very important that we do all we can to help the young convert. The devil will do all he can to trip them up or confuse them.

Explain to them the importance of:

- Praying every day

Tell them prayer is simply talking to God, they don't have to use fancy words, just say what's on their heart.

- Reading the bible every day

God's Word gives us strength, it tells us how to live, it draws us closer to God. Praying is us talking to God and reading the bible is God talking to us.

- Getting in church and being faithful

We need the church because that is one place where God will speak to us. We need the church because that is where we can meet other Christians.

D. HELPING THE PERSON WHO IS REDEDICATING THEIR LIVES

There are times when a saved person will go to the altar to get right with the Lord. Our flesh is strong and still loves sin.

We should always ask them if they are sure they are saved. Many think they need to get right with the Lord when their problem is they have never really been saved.

If they are truly saved, we should assure them the Lord is ready to forgive and restore. No matter what they have done, there is forgiveness and restoration. Remind them of how the prodigal's father was longing for him to come home.

Read, or quote, 1 John 1:9.

Pray with them.

E. HELPING THE PERSON WHO IS DOUBTING

Helping someone who is doubting their salvation can be the most difficult of all situations. We must rely completely on the Holy Spirit in such cases.

We must realize, we CANNOT see a person's heart. Therefore, we CANNOT know if they are saved.

We must realize, we CANNOT give assurance to anyone. Only the Holy Spirit can give peace and assurance.

Never try to convince the person they are saved. That is the Holy Spirit's job. We may be condemning them by getting them to trust a false profession.

The person who is doubting is someone who has made a profession but is uncertain if it was real. Somewhere in their past, they prayed a prayer, or had an "experience". But, now they are wondering if that experience was genuine.

Assisting a person who is doubting their salvation is no different than leading someone to the Lord. All we can do is give them the scripture that deals with salvation and trust the Lord to bring them to the point where they can get the help they need. We need to give them the truths about salvation and the scripture that can help them to determine their true spiritual condition.

We can trust the Scripture and the Spirit. I can say without hesitation if the Holy Spirit is dealing with them, and they do what God said to do about getting saved, He will save them. He promised, and He never lies. If they do what He said, He will do what He said. He said He would forgive the person who repents, believes, and accepts.

So, IF the Holy Spirit was convicting them, and IF they turned to the Lord in repentance, and IF they trusted Him by faith, He saved them when they called on Him.

Everyone is saved the same way. I was saved by grace, through faith, exactly like the bible teaches (Eph. 2:8-9). If you are saved, that is how you got saved. The same bible that told me I could be saved if I came to God on His terms, tells me that I can assure others they can be saved if they come to God in the same fashion.

Our problem is, WE DO NOT KNOW if they did what God said to do. Therefore, we should never give our opinion about their spiritual condition. We may be wrong. There will be times when you have a strong opinion about the person's spiritual condition. However, we cannot depend on our opinion. They must get assurance from the Holy Spirit.

We can be certain of one thing, God wants them to be saved, and He wants them to know they are saved. Job said he knew his redeemer was alive (Job 19:25). Paul talked about being "confident" in 2 Corinthians 5:9. John said, "that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life" (1 Jn. 5:13).

It simplifies matters a little when we consider the fact that they are either saved, or they are lost. There is no middle ground.

THEY MAY BE LOST

We must consider the possibility that this person is not saved. What they think is doubt may actually be conviction.

THEY MAY BE SAVED

It is possible for a person who is genuinely saved to doubt their salvation.

REASONS FOR DOUBT

There is always a reason for doubt.

- They aren't really saved

Some believe most of those who doubt are truly saved. I believe that is a dangerous assumption. It is possible the person we are assisting has never really been saved.

Many have gone to an altar because their friends did. Many prayed a prayer but were not under conviction.

- They have unconfessed sin in their lives

The person who walks in the flesh is opening themselves up to doubt. Peter said this type of person can actually forget they have been forgiven.

2 Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Assurance is not promised to a person who refuses to deal with the sin in their life.

In such cases, it is important to explain to them how sin can cause doubt. They need to confess their sin, turn from it, and walk in obedience to the Lord.

- They are living an unfaithful life

Assurance is not promised to a person who lives a half-hearted life. It is not uncommon for a person who lives a wishy-washy life to have battles with doubt.

A close walk with the Lord keeps us in tune with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-controlled person has love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22–23).

- They are confused about the old nature

Many have been taught that a true Christian will not sin. Therefore, when they sin, they begin to doubt if they are truly saved.

The fact is, a Christian can do anything a lost person can do. However, a true Christian will be convicted by the Holy Spirit when they sin.

If a person can live an unchristian life and not feel guilty about it, they are not saved, no matter what they say, or believe (Heb. 12:8).

- They misunderstand eternal salvation

Some have been taught that they can lose their salvation if they sin. Jesus said the life He gives is eternal. No man (including the person themselves) can pluck them out of His hand (Jn.10:28).

- The Devil is attacking them

The devil can cause doubt. The devil loves to make Christians doubt. A doubting Christian has no peace. A doubting Christian will do very little for the cause of Christ.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE PERSON YOU ARE ASSISTING IS DOUBTING

As previously stated, when we kneel beside the person we will be assisting, we should ask why they came to the altar.

A second question we should almost always ask them is, "Do you know for sure you are saved?".

What do you do if they indicate doubt when you ask them this question?

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Ask them simply, "Has there ever been a time when you turned to the Lord, and asked Him to forgive you of your sin"?.

Don't make it any more complicated than that. After all, if the Lord is speaking to a person about their sin, salvation is that simple.

If they say, "no".

There will be times when they will realize they have never truly been saved. Deal with them as recommended above in HELPING THOSE WHO ARE LOST.

If they say, "Yes".

Ask them, "When did that happen?". They may say something like, "When I was ten years old, or when I was at a revival". If they cannot tell you when they got saved, it is highly unlikely they are truly saved. I am not talking about the exact date and time. They may not be able to give you the date, but they should be able to tell you about the experience.

Ask them to tell you about their experience.

If they can tell you when it happened, ask them to tell you about it. Listen intently to their answer.

When they are finished, ask them, "Was there a change in your life when you professed to get saved?". True salvation brings change (2 Cor. 5:17). If they weren't changed, they didn't get saved.

Ask them, "Is there any unconfessed sin in your life?". Be sure to say also, "You do not have to tell me what the sin is, I am simply asking IF there is any sin you have not confessed to the Lord".

Point out how important it is to have a close walk with the Lord. Peace comes from a close walk with God. Isaiah said the effects of righteousness are quietness and assurance for ever (Is 32:17).

Ask them if they feel guilty when they sin. If a person can live an ungodly life and have no conviction, they ARE NOT saved, no matter what they say. (Heb. 12:6-13)

TAKE THEM TO THE WORD OF GOD

It is vitally important to tell them that you do not know if they are saved. I usually say something like, "I don't know if you are saved because I cannot see your heart. But God knows, and He wants you to know". Explain to them, "All I can do is show you what the bible says".

Read Romans 10:13

Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This verse says that whosoever calls on the Lord will be saved. Tell them, "God said IF a person calls on Him from a sincere heart, He would forgive them. Now, I don't know your heart, but God doesn't lie.

Be sure to say "IF". IF they were convicted by the Holy Spirit, and IF they repented and called on Him in faith, they are saved. But, we do not know IF they did.

All we can do is give them what the bible says. If they did what the bible says, God kept His promise. They have to determine whether they did what the bible says.

Read John 10:28

Jn 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

This verse says if they were ever saved, they are still saved. Tell them, "Jesus said in this verse that those who are saved, are saved forever. That means if you have ever really been saved, you are still saved. Now, I want to ask you, have you ever really been saved?".

This makes them focus on their profession and whether it was real.

Point out how salvation is not by feelings, it is by believing, and doing what Jesus said. I almost always say something like, "Salvation is by faith, and not by feelings".

We must get them to realize that God will keep His promise. If there is a problem, it is on their part and not God's.

Ask them, "Are you trusting Jesus alone for your salvation?".

Salvation is a helpless sinner trusting Jesus to forgive them. The foundation of true salvation is believing Jesus, and only Jesus can forgive us. Our goodness does nothing to bring salvation.

Pray with them. I usually say something like, "I don't know if you are saved or not, but God does, so let's pray, and you ask God to show you. Just tell Him you want to know for sure and you are willing to do whatever He says".

When they are finished praying, ask them, "What would you say if I asked you if are you saved right now?". Listen intently to their response. This question forces them to look at one thing, was their profession real?

DON'T BE AFRAID TO STOP

There will be times when you will have to simply pray with them and trust the Lord to give them the help they need. There will be times when you have to turn them over to the Lord and let Him deal with them.

GIVE GOD THE PRAISE FOR HELPING THE PERSON WHO CAME TO THE ALTAR

We dare not take any of the credit for ourselves. God does not share His glory. He may use you to aid someone, but He is the one who did the work.

SOME VERSES TO HELP

The Word of God provides the help needed.

We need to know where they are, so we can turn to them quickly. Let them look at the verses with you are you read them. It is good to memorize these verses in case there is a time when we don't have our bible with us.

You do not have to quote the entire verse. There is nothing wrong with using only the portion of the verse that applies to what you are trying to get across. We are not doing damage to the Word of God by doing so.

VERSES FOR SALVATION:

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Ro 10:9–10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Is 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

VERSES FOR ASSURANCE:

The Lord wants us to have assurance of our salvation. He told us we can know for certain.

1 Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit will bear witness inside the true believer.

Ro 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: He said he would not turn away those who come to Him in true faith and repentance.

Jn 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

If a person really gets saved, there will be a change in their life. If there was no change, there was no conversion.

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Jn 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ac 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

VERSES FOR RE-DEDICATION:

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1 Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

VERSES FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE WE CAN LOSE SALVATION

Jn 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus gives us "everlasting" life, not temporary life.

Jn 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

There can be no condemnation to those who are in Christ.

VERSES FOR THOSE WHO ARE RELUCTANT:

As I have already stated, we do not want to force anyone, but there are times when we should stress the importance of not delaying.

Jos 24:15 ...choose you this day whom ye will serve...

1 Ki 18:21How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him...

Pr 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Mt 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

2 Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Ge 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man...

Is 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Jas 4:14 ...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Re 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (This verse is dealing with the church but it can be applied to an individual).

2 Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

VERSES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

Heb 13:5 I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Pr 18:24 ...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.