

Confusing Invitations

Remember that 'Salvation is of the Lord' (Jonah 2:9). Salvation is not something we do, and it does not involve anything we offer to God. It is something we receive by faith. Before people are saved, they are 'dead in trespasses and sins' (Ephesians 2:1); and a dead person cannot do anything to save himself.

Will you give your heart to Christ? An unsaved person is incapable of doing anything to save themselves. Also, the terminology is unbiblical and could confuse children.

Will you surrender your life to Christ? Surrender is a command for Christians, and is the result of salvation, not the cause.

Will you confess your sins and ask the Lord to forgive you? Who could remember all their sins to confess? The unsaved must agree that they are hopeless and need a Savior.

Will you come to Christ and promise to serve Him from now on? The unsaved have no grounds for coming to Christ apart from His shed blood. This invitation implies that their service will make them acceptable to Him.

Will you come and pray through to Christ? Phrases such as 'praying through' or 'letting go' appeal to the emotions; they stress our own feelings or actions, not His shed blood.

Right now, ask Jesus to come into your heart. Very confusing to young children. The Holy Spirit does indwell believers as a result of trusting Christ, not a means of salvation.

Will you make your commitment to Christ now? This is vague; how much commitment is necessary to be saved? This invitation makes our works part of our salvation.

Will you make Christ the Lord of your life? Christ is Lord whether the unsaved person admits it or not. Again, this is the result of salvation, but not the cause of salvation. People who require this are adding human effort to the free salvation granted by the Grace of God.

Will you repent of your sins and be saved? Repentance alone is not salvation. Many people feel sorry for their sins, but have never trusted Christ.

Just believe now and allow Jesus to touch you. Vague terms like this lead to dependence upon emotions or an unusual experience.

Are you willing to forsake all your sins to obtain salvation? The unsaved are unable to forsake their sins in their own strength. Again, this invitation confuses the results of salvation (Godly conduct) with the method of salvation (faith in Christ).

Biblical Invitations

Will you accept the Lord Jesus and trust Him as your own personal Savior?

Christ died for your sins. Believe and trust Him personally, and you will be saved.

You can be saved right now by believing and trusting that Christ died for your sins and rose from the grave.

Will you believe Jesus took your place on the cross and rose from the grave?

Right not, believe that Christ paid the price in full for your past, present, and future sins.