

# God's Invitation To Human Beings

God's invitation to human beings is **not** unqualified.

**The notion that just anyone, at any time, regardless of conditions, can start a relationship with the Creator God by a sudden decision of will, is totally contrary to the teaching of the Word of God, the Christian Bible.**

There are scriptures on this subject which at first reading appear to stand opposed to each other.

**John 6:44** [NIV] *"No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

No-one can come to Jesus Christ as their Saviour unless there has been an initial influence of God the Father in their mind and human spirit.

**Acts 16:31** [NIV] *"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"*

**This has been seen as an open invitation to whosoever by the Church in recent years which takes the invitation far beyond its proper bounds.**

We tend to overlook the words that modify this supposed open invitation, such as *"called."*

**Romans 1:7** [NIV] *"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."*

This places a limit on those who are called to accept Jesus Christ.

**John 6:37** [NIV] *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."*

**Even Jesus Christ, as the Son of Man, was limited to those who would accept Him as Saviour.**

**John 6:65** [NIV] *"He went on to say, 'This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.'"*

The ability to come to Jesus Christ as your Saviour is a gift given by God the Father.

It is not surprising that upon hearing these words that many of the disciples of Jesus no longer followed Him. [v66]

**Such teaching can be deeply disturbing to the natural mind, for it takes away much of the power of self-determination on which we pride ourselves.**

These scriptures cut the ground from under our feet as we lose all self-help and are thrown on the sovereign good pleasure of the Creator God, and this is not where we like to be as a human being.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** [NIV] *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast."*

We are very willing to be saved by the Grace of God, but to preserve our self-esteem we must hold to the desire that we originated the process.

All this is the human desire to keep salvation within our own hands, when the truth is it is **not** and **never** can be.

This conclusion, founded on inspired scripture, runs contrary to the assumptions of popular Christianity.

How then can we identify a person whom God is calling at this time?

**No person is ever the same after God has laid His hand on them.**

A person will have certain marks within their personality, not easy to detect, but now part of that person.

**The mark of a deep reverence for divine things –**

A sense of the sacred must be present or there can be **no** receptivity to God and the Truth.

This mysterious feeling of awe precedes repentance and faith and is a gift given by God Himself.

**2 Timothy 2:25-26** [NIV] *“Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”*

This is a change in our lives that is initiated by God the Father.

The vast majority go through life unaffected by the presence of God in the world.

These may be good and honest people yet God has allowed them to be blinded by Satan.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Blinded to the gospel message.

Why?

**Psalms 139:1-4** [NIV] *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.”*

God knows that this time is **not** the best for these people to be called for their **only** chance of salvation.

**Revelation 20:11-13** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

There will be a time when they will be resurrected back to physical life when conditions will be perfect for them to be offered salvation, without the influence of Satan. [**Revelation 20:1-3**]

**Another mark is great moral sensitivity –**

Most people are apathetic, insensitive to matters of the heart and conscience so are **not** ready to be saved in their present condition.

When God begins to work on a person to bring them to salvation, He makes them acutely sensitive to evil in all its forms.

**Another mark is a personal moral discontent –**

This is a direct working of the Holy Spirit with this person.

**John 14:17** [NIV] *“the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

The Holy Spirit working “with” a person is the early stage of their calling to salvation by God.

Only later after surrender of their lives to the Creator God will the Holy Spirit be “in” the person, actively working within them creating a child of God.

The vast majority of people, wherever social and health conditions permit, enjoy the physical pleasures that sin brings with it. [**Hebrews 11:24-25**]

The conscience may be a bit of a pest to such people but early in life they strike a truce with it and are then not much troubled by it afterwards.

**It takes a work of God in a person to cause them to have disaffection with this world’s society and its ways.**

**Yet until this change of affection takes place they are unable to repent and believe the gospel message.**

Any degree of contentment with the world’s moral standards or their own person lack of holiness, successfully blocks off the flow of faith and trust in God into a person’s life.

**Genesis 25:34** [NIV] *“Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.”*

Esau’s fatal flaw was moral complacency, he had little or no interest in his inheritance.

**Genesis 32:24-28** [NIV] *“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for it is daybreak.’ But Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ The man asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘Jacob,’ he answered. Then the man said, ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.’”*

Jacob’s only virtue was his bitter discontent.

**Romans 9:13** [NIV] *“Just as it is written: ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’”*

In spite of his sinful past it was this tenacity of Jacob that God loved.

**Another mark is a consuming spiritual hunger –**

**Matthew 5:6** [NIV] *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*

Among people today there is little of this consuming desire for righteousness.

We can be sure that where this is found in a person that the Holy Spirit has already been at work with that person preparing them to receive God’s invitation for salvation.

**John 15:16** [NIV] *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

This scripture sums up all we have been studying about the invitation that God gives to certain human beings now at this present time.