

RESPONSE CARDS: A MODERN-DAY ALTAR CALL



Do you remember the day when invitations were a part of every service? Five stanzas of “Just As I Am” were played with the hope that someone would budge from his or her pew. I grew up in the South where invitations were common, and over time, became ineffective. There are appropriate times to ask for a public response to a sermon or a request—this should be done regularly. Inviting people to respond to God’s Word is a must, but the methods that we use must vary. It is important to take a look at follow-up and follow-through to God’s leading of His people.

I have found invitation cards to be very effective in bringing people along in their walk with God. Recently, we celebrated Easter. Many people attended our services. God placed on my heart to have the people respond to the message. A response card was developed in which every attendee simply completed it after the message and returned it as they exited at the end of the worship service.

The card had a place for the person’s name and phone number. It also had four different boxes to be checked, based on the Romans 8: 1-16 passage. The “big idea” of the text was **YOU ARE DESTINED FOR LIFE AND DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Here are the four statements from the card:

- **The Spirit of God is drawing me to Christ this morning. I’d like to accept Him as my Savior. I want to be sure of my destiny, or**
- **I’m assured of my destiny, and I’m rejoicing in it.**

- **I recognize that I’ve been trying to direct my life, but today I yield to the Spirit’s direction, or**
- **I’m living my life directed by the Holy Spirit and being empowered by Him.**

Forty-two people yielded to the Holy Spirit’s direction and six people committed their lives to Christ on Easter morning! Since people could include their names and phone numbers, we were able to easily follow-up with them. The inclusion of this information leads to further discipleship and growth.

Inviting people to respond to the Word of God is essential. It is important that we provide many different avenues to which lead to effective follow-up and follow-through. This is one simple, yet effective, way.

