

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on the house across the street. However, the boy is very small, and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell.

Kneeling next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

Revelation 3:20 says, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me."

Jesus is waiting for you to invite a party. God is planning a party. You are welcomed into an abundant life God wants to give you.

Isaiah 55:1 says, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." This is a wonderful, gracious invitation to the party and an abundant life God prepares for us.

God has been inviting you all of your life. He began the first time your grandmother told you a Bible story or your parents took you to the church. Even if that never happened, the invitation was extended when friends or relatives invited you to Sunday School, or a neighbor asked you to go to a special church event. When the Gideons gave you a Bible or left one for you in a motel room, God was extending an invitation to you. Everywhere and every time, you've heard a Christian song on the radio or Bible preacher on television, God has been knocking on the door and tugging at your heart. Every time your conscience heated up or you felt an inner yearning for something more from life, He was calling you to the

best time of your life. He has spread everything he has on the table. You have been invited! Even if you didn't know it before, you do now!

What if you received the following letter, what would be your response?

Dearest

You are invited to come and enjoy the delicious banquet of my salvation. Serving will begin at My House and will continue for eternity. I'd love for you to come and get to know Me personally and join my Family.

This feast is free to you because My precious Son, Jesus has already paid the cost. You are receiving this invitation simply because I love you. Please join me, and you may come just as you are.

Sincerely,

God Almighty

RSVP

Engraved with the Blood of Jesus

What is your response? Will you accept His invitation? Or will you make an excuse? For those of you who choose to reject God's gracious invitation, I have something for you. Here's an excuse form for you to use. When you stand before God, you can offer Him your excuse.

Dear Jesus,

On March 17, 2019, I heard your servant, Pastor Lee, invite me to come to You for the forgiveness of my sins, for your mission and eternal salvation. I'm sorry, I cannot commit to You today because I am so busy.

Not Yours truly,

What are you going to write? What excuse do you think God will accept? Instead, why don't you accept His invitation to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and to take God's mission? That way when you go to heaven, you can sing, "Nothing in my hand I bring, only to Thy Cross I cling!"

God invites you to become involved in His work. God has been working throughout history to accomplish His purposes to save all people with His people.

God doesn't ask you to dream your dreams for Him. He doesn't ask you to do your best or try your hardest for Him. He doesn't invite you to set special goals and then pray God will help you achieve them.

God already has His own agenda for you. In Exodus 3:10 God said to Moses, "So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." God's purpose was to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and to establish them as a nation in their own land. Moses was the one through whom God intended to accomplish His plans. God invited Moses to become involved with Him in His work.

The world operates by vision. The world seeks grand, noble purposes and goals to achieve. People dream up the greatest and most satisfying things in which they can invest their lives. Institutions establish goals and objectives and then organize themselves to achieve them. However, God's people live in a radically different way. Christians arrange their lives based on God's vision and mission.

God doesn't ask for our opinions about what's best for our future, our family, our church, or our country. He already knows what an abundant life for us is. God

wants to get the attention of His people and reveal to us what is on His heart and what is His will.

In Jeremiah 29:11 God said to Jeremiah, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

However, some Christians are living far outside the will of God. They set their goals, arrange their agendas, and then pray for God’s blessings.

Our struggle as Christians isn’t in deciding whether we should obey Christ but in whether we’ll obey immediately. God’s timing is perfect. When He speaks, the time to respond in obedience is now. We often act as if we have all the time in the world to obey Him, but history doesn’t wait on our commitments. There’s no such thing as postponing a decision with God. Either we obey or we disobey. It’s either faith or unbelief., obedience or disobedience.

Some disciples pledged their willingness to follow Jesus, but they told him they weren’t ready yet. In Jesus’ day, a Jewish man was expected to care for his elderly parents until they died. One man wanted to wait until his father died before going with Jesus. This would be an honorable delay. The man had to choose between this important responsibility and heeding a call from Jesus. God knew this man, and He knew the man’s father. God would have taken care of the man’s father if only he had followed Jesus. This was an opportunity to walk with the Son of God.

However, the concerns of their life were competing for priority with obedience to God.

Timing our obedience is essential. Invitations from God come with a limited opportunity to respond. If we do not accept any opportunities to serve him immediately, we will lose it. When God invites us to intercede for someone, to visit the sick, to share your testimony, or to take responsibility for God's mission, it may be critical that we stop what we're doing and immediately adjust our lives to what God's doing.

Missing opportunities to serve the Lord can be tragic. When an invitation comes from God, the time to respond is now. God's timing is always perfect. He knows you, and He's fully aware of your circumstances. Now is always the acceptable time to respond to the Lord. Are you ready to worship Him and to commit to Jesus Christ?