**COME AND SEE!!**

**PUNCHBOWL INVITATION EXPERIENCE…AND DISCOURAGEMENT!!!**

**.INTRODUCTION**

**1. There is something about an invitation...**

 **a. An invitation makes us feel special**

 **b. An invitation makes us feel wanted and accepted**

**2. An invitation is a powerful tool or way to reach out to someone...**

 **a. A man invites a lady out for a date**

 **b. A business person invites a client out for lunch**

 **c. A housewife invites a friend over for coffee**

 **d. A family invites another family to supper**

**3. Invitations are important in the Bible as well...**

 **a. Both God and Jesus extended invitations**

 **b. People extended invitations to their families and friends**

**Today I want to examine some of the invitations found in the**

**Bible.**

**And I will be Beginning with...]**

**SCRIPTURE READING..LUKE 14:16-24**

**16Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:17And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.18And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.19And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.20And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.21So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.22And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.23And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.24For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

**I. DIVINE INVITATIONS**

 **A. GOD INVITED SINNERS...**

 [**Isa 1:18-19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%201.18-19)**….**18Come 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.19If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

 2. Offering forgiveness of sins to those willing to obey

 **B. GOD INVITED THE DESTITUTE...**

 [**Isa 55:1-3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2055.1-3)**….**Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.2Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.3Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

 2. Offering those willing to hear that which truly satisfies

 **C. JESUS INVITES THE WEARY AND HEAVY LADEN...**

**Mt 11:28-30…..** 28Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

 2. Offering spiritual rest for those willing to become His

 disciples

 **D. THE HOLY SPIRIT INVITES THE THIRSTY...**

[**Re 22:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%2022.17)**….**17And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

 2. To all who desire the water of life FREE!!!

[We see that **God's message is often in the form of an invitation**. It

should not surprise us, therefore, that servants of God would often

reach out to the lost by inviting them in!!

**II. HUMAN INVITATIONS**

 **A. AS PROPHESIED...**

 [**Isa 2:1-3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%202.1-3)**….**The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.2And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.3And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord

 2. As foreseen by Isaiah, many would invite their friends to learn

 about God.

 **B. AS PRACTICED...**

 1. By **Andrew**, who invited Peter to meet Jesus –

[**Jn 1:40-42**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%201.40-42)**….**40One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.41He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.42And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. **NOT A ROCK!!!!**

 2. By **Philip**, who invited Nathaniel to meet Jesus –

[**Jn 1:43-46**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%201.43-46)**…..**43The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.44Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.45Phillip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.46And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

 3. By **the Samaritan woman**, who invited her neighbors –

 4. By **Matthew (Levi)**, who gave a feast to introduce Jesus –

 5. By **Cornelius**, who invited his family and friends to hear Peter

[We see that **many came to know Jesus by way of an invitation**. And so it

can be today!

**Consider, therefore.**..]

**III. THE POWER OF A SIMPLE INVITATION**

 **A. WE HAVE SEEN IT WORK...**

 **1. God and Jesus extended their invitation, and souls were saved!**

 **2. The disciples extended invitations, and won souls to Christ!**

 **3. Most people today have been saved by receiving an invitation**

**I seriously believe it’s time for us in our generation to ……**.

 **B. PUT IT TO WORK...**

 1. **Invite people to services of the church.**

**We need to do what worked before….**

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[**Isa 2:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%202.3)**….**3And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord

[**Jn 1:46**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%201.46)**……**46And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, **Come and see !!!!**.

 2. **Invite people to study the Bible**

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[**Isa 1:18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%201.18)**….**18Come 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.

 **3. Invite people to obey the gospel of Christ**

 a. "Come...all you who labor and are heavy laden" –

 -

[**Ac 22:16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2022.16)**….**16And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**Beloved today I say unto you……**

 4. **Never give up extending invitations**

 a. People will often make excuses - cf.

[**Lk 14:16-20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2014.16-20)**…..As in The Parable of the invitation to a supper…..**

 b. Simply extend the invitation to others - cf.

[**Lk 14:21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2014.21)**…..**21So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blin

**CONCLUSION**

**Today I put forth this question……..**

1. **Have we made evangelism more difficult that it really is...?**
2. **Of course, calling it "personal work" may not help**
3. **You and the Holy Spirit are a team!!! He touches the heart and prepares the soil and you plant the word!!! It’s that simple!!!**

 **b. When it can be as simple as extending an invitation as:"Come and see..."**

 **c. And should someone decline an invitation, Listen….we are free to offer it to someone else…!!!!!**

1. **Never underestimate the power of a simple invitation...!!!!**

 **a. It transformed the life of Peter, brother of Andrew**

 **b. It has transformed the lives of countless thousands ever since**

 **c. Perhaps souls are not being saved because they are simply not**

 **being invited!**

**God and Jesus believe in the power of an invitation. They invite us to**

**believe and obey the wonderful gospel of Christ. Have you accepted that**

**wonderful invitation...? - cf.**

[**Acts 2:36-41**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.36-41)

**36Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**

**37Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

**38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

**39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**

**40And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**

**41Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added** unto them about three thousand souls.