

Breaking Point

“The one who breaks open will come up before them” - Micah 2:13*

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Invitations

God's invitations are abundant. Some go answered, yet many more are left unattended, piled upon each other in vast quantities waiting to be sifted, dusted, then opened to be read. It is then, after reading or hearing the call that the choice to accept or deny the request is completed. Some of His invitations are held in abeyance for we think there is a more opportune time. Others are tossed away after being opened to float upon the breeze until they rest in a gutter or street for a sweeper named Time to come and collect them.

Time, he has a way with invitations. Once in his possession some will never be seen again and only become faint memories and wishes of "What if?" Yet



God's Invitation to us.

God, who is timeless, allows for certain ones to be resent in the hopes of a response by the invited.

The most common calls by God are *Freedom from sin*,

Pastor Brian A. Crane

Salvation in Jesus, and *Purpose*. Others which are difficult to discern are *Faithful Attitude* and *Selflessness* for we easily get caught up in ourselves and pride blinds us to their call. Those hardest to answer are *Prayer*, *Fasting*, *Love*, *Ministering/Witnessing* and *Study of His Word*. They require time and sacrifice which we foolishly tell ourselves we do not have enough to spare and self-preservation always hates sacrifice. The easiest invitations to accept are the *Personal Prophetic* ones describing exploits for our destiny, yet *Continued ...*

A Friendly Calling

“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors....”

2 Cor 5:20

The world's secular ambassadors are appointed to this position because they are personally known; as a result they are trusted to be responsible for lives that display integrity, loyalty

and courage. What is the nature of the office of an ambassador? To serve and support the one who appointed them.

The same is true for ambassadors in the Kingdom of God. In **John 15**, Jesus states, “*You did not choose me, but I chose you and*

appointed you” (vs. 16). What is Christ asking from us? To serve and support the One who appointed us without regard to our personal choice, convenience or in some cases life itself.

Excerpt from the book Secrets Of The Heart, 2nd edition by William Rudy

Invitations continued



“Time, he has a way with invitations.”

Breaking Point
“The one who breaks open will come up before them;” - Micah 2:13

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

2 Tim 2:4



they are the ones that we struggle with the most for we do not see past our own horizons clearly but only get a glimpse of the “future and the hope” (*Jeremiah 29:11*) which God has in store for us. At times we are called by *Doubt* and *Fear* which come from our adversary and we accept those invites occasionally in moments of despair.

The one we should hear the most is so soft spoken and it is the same one given to Adam when God asked, “*Where are you?*” (*Gen 3:9*) This one is overtaken by the absurd amount of noise in our minds and spirits from busyness and voices competing for our attention. This call can be heard when we quiet ourselves and go to “green

pastures” and “still waters” (*Ps 23:2*). By the way, **where** are you?

Jesus’ are the “*Kingdom of God is at hand!*” “*Follow Me.*” and “*Come.*” He also has, “*Believe*”, “*Go*” “*Rise*” or “*Give*”, all founded in faith. Have you answered your invitation?

PB

Strong Families

Do you respect and honor your children? Odd question when we are so trained to readily quote the Bible on how kids need to respect parents (**Exodus 20:12**). Yet if we want them to fulfill the Biblical promise then we should train them by our example.

John Burns in his book *The Miracle in a Daddy’s Hug* states, “One of the best ways to show that we honor and respect our children is by valuing their thoughts and opinions” and then “a tremendous amount of self-worth is built into their lives” (2003, p. 5). “Of

course the opposite is true when we do not value them by disregarding them or constantly correcting their opinions or ideas.” Burns goes on to say. Make it a point to prioritize your time for your children; strong families will be the result.

Military Minute

As a member of the Armed Forces, it is difficult to stay connected to family while deployed. Every operation is different, each with its own set of hurdles. Here are a few fun and creative tips that can make the time go by for your family and

allow you to re-connect much easier upon your return: 1) Record/video yourself reading a book for your kids. They can listen to a different section each night, (a prayer or making up a story would do well also) 2) Pre-buy any special gifts

before you leave and hide them, then send a *treasure map* when its time 3) send a small token from each country visited.

Robert Sandlin, USN (Ret CPO) served faithfully for 20 years. He desires to see God move among service-members.

Hard Questions



Why don't people seem worried about Hell?

Hell is real! Jesus describes it in **Luke 13:24-30** and **16:20-31**. Many religions believe in

such a place. "Fear of Hell is directly proportional to consciousness of the seriousness of life and sin" (www.rbc.org/questions). "Four out of 10 adults believe Hell is "a state of eternal separation from God's presence" (39%) and 1/3 (32%) says it is "an actual place of torment and suffering after death." Others were "not sure" or said they do not believe in an afterlife (16%). Most Americans do not expect

to experience hell first hand, just 1/2 of 1% expect to go to Hell. Sixty-four (64%) believe they will go to Heaven (Barna Research Group, "Americans Describe Their Views About Life After Death," October 21, 2003). Jesus confronted complacency in His day and so should we. Hell is a place hard to imagine yet we need to wake up and see our sin for what it is, death.

Do you have a question?

Email: rockurchinfo@earthlink.net.

Subject: "Hard Questions" for consideration

For the Men

OK, so it is 2009. Time for determined changes to take place. Men we have made vows with the hope that we will have enough gumption to keep them at least through January. I tend to wait until early February on my birthday to make new pledges. I believe it is early enough in the year still and if I start

then, people think I am still keeping my January declarations. I know, sneaky. In my reading I happened to come across this scripture where Jesus says, **"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No', 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one"** (Matt 5:37). This has really helped me in what to

resolve to do. I simply came up with two items: 1) *To make no resolution I know I will not keep* 2) *To make only those resolutions I know I can keep.* The first keeps me from lying to myself in vanity and the other allows for accountability when I declare it to another. Really men, let's just follow Jesus. **PB**

"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No', 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

For the Women

Our culture is inundated with many roles geared towards women. Of all the hats we are supposed to wear there is only one true position we need to fill in order to be accomplished in the others. It is in the form of a question that we find the part. **Song of Songs 5:8-9**

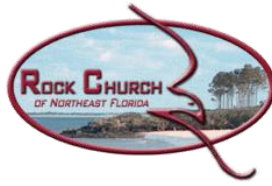
says, *"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick. What is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women?"*

Paraphrased another way. "I am lovesick for my beloved. What is He above all others?

Is God above all in your life? What is He to you? Can you say that you are lovesick for Him and charge others with the same testimony? In this New Year, fall madly, head over heels in love with God.



Lie down in green pastures (Ps. 23:2)



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Mission:
Operate by Faith, Run with Hope, Perform in Love

Around Town

JANUARY

23rd-24th: Financial Foundations. Living Waters Outreach, Fernandina Beach, FL

25th-28th: Creation Worldview Seminar, Dr. McMurty. Kingsland, GA.

FEBRUARY

14th: Winter Jam 2009 (Toby Max/Family Force 5 et al). Jacksonville Veterans Memorial. 6 PM.

MARCH

Humor

Q: Why do they say "Amen" at the end of a prayer instead of "Awomen"?

A: *For the same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers*

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First Principles

Self Bible Study

"...you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God." Hebrews 5:12

First Principles

There is an expectation by God that we are to grow from "milk" to "meat" in order to live for Him and mature into the person He destined us to become. One thing is for certain, we are "approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel" (1 Thes 2:4). Paul, encouraging young Timothy says, "You must continue in the things you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have

learned them...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:14, 17). We are also advised to, "Be diligent to present



Maturity starts in His Word.

yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). Some truthful doctrinal foundations are listed in Hebrew 6:1-2. Over the next year, we are going to study these and other principles.

For your self study this month:

1. Read each passage of Scripture listed in this article.
2. List the "elementary principles" in Heb 6:1-2
3. Why is it important to study God's Word?
4. Find other passages reflecting our responsibility to God to grow.
5. Read Luke 1:1-4 and in your own words, write what it means to you.

* All Scripture references are NKJV