

SOLVING THE SEEKER'S SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS

Common spiritual problems

As long as the seeker appears to be praying effectively, he should not be spoken to or interrupted—but prayed with. If he seems to be perplexed, it is possible that he may not be able to solve his spiritual problem. The worker, with an open Bible, may then question the seeker with a view toward correcting the situation. Following are the most common spiritual problems which an altar worker will encounter. If the Scriptures indicated will be wisely used and the instructions carefully followed most of these obstacles can be easily overcome.

Overcome obstacles

- *For a person who desires to be saved, but does not seem to know exactly what to do.* Read to him 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Encourage the seeker to acknowledge that he is a sinner, to confess his sins, and then to accept God at His word, that is, after the seeker has confessed, God has forgiven. If the seeker persists in an unwillingness to accept salvation after confession, it might be appropriate to explain that his confession must be a penitent one—he must not only confess but be willing to give up sin. Occasionally it will be this desire to continue in sin that may hold the seeker in the bondage of unbelief. If the seeker confesses penitently, then he is forgiven and, therefore saved—God is no liar.

John 6:44

- *For a person who prays yet believes that the Lord may not be hearing him or may not be wanting to save him.* Read to him John 6:44, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.” Point out to the seeker that the very fact that he is kneeling, praying, and calling upon God is sufficient evidence that he has come to Christ. Then explain that he could not have been seeking God, or could not have come to the Lord Jesus, had not the Holy Spirit drawn him.

John 6:37

- *For a person who does not believe that God will accept him.* Read to him John 6:37, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” Ask the person if he has come in sincerity to the Lord. If the seeker’s answer is yes, then pose this question: “If the Lord said that He would not cast you out when you came to Him, then what did He do?” The seeker will have to answer, “The Lord took me in.” Standing on God’s Work is the faith that one needs for the assurance of salvation.

Jeremiah 3:12-13

- *For the backslider.* Read to him Jeremiah 3:12-13. Point out that all the backslider can do and has to do is to “acknowledge” his “iniquity” in order for the Lord to receive him back into the fold (verse 13). James 5:19-20 is also a good passage of Scripture to use with the backslide because it shows that a Christian becomes a sinner when he has strayed from the truth but that he can be converted again and brought back to God.

Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:38-39

- *For the person seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost.* If the opportunity presents itself without the necessity of deliberately interrupting the praying of the seeker, one may ask him why he wants to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Point out that the receiving of the Holy Ghost gives one power for witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8). If it can be done without causing the seeker to become discouraged, one may ask him if he is sure that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for him. If he is not certain, read Acts 2:38-39, which says that the promise (of the gift) is “unto you [those present at Peter’s preaching], and to your children [those living and those to come], and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call [the latter includes those living today, and includes the seeker with whom you are dealing].”