

**No Initiation
(By Tony Richline)
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It is a tradition that every time we have a sermon or brief talk during the week that at the end of that talk we have an “invitation”, asking those who have not become Christians to do so. Yet three of the most important conversions in the book of Acts were missing invitations. Consider the following:

ACTS 10:44-47

While he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the WORD.
They were **AMAZED**

ACTS 8:32-36

Then Phillip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the GOOD NEWS about Jesus,..... and the eunuch said , “see here is water! What prevents me from being Baptized?”
The eunuch was **EXCITED**.

ACTS 2:14-41

When they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers what shall we do?”
They were **WORRIED**.

These conversions occurred not because they ended with an invitation to become obedient, but even before the message was finished the audience wanted to know what to do to be saved. Consider the ideas here; they acted this way because they were amazed (they had heard the WORD OF GOD); they acted this way because they were excited (they believed in the GOOD NEWS about Jesus); they acted this way because they were worried (They NEEDED TO OBEY, and devoted themselves to God).

How do we heard the word of God, the Good News of Jesus, and the importance of obeying these things? Do we need to be coerced and prompted to do what is right? If we have the amazement at the message, the excitement over the opportunity, or the worry over the consequences, we would need no prompting to obey. As these people, we would interrupt to do what needs to be done.

In Matthew 7:13-23 Jesus described two ways we can go. Consider these ways in there were two reactions the people might have had in these situations:

Life	Death
Narrow Gate	Wide Gate
Hard Way	Easy Way
Few	Many
Good Tree, Fruit	Bad Tree, Fruit
House on Rock	House on Sand
True Prophet	False Prophet
Walks the walk	Talks the Talk

How will you respond to the message of God? Do you need to be prompted to act, or are you amazed/excited/worried enough that you need no prompting to decide?