

# Persuasion

After Peter had instructed the Jewish people (Acts 2:14-36), touched their hearts (Acts 2:37), and informed them what to do to be saved (Acts 2:38), he then sought to persuade them to respond to the word (Acts 2:40). Seeking a response to the will of Jesus is an important part of bringing people to Christ.

Persuasion should include helping the person work out in his mind the necessity of a proper response to the word of God. It should not be an effort to force a person to respond to our will.

The teacher should make sure that the learner understands the truth concerning salvation before he seeks obedience to the truth. The learner should realize the consequences of obedience and disobedience.

If the learner understands these things, then the teacher should point out the importance of an immediate response. The teacher might ask if he can think of a better time than the present to obey the gospel. The following advantages could be included:

1. God will work in your life if you will obey Him.
2. God will send His Spirit to you, as a son of His, to help you live the Christian life (Gal. 4:6; Eph. 3:16).
3. You will become a part of God's loving family.
4. Anyone who loves you will be happy you obeyed. God will rejoice, Jesus will rejoice, the Holy Spirit will rejoice, angels will rejoice, Christians will rejoice, and you yourself will rejoice (Acts 8:39).

5. You will cease your worry over your sins and will have help to overcome your sins.

6. Fellow Christians will help you live the Christian life, and as a Christian, you will be able to help others by your life and teaching.

7. Life is uncertain. The present is the only time of which you can be certain.

8. Eternity is a long time to enjoy a reward, but it is also a long time to be punished.

9. Jesus can come again at any time. We need to be ready at all times (Matt. 24:42-46).

10. Nothing can be gained by waiting to obey, while all can be lost if we wait.

11. You will be able to have an inner peace that the world cannot take from you.

12. You can have a close personal walk with God.

If the learner does not respond to these twelve advantages being pointed out to him, ask him why he chooses to wait. The teacher might ask if he can think of a better time than the present to obey the gospel. Deal gently with any objections he might have. If he still wants to wait, ask him if he would like to set a time for his obedience. Tell him you want him to obey because he wants to respond to the love of our gracious, merciful, and compassionate God, *not* because he is responding to your will.

Ask him if he would mind if you and others continued to include him in your prayers. Let him know that you love him and want to be sure that you can share with him eternity with God in heaven. If he still wants to wait before he obeys the gospel, set up a time for another study.