

# Appendix

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## OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES

Difficulties upon the part of the prospective convert reveal themselves in the form of questions, excuses, objections, and arguments. The following selected types of difficulties are representative. Learn to overcome them! Be sure to study the scriptural references.

### Type 1: Self-Righteous

*“I’m trying to be a good religious person.”*

*“I’m doing my best.”*

*“I’m as good as anyone else.”*

These expressions come from someone who trusts in his own righteousness. Review the account of Nicodemus in Lesson 4. Remember “Life at its best is not good enough” in Lesson 7.

Observations	Scripture References
In the sight of God, our best actions are inferior and fall short of His holy standards.	Isaiah 64:6 Luke 18:9–14 Romans 3:10, 12
Our good deeds cannot save our souls.	Titus 3:5
We are not saved by trying, but by trusting in Jesus Christ the Savior.	Isaiah 12:2 Acts 16:31
Jesus Christ alone is the Savior.	Acts 4:12 Hebrews 7:25
We all must be born again.	John 3:3, 5
We must trust in what Jesus has done to put us right with God.	Romans 3:22–26
Salvation is a gift to be received by faith.	Romans 6:23

## Type 2: Uncertain About Salvation

*“How can I know that I am saved?”*  
*“I don’t feel any different.”*

People may need help to gain assurance of salvation. Tell them that our salvation is *not dependent upon feelings*, but upon *fact*. Feelings change; God’s Word is the changeless eternal truth. The fact is that God has provided the means of salvation through Christ the Savior. He has told us what we must do and what *He* will do.

Read together with them these Scriptures: John 3:16; 5:24; 6:37; 11:25; Romans 10:13; 1 John 5:11–13; Revelation 3:20.

Ask them to express again what they have done: confessed themselves a sinner, asked for forgiveness, and accepted Christ as their Savior. Now, since they have done their part, they can be assured that God has done His part—forgiven them, cleansed them, and given them eternal life. God does not lie. They must accept that as *fact*, thank God for it, and begin to live as children of God. Feelings of joy and peace will follow.

## Type 3: Can’t Live the Christian Life

*“The Christian life is too difficult.”*  
*“There is too much to give up.”*

Observations	Scripture References
The Christian life is too difficult for us to live, unless we are born from above. Through conversion, Christ gives the desire and the power to live the Christian life.	Matthew 11:28–30 Mark 8:36 John 1:12 Romans 1:16
Nothing is too much to give up when it means the salvation of your soul from eternal damnation.	Romans 6:23 Romans 15:13
It is not giving up so much as receiving a Person and a wonderful life! Christianity is Christ!	Philippians 3:9

## Type 4: Too Busy

*“I’m too busy; I don’t have time.”*

*“I will believe some other time.”*

Life is too uncertain. You may not have another opportunity to be converted. God’s time of salvation is today. It seems that “tomorrow” is Satan’s time.

Observations	Scripture References
Decide today whom you will serve.	Joshua 24:15
You do not know what tomorrow will bring.	Proverbs 27:1
Today is the day of salvation.	Isaiah 55:6–7 2 Corinthians 6:2 Hebrews 2:3; 3:7–8

## Type 5: All Religions Are the Same

*“We are all headed for heaven, although along different roads.”*

*“One religion is as good as another; all tell you to do good.”*

*“It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.”*

Though this is popular thinking, it is contrary to divine revelation. Sincerity does not guarantee salvation. One can be sincerely wrong.

Observations	Scripture References
What you think is a right road may lead to death.	Proverbs 14:12; 16:25
Jesus declares, “I am the gate . . . I am the way.”	John 10:7–9; 14:6
We must acknowledge Jesus as God and Savior.	John 8:24 Acts 4:12
“There is one God and one mediator . . . the man Christ Jesus.”	1 Timothy 2:5

## Type 6: Dependence on Self

*“I depend upon myself; why should I trust another?”*

Remind the individual: man’s strength will pass away; only God’s Word will stand forever (Isaiah 40:6–8), and the Lord God alone is completely trustworthy (Proverbs 3:5).

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
No one can save himself or herself; only Jesus Christ the Savior can save.	Acts 4:12 Romans 5:6
We are all sinners. How can sinners save themselves?	Romans 5:8–10
We must trust in what Jesus has done to put us right with God.	Romans 3:22–26
The way to righteousness is not by our own works, but by faith in Christ alone.	Romans 4:3–5 Ephesians 2:8–9

## Type 7: Christians Are Hypocrites

*“I don’t believe all this religious teaching. Besides, Christians are so inconsistent.”*

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
Thoughtful people acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being we call God.	Psalms 14:1 John 17:3
One cannot use the inconsistency of Christians as an excuse. Counterfeit money does not nullify genuine good money. A tree is known by its fruit. A good tree bears good fruit.	Matthew 7:17–18 Matthew 12:33
The just God in heaven has His standards of judgment.	Romans 2:1–11 Romans 10:3
Everyone is accountable to God.	Romans 14:12

## Type 8: Which Religion Is Right?

*“How can I know which religious group is right?”*

*“I am confused about so many kinds of religions.”*

Talk understandingly with the person concerned. The standard of faith and practice is Holy Scripture, the Bible (1 John 4:1). Here are some guidelines to give him or her for testing any religious group.

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
Does the group affirm that God the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world and that Jesus is God’s Son, divine in His nature?	Matthew 16:16 Acts 4:12 1 John 4:14–15
Does the group confess that Jesus Christ became incarnate, that is, God in human flesh and that Jesus rose in bodily form from the dead and ascended into heaven?	John 1:14 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 1 Timothy 3:16 1 John 4:2
Does the group agree with the authority of Christ and of the apostles, such as John, Peter, and Paul?	1 John 4:4–6
Does the group give evidence to the love of God? Or, is there cold legalism?	1 John 4:7–8
Does the group believe in the reality and sinfulness of sin?	Romans 5:12, 18, 21
Does the group accept the merits of Christ’s shed blood for cleansing and forgiveness of sins?	Matthew 26:28 1 John 1:7
Does the group believe in the gift of the Holy Spirit and that He can be within and upon the believer?	Romans 8:16 Galatians 4:6 1 John 4:13

We must be considerate in our approach to seekers after truth whose religious beliefs do not conform to those just mentioned. Only a living, radiant Jesus presented in love can win their hearts! See John 10:10 and 1 John 5:11–12.

## Type 9: Family Loyalty

*“I don’t want to be disloyal to my family and ancestors; therefore, I don’t want to change my traditional religion.”*

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
The one true living God has been pleased to reveal himself through the Holy Scriptures.	1 Thessalonians 2:13 Hebrews 1:1–2
God has also revealed Himself in His incarnate Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.	John 1:18 2 Timothy 3:15
Though there are many religious leaders in history, there is only one Savior.	Acts 4:12 1 Timothy 2:5–6
God will honor those who honor Him.	1 Samuel 2:30
Believers, too, must respect their parents and their elders.	Exodus 20:12 Leviticus 19:32
They must still be loyal to family and ancestors but above all to the Lord Jesus.	Hebrews 12:2–3 Hebrews 1:3–7
Believers must, by the power of the Holy Spirit, worship only God—not angels, saints, mediators, images, ancestors, or idols!	Exodus 20:5–6 John 4:23–24 Revelation 22:8–9

<b>Fingertip Texts</b>	
The fact of salvation	1 Timothy 1:15
The means of salvation	Romans 10:13
Everyone has sinned	Romans 3:23
God's gift of love	John 3:16
The open door	Revelation 3:20
Salvation through Christ	Acts 4:12
Power to be witnesses	Acts 1:8
God's love revealed	John 1:18
Saved by His mercy	Titus 3:5
Jesus gives rest	Matthew 11:28–29
God's inspired Word	2 Timothy 3:16–17
The new life	2 Corinthians 5:17
Life in the Son	1 John 5:11–12

