Speeding Tickets

Sometimes I feel like we are fighting against an unseen, unknown idea not a being but a mental struggle. We know that when we are in a spiritual battle, if we recognize what it is, we can arm ourselves with the full armor of God. Don't miss the times that the enemy is whispering those negative words in your mind. God does not give us guilt. He may convict you in your mind of something you have done wrong, but guilt is different. It is negative. It is destructive. I have watched people I love struggle with guilt. One was a catholic when she was younger. She struggled with why she had to confess sin when she was a little girl and tried hard to be good. It pushed her away from God for years. She married a man who introduced her to the "real" Jesus. The one who forgives because He loves. Not because she said 5 Hail Mary's and an act of contrition. We do not do anything for our salvation. It is a free gift that has been paid for 2000 yrs ago. Islam says that you must die the martyr (and often take someone with you) to get to heaven. Jesus says, "I died for you". If you have children, you know the love of a parent. God, our creator, is Abba, Father. He loves with a love we cannot comprehend. He sent Jesus, His only son, to earth to live and die for us. A free gift to us, which cost Jesus everything. The good news is that Jesus did rise again and lives in heaven where we can live with Him forever if we only accept this incredible gift. How many times in your life have you been offered an incredible gift that you would not accept? Not very often, a gift is fun. But this gift! THIS gift if more than fun. THIS gift lasts for eternity and offers us a life after the one here on earth.
A life with the chance to see our loved ones again. A chance to be in the most incredibly beautiful place there could ever be. A place where there will be no more tears. Only peace and joy. But you have to accept the gift. You have to take that hand that Jesus extends to each of us. Answer "yes" when He says, "Come to me". Get to know Him. Read your Bible, talk to Him. The more time you spend with Him, the more time you want to spend with Him.

One time Billy Graham was driving thru a southern town and got a speeding ticket. He had to go before the judge and was asked, "How do you plead?" The judge then recognized the famous evangelist, whose reply was, "guilty as charged, sir". The judge swung his gavel and proclaimed "GUILTY!" The fine in those days was $20. So, the judge came down from his seat, paid the bailiff the $20 for Mr. Graham and said, "Sir, I have paid your fine, now I would like to take you out to a wonderful

steak dinner". When Billy told this story in his sermon, he exclaimed the best example of salvation is: "the judge who declared me guilty has paid the debt that I owed in full and has invited me to a table that I do not deserve".

Lord, we know that you wish none to parish so Lord, put someone in front of our unsaved loved ones who will speak life to them. Help them to hear of your incredible love so that they too will be in heaven one day with us. AMEN

Shirlene Peterson