

How to Assist  
Three Different Groups  
Back to Church

**We Are**

**Still Here 😊**

## **Know This ...**

- **Most of your congregation never left, they are online.**
- **The church is not about a building, but about impact of the Gospel**
- **The return of the church to physical buildings post COVID is very much in uncharted waters.**
- **People will come back...**
- **What we do not know is who, how many, and when.**
- **There is more we do not know than we do.**
- **So much has changed, our World has changed, Social norms, the Economy, the Way we do Business.**
- **People disagree on what/ why it is happening/ what is safe and not safe.**

# 3 Groups

**Three Different Groups to Expect:**

# **3 Groups**

**None of these Three Groups Indicate...**

- **level of spiritual maturity**
- **is better than another**

**“I’m Running Back”**

# **“I’m Running Back”**

- **Biblical Ex- David -ran to Goliath (beheader)-**
- **original terrorist/ psyche warfare**
- **Very effective – biggest man in Israel afraid- whole nation shut down –**
- **sound familiar?**

# Faith is the victory!



- *1 Samuel 17:48-54 NIV* As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. (49) Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.



# ***“I’m Running Back”***

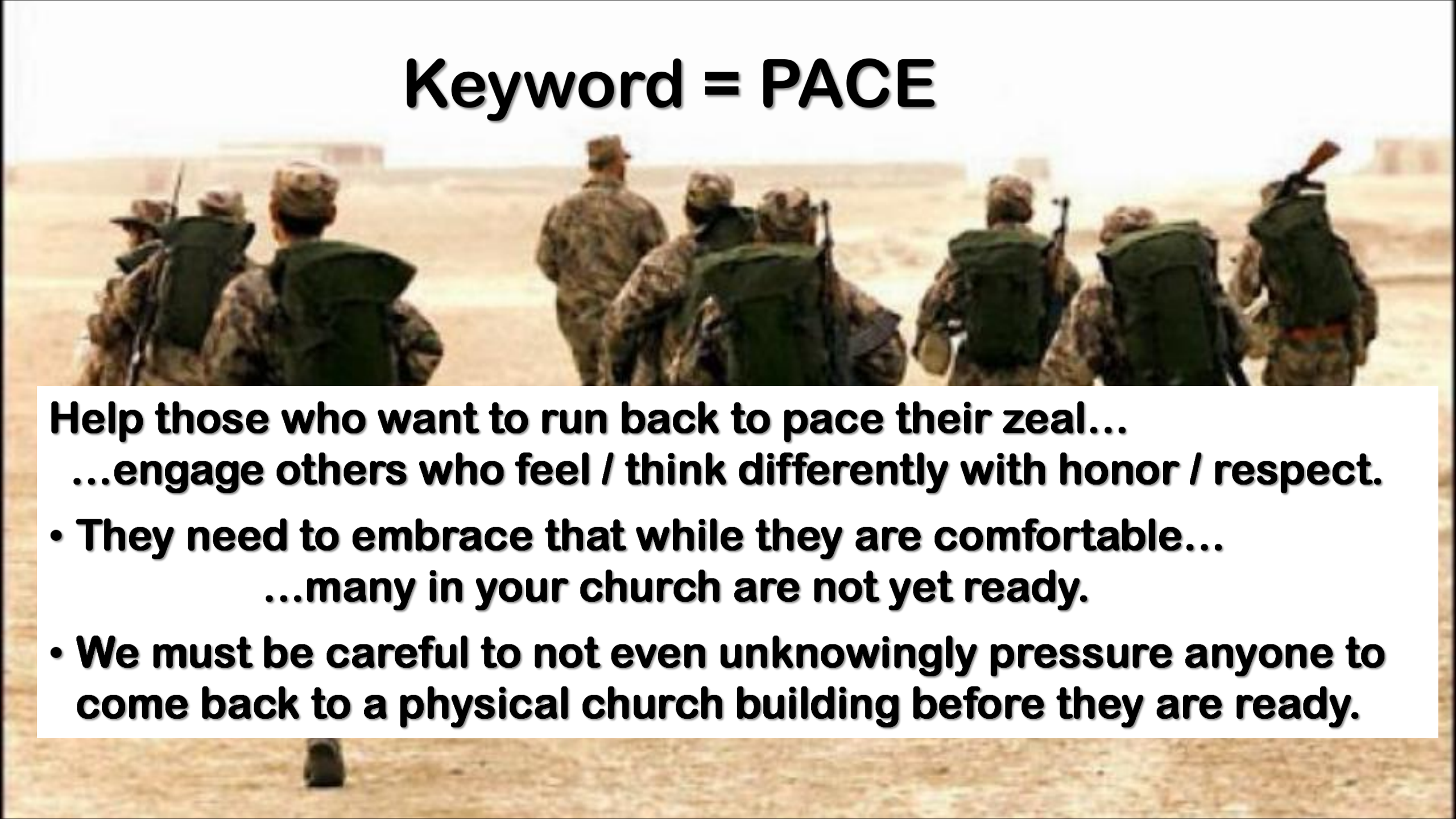
**This is the group that cannot wait. They have their running shoes on and are ready to sprint.**

- They would have never left had you not closed the doors.**
  - They do not need or want masks, and some would hug you if you let them.**
  - They are excited the doors will reopen, / frustrated that you have not opened already.**
  - Let us estimate that this group comprises about 25% of your congregation.**
- Samuel 17:48-54 NIV As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle to meet him. Taking his slings from his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.*

**Keyword = PACE**

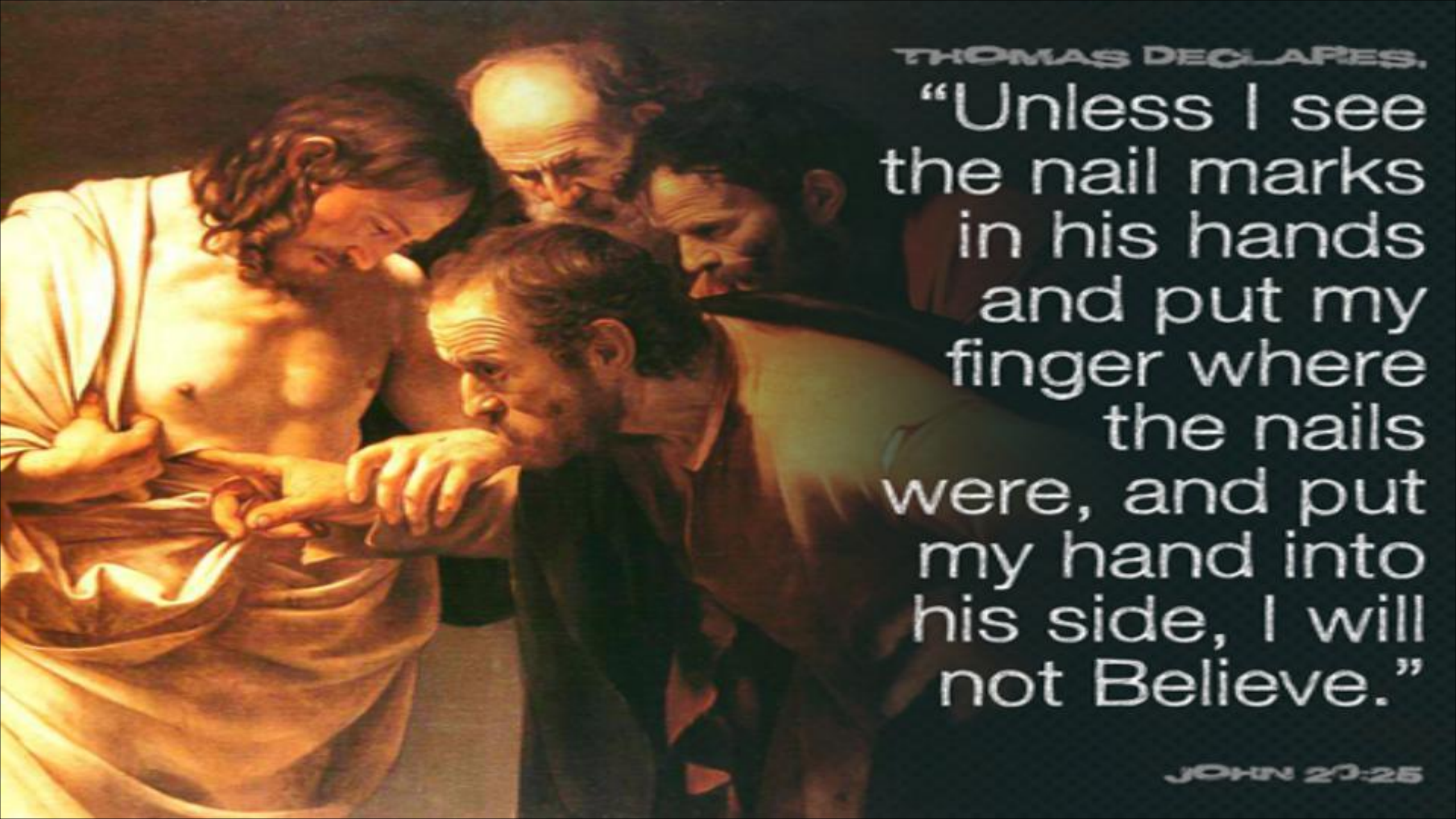


# Keyword = PACE

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- **Help those who want to run back to pace their zeal...**
    - ...engage others who feel / think differently with honor / respect.**
  - **They need to embrace that while they are comfortable...**
    - ...many in your church are not yet ready.**
  - **We must be careful to not even unknowingly pressure anyone to come back to a physical church building before they are ready.**

**“I’m Walking Back”**





THOMAS DECLARES.

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not Believe.”

JOHN 20:25

# “I’m Walking Back”

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the nail marks  
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JOHN 20:25

- The “I’m walking back” group wants to carefully process what they see / experience before they return.
- This is the largest group, let us estimate this group is about 60%.
- Remember, this will be the largest of the three groups



So the other disciples told him,  
“We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the  
**NAIL MARKS**  
in his  
**HANDS**

and put my fingers  
where the nails were  
and put my hand into his side,  
I will not believe it.”

**JOHN 20:25**

So the other disciples told him,  
“We have seen the Lord!”

**Keyword = PEACE**

**Those who “walk back” will be listening/ watching carefully...**

- what you say
- how you open
- connecting to own personal perceptions new normal.
- Those will return when they have an internal peace.
- First, how you prepare / communicate will help elevate their level of peace. If they sense a thoughtful, well prepared, / clearly communicated process that will enhance their level of trust / co
- Second, take “I’m walking back” group seriously. Treat their concerns w- respect /keep the tone light.



# **“I Might Not Come Back”**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NKJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.**

**Acts 1:15 (KJV)**

**<sup>15</sup> And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)**

# **“I Might Not Come Back”**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NKJV)**

**3 For I delivered to you first of all**

**that which I also received: that**

**Do not panic about this group.**

- Their delay, even indefinite delay, is not necessarily a bad thing.**
- They may feel comfortable with online ministry (safe)**
- If you communicate the freedom to attend online as a regular place of worship rather than subtly pressuring someone to come back, they are much more likely to return in time.**
- Keep in mind that some may have some degree of compromised health conditions or a combination of age and health issues that suggest they hold back for a season.**
- This group might represent about 15%.**

**Keyword = PAUSE**

**Still Trying to  
Process**

# **Keyword = PAUSE**

- **Many are fully with you in heart / spirit, they have simply pushed the pause button for their church attendance in a physical building.**
- **Here are a couple of thoughts on how you can encourage this group.**
- **Intentionally design ways for those who have “pushed pause” on coming back to church to stay connected beyond online.**
- **Reach out, making personal connections focused on engagement.**
- **Assist with genuine love, concern, / sincere guidance.**
- **Communicate how your church can serve those who have pushed pause on physical attendance to continue to move forward in their faith by connecting / serving with others.**

**We Can and Will Make  
It Through This 😊**

# **We Can and Will Make**

**Just Remember That...**

**...We May Have to**

**...Accept Some New Norms!**

**○ God's Got This!**

**○ Either Way We Win!**