

What Does It Mean to be Converted?

Acts 3:19

What is Conversion?

- To change into another form.
- Biblically, to revert or return. Indicating a genuine change in one's life.
- Spiritually, it is always about turning/returning to God.
- We are born sinless. When we sin, we are separated from God – **Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23, 6:23.**

Thus, conversion is turning back to God.

What is Conversion?

- It is about changing direction.
- Found 3x in NT (NKJV) - **Matthew 18:3, Acts 3:19, 15:3**
- The original Greek word is found a number of times:
 - **Matthew 9:22, 5:39** – turn around, turn
 - **Luke 2:20, 8:55, Acts 15:36** – return, go back

What is Conversion?

- Spiritually, a change in direction that leads to a changed life.
- **Matthew 13:15**, understand with their hearts and turn...
- **Acts 9:35, 11:21**, many “turned to the Lord”
- **Acts 26:20**, repent and turn to God
- **1 Thessalonians 1:9**, turned to God from idols
- **James 5:19-20**, ...someone turn him back...

What is Conversion?

- The word is tied to obeying the gospel
- **Acts 3:19 (2:38)**, repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out...
- **James 5:19-20**, it can apply to a believer returning to the Lord
(**cf. 1 John 1:7-9, Acts 8:22**)

What is Conversion?

- The point:
- Real conversion is about REAL change in one's life.
- In the same way one might convert a house to an office, OR US currency to Mexican pesos, so our spiritual conversion is a REAL change from following the ways of the world to becoming a follower of Jesus.

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed mind

- When you are converted, you think differently
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**, ...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ
- The worldly set mind on “things of the flesh”
Romans 8:5-8, Philippians 3:18-19
- When we are converted, we set our mind on “things above” –
Colossians 3:1-2, Romans 12:1-2

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed mind

- The Christian asks:
 - How can I please God and Christ?
 - What would Jesus do in this situation?
 - Is this drawing me closer to Him or further away from Him?
- This thinking is governed by His word –
2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 3:16, Psalm 119:104-105, etc.

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed heart

- True conversion is about conviction! It is deep seated and will define who you really are.
- The “heart” of a Christian is not the blood pumping organ, but our inner soul.
- **Proverbs 4:23** – Keep your heart...
- **Matthew 12:34-35** – Out of the heart...
- **Matthew 5:8** – Blessed are the pure in heart...

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed heart

- The converted heart will impact:
 - the way we think
 - what we say
 - who we associate with
 - where we go
 - what we do
 - how we spend our time
 - how we interact with others...

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed relationship

- **Galatians 3:26-28**, we put on Christ
- **1 John 3:1** – we are called “children of God”
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – we now belong to Him. **Galatians 2:20**
- **Romans 8:17**, joint heirs with Christ

What is Involved in Conversion?

A changed relationship

- **Hebrews 2:11**, He is not ashamed to call us brethren
- **Romans 6:17-18** – we were slaves of sin, but now we are slaves of righteousness
- As we consider this new relationship, it gives us comfort and hope!

The Converted Life

Conversion is an action!

- **Matthew 18:3**, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become...”*
- **Acts 3:19**, *“Repent and be converted...”*
- NOTE: Conversion is NOT repentance.
Repentance LEADS TO true conversion
Cf. Acts 26:20, 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

The Converted Life

You are now a different person!

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- **Romans 12:1-2**, *Present your bodies a living sacrifice... be transformed...*

The Converted Life

You are now a different person!

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, *...and such were some of you...*
- **2 Corinthians 5:9**, *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.*
- **Colossians 1:9-10**, *...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

The Converted Life

You are now a different person!

- People can see that you are different!
- Conversion is NOT a one-time act, it is a new way of life! People who know you will know that you have changed.
- **1 Peter 4:3-4**
cf. Acts 9:19-21, Saul (Paul) – they saw the change immediately

The Converted Life

You will continue steadfastly

- The truly converted soul will press on. No matter what he/she faces, quitting is not an option!
- **Hebrews 12:1-2** – run with endurance
- **Acts 2:42** – they continued steadfastly...
- **Colossians 1:23** – *continuing in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel...*



Have you been truly converted?



Let us pray!