



How Can I Know I Am  
Converted?

- ▶ Conversion is something we all need to examine and reconsider from time to time
- ▶ A word associated with being saved and staying saved.
- ▶ When one truly obeys the gospel they are converted. A change has taken place.
- ▶ But is that change genuine?

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# What is conversion?

- ▶ To take action that leads to genuine change in one's life. Can mean to revert or return (**Acts 3:19**)
- ▶ In reality it is ALWAYS about returning to God. We are born innocent, but when we sin we need to return – **Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23, 6:23**
- ▶ Our return is to be converted.

# What is conversion?

- ▶ Conversion is actually about changing direction. Found 3x in NT  
**Acts 3:19, Matthew 18:3, Acts 15:3** – describing the conversion of Gentiles.
- ▶ The root Greek word (ἐπιστρέφω, epistrephō) means to turn  
**Matthew 13:15, Acts 26:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, James 5:19-20**

# What is conversion?

- ▶ The point. Being converted is to understand there needs to be real change in one's life. In the same way one might convert a house or currency, so our spiritual conversion is a change from one following the world to now being a complete follower of Jesus.
- ▶ **Do our actions show genuine conversion?**

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

**It is not based on feelings or even a good conscience.**

- ▶ These can be misleading. Just because you feel something is right does not make it so.
- ▶ **John 16:2** – Jewish persecutors  
**Acts 26:9-11** – Paul  
**Genesis 37:31-35** – Jacob & Joseph (**45:25-28**)
- ▶ Many have followed a false plan of salvation who believe they are right, but that does not make it so.

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

**It is based on knowing what God's word tells us to do**

- ▶ Assurance of conversion begins with rightly dividing God's word – **2 Timothy 2:15** – we must put forth diligent effort
- ▶ **John 8:32** – the truth shall make you free
- ▶ **Matthew 13:52**, after explaining the kingdom of heaven with parables, *Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."*
- ▶ **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- ▶ This is why continued reading & study are important.

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## It is based on knowing God cannot lie

- ▶ **Titus 1:2**, *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*
- ▶ **Hebrews 6:18** – it is impossible for God to lie.
- ▶ We must believe that what He tells us is truth!  
Accept the inspired integrity of scripture.
- ▶ What He says must take precedence over what man says!

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

**It is based on keeping what we are told to do**

- ▶ It is one thing to know God's will, but another to do it.
- ▶ **Matthew 7:21**
- ▶ **Cf. John 12:42**, *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;*
- ▶ **Hebrews 5:9** – we must obey Him

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

**It is based on keeping what we are told to do**

- ▶ This includes following examples of conversion found in scripture.
- ▶ The book of Acts records examples of conversion.
- ▶ If we do what they did, we can have assurance of our conversion.

# Conversions in the Book of Acts

How Can I Know I Am Converted?

| Account                             | Hear     | Believe | Repent | Confess | Baptized    | Result                   |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Pentecost,<br>Acts 2:37-41          | 2:37     |         | 2:38   |         | 2:38        | Remission of sins        |
| Samaritans, Simon<br>Acts 8:15-13   | 8:6      | 8:12-13 |        |         | 8:12        |                          |
| Ethiopian Eunuch<br>Acts 8:36-41    | 8:35     | 8:37    |        | 8:37    | 8:38-39     | Rejoiced                 |
| Saul (Paul)<br>Acts 9:1-19, 22:16   | 22:16    |         |        |         | 9:18, 22:16 | Sins washed away         |
| Cornelius<br>Acts 10:25-48          | 10:2, 33 | 10:43   |        |         | 10:48       | Remission of sins        |
| Lydia<br>Acts 16:13-15              | 16:14    | 16:14   |        |         | 16:15       |                          |
| Philippian Jailer<br>Acts 16:16-34  | 16:30-32 | 16:31   | 16:33  |         | 16:33       | Rejoicing                |
| Corinthians, Crispus -<br>Acts 18:8 | 18:8     | 18:8    |        |         | 18:8        |                          |
| Ephesus – 12 men<br>Acts 19:1-5     | 19:4-5   | 19:5    |        |         | 19:5        | "In the name of the Lord |

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**It is based on keeping what we are told to do**

- ▶ This includes following examples of conversion found in scripture.
- ▶ The book of Acts records examples of conversion.
- ▶ If we do what they did, we can have assurance of our conversion.
- ▶ **Matthew 28:20** – will we observe what is commanded?

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

- ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**, *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*
- ▶ What is meant by this expression?

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

### ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**

- ▶ Some advocate that we need direct intervention (guidance) from the Holy Spirit to know God's will.
- ▶ There are many problems with this view:
  - God becomes a respecter of persons –  
**Acts 10:34-35**
  - When 2 "Spirit led" people teach conflicting doctrines, who is right? **1 Corinthians 14:33**
  - Why do we need preaching?
  - Why do we need God's word?

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

### ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**

- ▶ BUT notice it does not say He bears witness TO our spirit but WITH our spirit.

The phrase “bears witness with” is one word in Greek (συμμαρτυρέω, symmartyreō) and is the basis of our English word symmetry (similarity between things).

- ▶ We are working TOGETHER to bear witness. How?
- ▶ It is through the teaching of God’s word!

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

- ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**
- ▶ God's word is the product of the Holy Spirit! **John 16:7-14** – He guided the apostles into all truth.
- ▶ Consider in **Acts 1:8** – Jesus noted they would receive the Spirit and then understand.  
**Acts 2:1-4** this happened to the Apostles
- ▶ They then taught. Note the results – **Acts 2:37**. WHAT prompted the results?  
Peter's response – **Acts 2:38-41**. 3000 obeyed.
- ▶ The throughout Acts, conversion ALWAYS involved the gospel being taught by a man (even miracles did not nullify this).

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

- ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**
- ▶ **2 Peter 1:19-21** – Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. They revealed it to us.
- ▶ **Hebrews 10:15ff**, *But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before*, the writer then quotes **Jeremiah 31:33-34**
- ▶ **Acts 28:24-25**, *So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers*, **Isaiah 6:9-10** quoted.
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:17, Romans 1:16, 2 Peter 1:3, Acts 20:32**
- ▶ Finally, see **Galatians 1:6-9**

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## The Spirit bears witness with our spirit

### ▶ **Romans 8:16-17**

- ▶ Concerning conversion (obeying the gospel), recall the examples in Acts. When we do what they did, we are bearing witness WITH the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ He has told us what to do (His part) and we do it (our spirit).
- ▶ NOTE: What was taught in **Acts** is confirmed in the letters – **Romans 10:9-10, 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 6:12-13, 1 Peter 3:20-21, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-28, etc.**

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

**It is based on a truly changed life**

- ▶ **Matthew 7:16-20** – We are known by the fruit we bear. Fruit is about results
  - **2 Corinthians 9:10** – increase the fruit of your righteousness
  - **Galatians 5:22-23** – the fruit of the Spirit is
  - **Ephesians 5:9** – the fruit of the Spirit
  - **Philippians 1:11, 4:17** – fruit abounding to your account
- ▶ It will be a noticeable change –  
**e.g., 1 Peter 4:3-4, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, etc.**

# How can I know I am genuinely converted?

## **It is based on a truly changed life**

- ▶ When you are converted it will be seen in
  - the way you think – your mind
  - your heart - your motives
  - your conduct
  - your relationships
- ▶ Ultimately there is a change in your relationship with God. You were lost, but now you are found.

# Concluding thoughts

- ▶ Conversion is about change, turning.
- ▶ Are you truly a different person?
- ▶ When one obeys the gospel with understanding they will be changed.
- ▶ But, if as a Christian you drift back toward the world. Rekindle your conversion.



Are you confident of your  
conversion?