

# CONVERSION: What is it?

Luke 22: 31- 32

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## INTRODUCTION

1. I think we can see from this text that we are no good to the Lord until we are converted.
2. When people are converted, they are changed.
3. Christ prayed that Peter might be converted, that he might be turned, that he might be changed from weakness to strength, from denial to steadfastness.
4. Conversion stands between the sinner and salvation – Matt. 18:3.
5. Conversion stands for the whole of that spiritual change from unbelief to faith, with its accompanying moral change from a life of sin to a life of righteousness in Christ.

### I. PASSAGES WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF CONVERSION

- a. Acts 15:3 – *“the conversion of the Gentiles”*.
- b. James speaks of converting one’s erring brother – James 5: 19 – 20.
  - i. This is a brother who has turned aside from the truth.
  - ii. He needs to be turned back from the error of his way.
- c. Psa. 51:31 – there must be teaching before there can be conversion.
- d. Matt. 13: 15 – (Isa. 6:10) --Seeing, hearing, and understanding are prerequisites to conversion.
- e. Acts 3:19 – He who is not converted can never have his sins blotted out.
- f. Psa. 19:7
- g. I Thess. 1:9
- h. Acts 26:18

### II. MISUNDERSTANDING OF CONVERSION

- a. There are a few terms that the sectarian world uses more frequently than the word “conversion”.
- b. They talk about “getting religion”, “joining the church”, having an “experience”, or “praying through”.
- c. Modernists explain conversion as a mere psychological change.

### III. THE MOST PREVALENT RELIGIOUS NOTION OF CONVERSION TODAY IS, “IT IS INVOLUNTARY AND SUPERIMPOSED BY AN IRRESISTIBLE DIVINE POWER, INEXPLAINABLE IN ITS PROCESS”.

- a. This idea means that man is passive in conversion and that God is the independent agent in conversion, and all who are damned and lost are lost because of God.
- b. This theory contradicts the teaching of the New Testament.
  - i. Acts 10: 34 – 35
  - ii. These passages teach:
    1. God is no respecter of persons and that what He does for one He must do for all – Rom. 2: 11; 10: 12 – 13.
    2. This passage makes man active.

3. 2 Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2:4.
- iii. This theory makes an absurdity of the doctrine of the universal statement in the blood of Christ – Heb. 2:9.
- iv. A theory that makes God the independent agent in conversion, makes the preaching of the gospel a vain and foolish thing.
  1. If this theory is so, these passages are foolish and have no meaning – Matt. 28: 19 -20; Mark 16:15 – 16; Rom. 10: 14 – 17.
  2. Conversion is NOT involuntary change on the part of man, but a VOLUNTARY change – Matt. 11: 28 – 30; Rev. 22:17.
- v. The Bible in no place teaches that God operates by a direct impact of the Holy Spirit upon the heart to save man.
- vi. Through the gospel God reaches the understanding of man – Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 10:4 – 5; Matt. 13:15.
  1. Through the preaching of the gospel the mind of man is changed from unbelief to faith – Rom. 10:17.
  2. Through the gospel man is informed of the Love and Goodness of God and Christ, and is caused to love them in return – I John 4:19; Rom. 2:4.
  3. Through the gospel man learns of sin and hell, and in repentance changes his will with regard to sin, and purposes to reform his life and live in righteousness – 2 Cor. 7: 8 – 10.
  4. Through the gospel one learns he must give his full allegiance to Christ, and he is willing to confess that before men – Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10.
  5. The gospel requires of such an individual that has believed, repented, and confessed, to be baptized into Christ – Rom. 6:3 – 4; Gal. 3:27.
  6. And when this has been done, the whole man has been completely changed – he has turned to the Lord.

**IV. WHEN PEOPLE ARE CONVERTED, THEY ARE CONSTANT IN THE LORD’S SERVICE.**

- a. Constantly studying, worshiping, praying and working.

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