

True Conversion



"Conversion for the early New Testament Christians was not a destination; it was the beginning of a journey."

A.W. TOZER



PRAY FIRST: Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine; Let me find thy light in my darkness, thy life in my death, thy joy in my sorrow, thy grace in my sin, thy riches in my poverty, thy glory in my valley.

Understanding the Truth

Review

- The first sign that a person is a true believer is that he has been delivered from _____ to _____. (*Colossians 1:12-13*)
- The second sign that a person is a true believer is that he has been delivered from _____ to _____. (*Romans 6:17-18, 20-22*)

Sign #3—Hebrews 2:14-16

A true believer is one who has been delivered from _____ to _____.

A. According to Hebrews 2:15, what fear does Satan use to enslave unbelievers? _____

B. List some reasons why people are fearful of death: _____

C. What does Hebrews 9:27 tell us concerning immortality (life after death)?

D. What did Jesus do to deliver people from the fear of death? (*Read Hebrews 2:14.*)

By taking upon Himself a human nature, Christ was prepared to die in our place as a substitution for our sins. In doing so, He disabled Satan's use of death to enslave us through fear (*2 Timothy 1:9-10*). This freedom is given to all who belong to Christ.

E. Christians are called descendants of Abraham. What is the trait that makes us Abraham's descendant? (*Read Galatians 3:6-9.*)

F. According to John 5:24, what did Jesus promise to all who hear His Word and believe?

G. What is the promised inheritance of those who have been delivered by Christ? (*Read John 17:13; 15:11; 16:24.*)

H. What did Nehemiah tell the people who were broken because of hearing the words of the Law? (*Read Nehemiah 8:10.*)

I. Read Acts 5:12-42. What was the response of the apostles after they were flogged?

J. According to Romans 8:1, 38-39, why is the true believer no longer fearful of death?

K. According to 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, what has happened to the true believer in regards to the fear of death?

L. Read 1 Peter 1:3-6. In what does the true believer rejoice, in spite of the trials he faces?

M. What do trials produce in the life of a true believer that prove his faith is genuine? (1 Peter 1:7-9)

- v.7b: _____
- v.8a: _____
- v.8b: _____

Embracing the Truth

Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



True believers still battle with fears, but they have been delivered from the greatest fear—that of death or separation from God—through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's job is to produce this joy in you (*Galatians 5:22*), which gives evidence of your true conversion. He is going to be faithful at doing His part (*Philippians 1:6*); the question is: What is our part?

The answer is found in James 1:2-4—*"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

APPLICATION

Being a doer of the Word

1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?



ACCOUNTABILITY

Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships

How are you doing in the area of **INTEGRITY** and **CHARACTER**?

- Assess your battle against ungodly thoughts (unbelief, bitterness resentment, lust, pride, self-righteousness, cynicism, jealousy, covetousness, racism, etc.):

(Unstable) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Stable)

- Have you been with a man or woman in the past week in a way that could be viewed as compromising? Yes/ No
- Have you viewed sexually explicit material? Yes/No
- Have you had any financial dealings that failed to be filled with integrity? Yes/No

Obeying the Truth—Your Mission this Week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel



Go to a public place where you can sit alone and observe people. As you observe people, begin to see them as saved and unsaved souls. If you are uncertain of your salvation or others, pray for yourself and them.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Webster, William. *The Christian, Following Christ as Lord*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust. 1991. Print.
Washer, Paul. *The Gospel Call and True Conversion*. Grand Rapids. Reformation Heritage Books. 2013. Print.

Review

- darkness to light
- sin to righteousness

Sign #3—Hebrews 2:14-16

- death to life
- A. fear of death
- B. it is final, they don't know where they are going (answers may vary)
- C. man will die once and be judged
- D. He overcame death
- E. faith, those who are of faith [in Christ]
- F. eternal life
- G. joy made full
- H. the joy of the LORD is our strength
- I. they rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer for Christ's sake
- J. he is freed from condemnation and nothing can separate him from the love of God
- K. he no longer fears death because Jesus Christ was victorious over it
- L. in his salvation
- M.
- v.7b: praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - v.8a: love for Christ
 - v.8b: rejoicing with joy inexpressible

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.