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CONVERSION

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Study 31. Conversion

Conversion is a process, and it begins with the moment you believe and hopefully ends before you die! **Because as you will read, if you die without it, you will go to hell!**

CONVERTED, participle passive Turned or changed from one substance or state to another; turned from one religion or sect to another; changed from a state of sin to a state of holiness; applied to a particular use; appropriated.

Strong's Number: G1994. Greek Word: ἐπιστρέφω

Strong's Definition: to revert (literally figuratively or morally)

Thayer's Definition:

1. transitively

a. to turn to

1. to the worship of the true God

b. to cause to return, to bring back.

1. to the love and obedience of YHWH

2. to the love for the children

3. to love wisdom and righteousness

2. intransitively

a. to turn to oneself.

b. to turn oneself about, turn back.

c. to return, turn back, come back.

- Has your Pastor ever told you that, we all need to be converted in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven?
- Did you know that even though Apostle Peter, believed, performed miracles, and walked with Christ for over 2 years, and if he would have died before the resurrection, he would have gone to hell? He would have still gone to hell by the time “Christ” (יהושוע) Joshua Hamashiach) went to heaven which was 40 days after the resurrection!

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(Answer to Questions #12) When it comes to Peter and what he believed, **the gospel tells us that Peter not only believed “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) was the Christ, but it also tells us that Peter knew for a fact that He was the Christ!**

Matt 16:13-17 (KJV) When “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14...15...16 **And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Hamashiach, the Son of the living God.** 17 And “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Peter believed! But was he truly saved?

When it comes to Peter’s faith, the gospel tells us that Peter was also lacking faith!

Remember when Peter tried to walk on water? **Matt 14:28-31 (KJV)** And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach). 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Christ stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

Peter was lacking faith!

Listen to what “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) told Peter about his failing faith and conversion. **Luke 22:31-32 (KJV)** And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, **that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted,** strengthen thy brethren.

(Peter’s faith was still failing and he was NOT converted yet!)

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Here is the (continuation) and proof that this was before the crucifixion!

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. **34** And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before **that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

So, until the moment leading to “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) crucifixion, peter was lacking faith, was not converted yet, and had denied Him 3 times!

Here is where “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) tells us that conversion is a Necessary step to salvation!

Mat 18:3 (KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted**, and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

**Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven!
If you are NOT converted, you will NOT enter into the Kingdom of Heaven!**

So far, we have proved that by the time of the crucifixion, Peter still had not completed his conversion, and no conversion means not entering the Kingdom of Heaven, which means **NOT saved!**

You see, Satan wants us to believe we are saved the moment we believe, but when you truly go deep into the scriptures and specially see the story of peter’s salvation, we can see that he went through a couple of different things before he received his salvation!

PETER HAD TO GO THROUGH A CONVERSION PROCESS!

Peter first saw Christ and **believed John 1**. Peter then **confessed his sin Luke 5:1-11**.

Finally, Peter later **confessed Christ as Lord Mark 8:27–9:1**.

During all this time, Peter was walking with “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach), learning from Christ and at the same time preaching and teaching, doing the works of the Lord, and even performing miracles.

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But we know for a fact, that by the time of Christ's crucifixion, **Peter's faith was failing, He denied Christ 3 times and he was not converted yet!**

We already know that we need conversion, but did you notice in **Luke 22**, how Peter denied Christ? And what does "Christ" (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) say about denying Him? **Mat 10:33 (KJV) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**

So, even though Peter had been walking with "Christ" (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) for over 2 years; If Peter would have died at that moment, Peter would have gone to hell.

Because:

1. Peter was not converted yet! **Mat 18:3 (KJV) Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**
2. "Christ" (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) would have denied Peter because Peter denied Him 3 times! **Mat 10:33 (KJV) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**

Whether Peter's faith was perfected, and his conversion completed when he received the Holy Spirit in power in **Acts 2**, (Pentecost) or way later when he embraced the fullness of the gospel in **Acts 10:11 Is NOT the point here!** That is not what I am trying to point out! The main point is that YHWH has requirements for us, in order to give us eternal life. And that we are NOT saved the moment we believe.

We must be converted to be able to make it into the kingdom of heaven.
Mat 18:3 (KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

In order to convert, we must see, hear and understand with our heart.
Mark 4:12 (KJV) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. Also found in **Mat 13:15, Isa 6:10, John 12:40, Acts 28:27**

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If we convert a sinner to the truth of the gospel, we will save a soul from death.

James 5:19-20 (KJV) Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

We will be converted if our faith does not fail.

Luke 22:31-32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Peter was not converted until after Peter denied Him 3 times. What this tells us is that peter's conversion was sometime after Christ was crucified and resurrected. Most likely during Pentecost. Even though Peter believed and had faith (not perfect faith), he still did the works of YHWH and performed healings but was not converted until way later.

Conversion comes after faith.

Luke 22:31-32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Conversion comes after repenting.

Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Salvation is not by conversion alone, there are other things YHWH requires of us.

Hearing, seeing and understanding with our heart: Mark 4:12 (KJV) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. Also found in **Mat 13:15, Isa 6:10, John 12:40, Acts 28:27**

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Faith: Luke 22:31-32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Repentance: Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Looking at the case of Peter and why his conversion seems to have taken a long time instead of the blasphemous doctrine of a salvation as soon as the person believes, **Luke 22:31-32 (KJV)** And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **32** But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and **when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

In the biblical sense, conversion means a turning—a spiritual turning away from sin in repentance and to Christ in faith. It is a dramatic turning away from one path in order to pursue an entirely new one. It involves turning ones back to the system of the world and its anti-YHWH values. It involves a turning away from dead religion and self-righteousness. It involves a complete turn, an about-face, in order to enter through the straight gate that leads to life.

Matt 7:13 (KJV) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Conversion also involves the idea of changing direction. A true spiritual conversion radically alters the direction of one's life. It is not a partial change wherein one is able to straddle the fence between two worlds. It is not a superficial turning, a mere rearranging of the outward cover-up of a person's life.

Conversion is not a gradual change that occurs over a period of time, like sanctification. Instead, a genuine conversion occurs much deeper within the soul of a person. It is a decisive break with old patterns of sin and the world and the embracing of new life in Christ by faith.

This spiritual conversion is so profound that it involves many changes in a person. It involves a change of mind, which is an intellectual change. It involves a change of view, a new recognition of YHWH, self, sin, and "Christ" (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach).

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It involves a change of affections, which is an emotional change, a change of feeling, a sorrow for sin committed against a holy and just God. It involves a change of will, an intentional turning away from sin and a turning to God through “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) to seek forgiveness. The entire person—mind, affections, and will—is radically, completely, and fully changed in conversion.

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