

Christian Education
CONVERSION

Chapter Four: How Does Change Happen?

Main Idea:

Through the gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God gives new life to spiritually dead sinners. Conversion happens when God grants us a new nature and supernaturally enables us to repent of our sins and believe the gospel.

Digging In:

In 1 Peter 1, Peter exhorts us to live lives that are marked by holiness and reverence toward God because God saved us and given us an eternal hope.

Read 1 Peter 1.22-25 and answer the following questions:

1. What does Peter exhort us to do in this passage (v.22)?
2. On what basis does Peter exhort us to do in this passage (v. 22)?
3. By what means have we been born again (v.23)?
4. What does it mean that the word of God is imperishable seed (v.23)? What does this teach us about the life we obtain through the new birth (v.25).

5. What is the “word of the lord” that gives us the new birth (v.25)?

In Ephesians 2 Paul writes about a radical change that took place in each of our lives when we came to Christ.

Read Ephesians 2.1-10 and answer the following questions:

6. How does Paul describe our spiritual state before our conversion (v.1-3)?

7. What happened to us to bring about such radical change (vv.4-5)?

8. Why did God save us, give us new life, and raise us up with Christ (v.4)? What does this teach us about God’s character?

9. What are the results of conversion that this passage describes (vv. 5-10)?

10. What role do good works play in salvation (vv.8-10)?

11. Why do you think it's important for a local church to clearly teach about how conversion happens? What will be some results of good or bad teaching on this topic?

12. Churches can affirm the doctrine of conversion, but then effectively rely on worldly devices to bring people to Christ instead of the Word and Spirit. What are some of the things we, as churches, can wrongly rely upon to make the differences in peoples lives?