

What is Conversion?

Conversion is the door by which we enter into a new life and new relationship with God. Conversion is made up of two basic elements:- **Firstly** turning our lives away from wrongdoing and selfish living. **Secondly**, turning our lives back to God by putting our faith and trust in Jesus. Conversion is the way we respond and receive God's saving work in Jesus Christ.

Read:- John Ch 3 v 16 – 18, Acts Ch 2 v 37 – 41, Acts Ch 20 v 20 – 21, Acts Ch 26 v 20

Conversion is our human response to God's love and call upon our lives. It involves a turning away from sin through repentance and a turning towards God through faith. **Read** – Luke Ch 13 v 3 – 5, Mark Ch 1 v 15

Repentance – Is at the heart of entering into a new relationship with God. Without repentance people do not enter into a position before God where they might be transformed. Repentance is about taking personal responsibility for the wrong things in your life, seeing your sins through the eyes of God. There is then a **saying sorry** for the wrong things we do and a **turning away from sinful lifestyle** to godly living. It is not just an intellectual decision, but a decision of the will and also of the heart.

Saving Faith – Is that faith by which we understand who Jesus is, what he has done and accept in full trust, both the blessing and responsibilities of his saving grace. This saving faith is about completely giving ourselves over to God and committing our lives both to follow him and serve him. Through this expression of faith we are united with Christ both in his death and his resurrection power. This faith is about absolute trust in God, obedience and submission in all areas of our lives to Him.

What does conversion do?

Conversion makes us right (justifies) us before God.

Through faith in Jesus and trust in what he has done for us, we are completely forgiven by God for the wrong things that we do. We are declared not guilty and the sin which separated us from God, caused spiritual death and placed us under God's judgement, is taken away. **Through claiming the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our own**, Jesus takes our guilt and sin, pays the cost of our disobedience by dying in our place. His death frees us from judgement and punishment and leaves us in a right standing before God. As a result of this God declares us free of both the charges levelled at us and the punishment for sin. Being made right by faith enables us to have access to God and develop a relationship with Him. The Christian faith in every way **is not** about an intellectual understanding or philosophy to live by, it is a reconstructing of a new personal relationship with God through Christ.

Conversion involves a New Birth – John Ch 3 v 3 – 5, Romans Ch 6 v 1 – 14

When we give our lives to Jesus, this spiritual part of us that was died and unable to sense or experience God suddenly bursts into new life. This new spiritual birth opens our lives up to experience a real relationship with God and enables us to experience provision for our life. In every sense we take on are given a new identity:-

All sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus - are completely forgiven and no longer exist before God.

Become a new creature - through the new birth experience.

Become a child of the One True Living God – a child of His Kingdom, with God Himself as our Spiritual Father and King.

The Holy Spirit comes to live within us opening up intimacy with God, confidence of our salvation and releasing all the provision of heaven.



Famous Quote

“When travelling to another country by aeroplane, it isn't **Knowing about** the aeroplane – time, costs, routes etc, - that gets you there. You have to act on your knowledge – exercise **FAITH** – **get on** the aircraft, and trust it to take you where you what to go!

Similarly, if you **believe** what God has done for you and you want to accept His offer of eternal life, then you must act on your belief and trust Jesus Christ **alone**. There is no other way!”

From just grace
 (Evangelism Explosion)

How do I become a Christian

Becoming a Christian is about putting Jesus at the centre of our lives. Instead of letting our own desires, pleasures or whims direct our lives, we submit ourselves to the direction and will of God. Jesus in every sense takes the steering wheel of our lives and directs and leads us down the paths that He wants us to Go. This is the cost of being a Christian learning to say **No to self** and say **Yes to Christ!** This means a life long commitment to trust and obey God in all areas of our lives. If we say yes to God and give our lives to him, he promises to give us his power to help us live our lives for him.

So How do I become a Christian?

In prayer you need to ask Jesus into your life. You do this by:-

Admitting – the wrong things that you have done and saying sorry for them. Admit that you need His help to sort them out.

Believing – That Jesus is the Son of God and died in your place on the cross
Confessing - Jesus as your Lord and Saviour of your life. (This is making him No.1 in your life.)

Inviting– Jesus into your life by asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, asking that he will give you the strength and courage to live your new life completely for God.

Sample Prayer:-

“Lord Jesus I recognise that I have done many things wrong and have not lived my life as you intended me to. I have gone my own way and used my life selfishly. I am sorry for my rebellion against you and the wrong things I have done. Lord Jesus I recognise that you are the Son of God and that when you died on that cross, you died for me. As you hung there you took my sin, my guilt, my shame, my death and died on my behalf. Thank you Jesus that you loved me so much that you did this for me. I now give my life completely over to you and ask you to be both my Saviour and my Lord. Come into my life by your Holy Spirit and fill me with the strength, love and power to live my life completely for you. I ask this in your holy name the name of Jesus. **amen**

You can say this prayer on your own in your bedroom or with a Christian friend, but it is important that you share it with a Christian so that they can help you take the next step. It is also important that you find a church and go on a short nurture course to help you learn how to grow in this new identity that God has given you.