

Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

Lesson 7. Conversion: Faith and Repentance

4/28/2019

Conversion

- Conversion is the voluntary change in the mind of the sinner in which he turns from sin, to Christ.

Conversion is the only part of the salvation process that mankind is involved in!
Acts 9:35; 14:15

I. Components of Conversion:

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| Change of mind toward sin | = | Repentance | Luke 15:7 |
| Turning to Christ | = | Faith | Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9 |

II. What is the cause of conversion? _____

John 1:13; Ephesians 2:3-5; Romans 9:16; I Corinthians 6:9-11

III. What is the human basis of conversion? _____

Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:2; I Corinthians 3:5

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Repentance

- Repentance: The voluntary change in the mind of the sinner in which he turns from sin.
- Repent! (English = change of behavior). Bible = change your mind about who is God around here; deep change of values. The result is a change of behavior.
 Acts 3:19 *"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*
It is also an act of God... Acts 5:31; 11:18

I. There is joy in heaven when a person repents.

Luke 15:7, 10

II. Elements of repentance. "Metanoia" signifies

- a change of mind (intellect)
 - taking a wiser view of the past
 - change in viewpoint (perspective and understanding)
- 1) toward self (Luke 15, The Prodigal Son)
- 2) toward sin (Revelation 9:20-21)
- 3) toward God (Acts 20:21)
- 4) toward Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 20:21)

- b. regret for a course pursued (emotion)
 - sorrow for sin (II Corinthians 7:9)
- c. a change in will
 - a change of conduct for the future (Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20)

Summary: Repentance is a change in thinking, purpose, and will (change in intent) resulting in change in action.

- Repentance is the change of mind toward sin and God's will which leads to a change of feeling concerning them, and a change of purpose in relation to them.

III. Repentance and faith always go together. (Acts 20:21)

Sometimes they are used interchangeably.

IV. God desires mankind to repent.

II Peter 3:9

V. Repentance originates with God.

Acts 11:18; Romans 2:4; II Corinthians 7:9, 10

VI. Repentance can also be an act of the believer recovering from carnality, apostasy, human viewpoint, or sin.

Revelation 2:5; 3:19

Repentance and confession:

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| Intellect | Psalm 51:3, 7, 11 | change in view |
| Emotion | Psalm 51:1, 2, 10, 12, 14 | change in feeling |
| Will | Psalm 51:5, 7, 10, 12 | change in purpose |

VII. Repentance bears fruit:

Matthew 3:8; Luke 18:13; 19:8; II Corinthians 7:10; Acts 26:20

VIII. Lack of repentance results in discipline or judgment.

Revelation 2:5; Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30, 31; II Peter 3:9

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Faith

I. Description of faith.

 ***“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*** (Hebrews 11:1)

A. Hebrews 11:1, 3 (verse 1 is shown below from several translations)

- Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. NASB95
- Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. NIV
- Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. NCV
- What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. NLT

B. The Greek word for faith, pistis, is found 244 times in the New Testament.

- Pistis in the New Testament always speaks of faith in God, or Christ, or spiritual things. (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)

II. Two aspects of faith:

A. Faith for Salvation...

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

B. Faith for daily life...

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7. Also see Galatians 2:20

III. The object of faith for salvation is Jesus Christ.

 John 3:16, 18; 6:29, 35, 47; 14:1; 20:31; Acts 16:31; 19:4; Romans 10:9-10 (heart)

IV. Elements of faith in action from Hebrews 11; “Faith Hall of Fame”

Belief

Hebrews 11:3

 Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand” = we believe

- Creation!

Trust

Hebrews 11:11, 17-19, 29

 Hebrews 11:11 Sarah conceived – trusted God’s promise

 Hebrews 11:17-19 Abraham sacrificing Isaac – trusted God’s promise

 Hebrews 11:29 Moses – by faith they passed through the Red Sea

Hope

Hebrews 11:1, 8-10

 Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.

 Hebrews 11:8-10 Abraham – Faith looks to the future.

- Faith as a fruit of the Spirit allows me to have the faith to see beyond my current earthly situations with an assurance that whatever trials or afflictions come my way now, they are temporary, just a dot on the time line of eternity.

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| Obedience | Hebrews 11:4, 5, 7, 8 |
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BOOK Hebrews 11:4 Abel

- Faith is evident by its fruits:
James 2:17-26 Faith without fruit is a dead faith.

BOOK Hebrews 11:5-6 Enoch
“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

BOOK Hebrews 11:7 Noah

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| Faithfulness | Hebrews 11:1-2; 12:1-2 |
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BOOK Hebrews 11:1-2 “For by faith men of old gained approval”

BOOK Hebrews 12:1-2 “Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses... Let us run with endurance the race set before us fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith”

Summary: Faith in action

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| Belief | Hebrews 11:3 |
| Trust | Hebrews 11:11, 17-19, 29 |
| Hope | Hebrews 11:1, 8-10 |
| Obedience | Hebrews 11:4, 5, 7, 8 |
| Faithfulness | Hebrews 11:1-2; 12:1-2 |

V. Faith is a living, dynamic characteristic of a believer's life.

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| II Corinthians 5:7 | Walk by faith |
| I Corinthians 16:13 | Stand firm in faith |
| Colossians 2:5, 7 | Be established and strengthened in faith |
| II Corinthians 10:15 | Increase in faith |
| I Timothy 6:11 | Pursue faith |
| II Corinthians 8:7 | Abound in faith |
| Ephesians 4:13 | Attain to the unity of the faith |