

# True Conversion

*Matthew 18:1-5*

Introduction: Conversion is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God.

Examples:

Matthew, Matthew 9

Saul of Tarsus: Acts 9

Philippian Jailer, Acts 16

Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 6

## What Does Conversion Mean?

### A. A Turning away

Spiritually means leaving one path to go into another, Acts 3:19

Turning away from world and its anti-God values (Rom. 1)  
dead religion (Rom 7)  
self righteousness (Rom 10)

A pivot to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life.

### B. A change in direction

Radical alteration in the direction of one's life.

Not a partial change straddling fence of two worlds, Mt 6:24

Not a gradual change but a decisive break from old patterns  
of sin and embracing new life in Christ.

### C. Spiritual conversion:

Change of mind: intellect, Romans 12:2

Change of view: recognize God, self, sin, Christ, 1 Tim. 1:15

Emotional change: affections, sorrow for sins, Lk 22:62

Change of will an intentional turning away from sin and  
turning to God seeking forgiveness, Luke 19:8

## False Conversion and True Conversion

### A. There is such a thing as non-saving faith.

Not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter Kingdom, Mt 7:21

May know truth, have sorrow for sin, but it is selfish sorrow over  
their sufferings, not sorrow over offending God, Joel 2:13.

2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to  
salvation, not regretted; sorrow of the world produces death.

Counterfeit conversion: no death to self, no submission to  
lordship of Christ, no taking up the cross, no  
obedience, no fruit of repentance, Mt 3:8

B. With true conversion: sin is abhorred, world is renounced, pride is  
crushed, self is surrendered, faith is exercised, cross is  
embraced, Phil. 3:10

Christ came earth, "reconciling the world unto himself" 2 Cor 5:19.