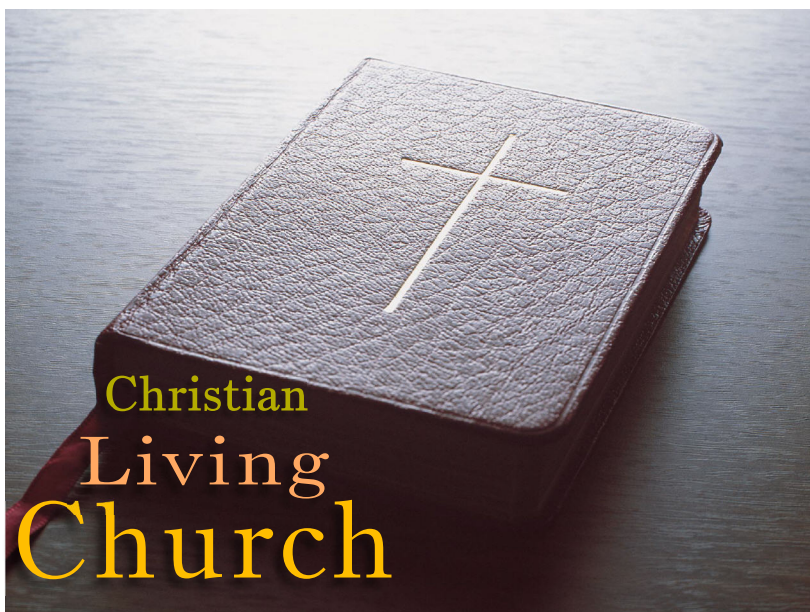


LESSON 5

The Process of Conversion

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.” NLT



Christian
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The Process of Conversion



This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (**Genesis 1:1**) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "***bold italicized and contained in quotation marks***" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue [Genesis 1:1](#) will be listed in the lesson section entitled **FURTHER STUDY**.

FURTHER STUDY is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message
The Church of God Rocky Mount
Rocky Mount, Virginia

Key Verse: Romans 12:2



“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.” NLT

Discussion Question:

What does the Key Verse mean to you?

Once we have repented and received God’s Spirit, divine life has been begotten in our minds. One’s basic attitude must be changed or converted. This transformation is a tremendous undertaking. It requires a miracle! The receiving and indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit is the power needed to help renew one’s mind. To grow spiritually we must take in spiritual food every day. This is done by studying and reading the Bible and daily prayer. We must strive to always put God first in our actions and our dealing with people. This is some-

times hard to do because we are used to putting our self first. The newly converted person will not feel a lot different in the beginning, but over time you should see growth in your life. God’s Holy Spirit gives you the capacity to understand and grasp spiritual concepts and principles. Without God’s Holy Spirit a person cannot fully understand the Bible. It is important to understand that God’s Holy Spirit will not possess you like a demonic spirit. God’s Spirit will not force you to live righteously, but will strengthen you spiritually and even physically when necessary. God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the capacity to please Him (**Philippians 2:13**). If we have the Spirit of God, it will show

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by the fruits we produce. **Galatians 5:22-23** lists the fruits of the Spirit. These are totally contrary to human nature. Our old ways are better described in **Galatians 5:19-21**. The desires of the sinful nature will produce these evil results. Anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Since Satan is the god of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) the only weapon against him is God's Holy Spirit.

Going back to the fruits of the Spirit, notice the first fruit is love. What is God's definition of love (**1 John 5:3; 2 John 1:6**)? Love is keeping His commandments, which have been taught since The Beginning. **Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians** (the love Chapter) teaches that the greatest gift of all is love. The Ten Commandments sum up love. The first four show us how to

love God, the last six show us how to love our fellowman.

It takes time for one to grow spiritually and manifest the fruits of the Spirit. Fruit does not appear overnight on a tree. It takes time, water, and sunlight to grow. The Bible shows that striving to emulate the spiritual character of Christ is an ongoing process of overcoming throughout the Christian life - of putting sin out of our life, learning to control and rule the downward pulls of our nature. God does not call people to the true Christian Way of life to be losers. He does not want anyone to miss out on the rewards and joy of eternal life in His family. The Lord isn't being slow about keeping His promise to return as some people think (**2 Peter 3:9**). He is being patient because He does not want anyone to perish, so He is allowing everyone more time to convert to God's Way.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What is the definition of love? **1 John 5:3**

2. Is love (or truth) the basic characteristic of God? **1 John 4:6**

3. Did Jesus obey the Ten Commandments? **John 15:10**

4. What does God call the person who claims to know Christ but refuses to walk in His ways? **1 John 2:4**

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FURTHER STUDY:

Matthew 19:16-19 One came and asked what should I do to have eternal life?

John 14:23-24 If a man loves me, he will keep my words.

1 Corinthians 13 The LOVE chapter.

Galatians 5:19-26 They which do the works of the flesh shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 John 2:5 Whoever keeps His Word has the love of God in him.

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Notes:

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