

# CONVERSION

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This writer has concluded and submits to you that by reading, and studying and researching God's Word is of great benefit and the result is a blessing. The study and research of the chosen subject of this writing was of great benefit to me. Not only was it a great benefit to me, it was a challenge and I will say, a needed challenge. It caused me to desire, and I mean a great-big desire to tell you of it in this way, and it is what I am calling, a study writing. This study writing, as well as my other writing are the fulfillment of my heart's desire to learn and share with others.

It just seems that it is a need I have, and as I said, "It's a great-big desire." It floods my heart with joy and happiness to know that you have chosen to read and study with me in this way. I thank you with a grateful heart. I promise you that this study is scripturally informative, and there is much love of this old heart of mine put in to it.

This effort or this kind of study helps me, and I hope and pray it will help you too. God bless us for reading and studying on this great and important subject. I confess to you that I want to sincerely do, whatever it is, and do it well, to the best of my ability and to the glory of God. I am laboring to do this study writings well and for the expressed benefit, and at the same time I want to improve in my effort. My desire is to make study interesting, have great and vivid Godly expressions which fit the subject, and more importantly, expressed with meaning so that it will hasten our hearts in greater love for God, each other, our fellowman, and develop more love and desire in doing God's will in our stewardship responsibility. I know I need growth in each area in which we discuss and study. God blesses us to that end.

The subject for this study as stated is: Conversion. I will, as has been my practice in study writings, do some word defining. Define enough anyway that we can gain knowledge and enthusiasm. It will cause love to expand, grow, and we will be happily energetic in doing His Will and we will be found faithful. In our outline for this study we will list and lay alongside Scripture quotes, and with limited discussions study "Ten Products of a Converted Life." The list is not all inclusive I'm sure.

Now let's do some word defining. First, Conversion: it is said to be a change in which one comes to adopt and apply a new opinion. As we are thinking in the Christian realm, let's say it like this: Conversion is a change by one who adopt a spiritual turning to righteousness and faith, and to a new or different purpose or use. How about this: righteousness, faith, and purpose, predicated upon God's Word and the heart's desire in doing His Will and by remaining faithful is identified (defined) to be a "Converted Life."

Conversion, the act, does by definition, change by requirement. This is a powerful subject. It can be the most beneficial and greatest act in life. Conviction is the state of being convicted. A firm belief in God, total conviction if you will, is the only life which is acceptable to God and is the life which we must manifest to be "found faithful." It has benefit. Why? Because belief is involved. If and when one is convicted, conversion must take place. Let me say, "we're considering and thinking of acts in the obedient realm, which will make us children of God...Christian bound for the Promis Land. Amen!

We're considering faith, hope, duty, will, love and even more. When convicted of the aforementioned attributes we'll note other 'impacts' or acts that occur. Well, really they are synonyms of "convicted". They are, opinion, position, view, faith, belief, confidence, feeling, reliance, and truth. The associated synonyms of convert/conversion are also interesting and add to this study. They are also co-mingled with the synonyms list for convicted. Let's note...they are: alteration, mutation, modification, change, win over, vary, and veer; it will be goods to check the synonyms of these words.

The blessed statement which can be said is, "We need to pray about "true conversion", become it, and do it right. If we do, we will be blessed, our life will be blessed to do the will of our Holy Father through Jesus Christ our LORD."

Now let's get to the "research study" and learn the value and "Products of a Converted Life."

Ten Products of a Converted Life are:

- 1). Faithfulness.
- 2). Gentleness.
- 3). Kindness.
- 4). Longsuffering.
- 5). Love
- 6). Meekness.
- 7). Obedience.
- 8). Peacefulness.
- 9). Self-control.
- 10). Self-denial.

Now let's analyze each of the "Products", place them along side Scriptures, and give ourselves a good dose of admonishment.

**1. FAITHFULNESS**, a product of a "Converted Life." Faithfulness defined is: The act by which one avails ones-self of the gift of God, in submission and obedience to God's Commands, and abandons all thought of self, trusting only in God; trustworthy in the performance of duty and fulfillment of promises or obligation to God first, others second and self third and last; the quality of being faithful in loyalty, consistency, and in fidelity.

In Psalm 89:1-2, note the prayer in song of a servant in request to be remembered: *"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, 'Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness shall thou establish in the very Heavens.'"*

Faithfulness is the duty and responsibility of a servant, it is required. Jesus taught of faithfulness. He taught of both the doing and the reward to responsible servants. What was said to the servant in Matthew 25:20-21? *"Well done my good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your LORD."* We are warned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2, as he said, *"Moreover it is required in Stewards that one should be found faithful."*

Jesus asked the question, “*Who then is a ‘faithful’ and wise servant?*” (Luke 12:42...). We know the answer! Yes, it is the servant that does the will of the Father. He who is found faithful will be blessed to enter into that eternal home. Thus faithfulness is a product of conversion.

Note some of the qualities of faith which are listed below and the Scriptures which describe the qualities. Please prayerful study them.

1. The nature of Faith: Hebrews 11:1-3
2. Power of Faith to justify, purify, and sanctify: Romans 3:28, Romans 5:1-2, Galatians 2:16, Acts 15:9, and Acts 26:18
3. Godhead, the object of Faith: Mark 11:22-23, John 14:1, and John 20:31
4. Faith given by the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:9
5. Unity of Faith: Ephesians 4:5,13; Jude 1:3
6. Faith and salvation: Mark 16:16; John 1:12; John 3:16, 36; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8; 2 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 11:6
7. Faith works by Love: 1 Corinthians 13:2, 13; Galatians 5:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22
8. Faith without works: James 2:17-20; read also James 2:10
9. Faith brings peace and joy: Romans 5:1; Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 1:7-8
10. Blessings from Faith: John 6:40; Romans 4:16; Ephesians 3:11-12; 1 Timothy 1:4
11. Miracles through Faith: Matthew 9:22; Luke 8:50; Acts 3:16
12. Power of Faith: Matthew 17:20 ; Mark 9:23; 1 John 5:4
13. Faith’s trials: 2 Thessalonians 1:4; Hebrews 11:17; James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:7
14. Faith in Christian Armor: Ephesians 6:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:8
15. Constant in Faith: 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Phillipians 1:27; Colossians 2:6 1 Timothy 1:18-19
16. Faithfulness in God’s service: Matthew 24:45; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 3 John 1:5-6
17. Faithfulness toward men: Proverbs 11:13; 13:17; 14:5, Luke 16:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:2

Here are some references to Faithfulness supported by Scriptures:

Faith of Noah in building the Ark (Genesis 6:14-22).

Abraham in leaving his homeland at the command of God having no idea where he was going (Genesis 12:1-4) and in offering Isaac (Genesis 22:1-10, Hebrew 11:8, 19)

Moses in leading his people (Hebrews 11:24-28)

The widow of Zarephath in feeding Elijah (1 Kings 17:13-15)

Daniel in the lion’s den (Daniel 6)

The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:21-22)

Those who brought the paralytic (Luke 5:18-20)

The Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:26)

The conclusion: The all of man...The whole of man is to “*Fear God and keep His Commandments.*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) That is Conversion ! That is Faithfulness!

**2. GENTLENESS**, a product of converted Life. To begin, let's define gentleness. We can say that gentleness is kindness and softness in manner, consideration (taking into account), readiness to look humanely and responsibly at the facts of a situation. Gentleness is viewed in the Bible as a beautiful virtue, and righteous persons are urged to cultivate it. Also, let's pull alongside some very vivid synonyms and put them into the mix, which I am sure will give strength to our study, and discussion. As we cultivate our thoughts in developing a nature of gentleness, think of peaceful, tame, serene, sedate, relaxed, smoothing, calm, soft, mild, friendly, kindly, and cultivated.

Here again we draw from the strength of the Scriptures to increase and grow in the spirit of gentleness. Galatians 5 begins by saying, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."* In verse 16, Paul says, *"Walk in the spirit."* *When we walk in the spirit, that is to say, (live in the Spirit of Love).* He tells us in verse 22, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

Note the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 2:24 as his instructions state, *"... a servant of the LORD must not quarrel but be gentle to all, be able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition . . ."* Gentleness, not quarreling, will result in teaching the truth in patience and humility.

It has been stated above that one fruit of Spirit is gentleness of the converted servant. It is a beautiful product and we must cultivate it in our stewardship responsibility. Our responsibility extends to and begins with the impression or example we make or leave to those whom we befriend and fellowship. With that said, note what is said in, Titus 3:2, *"Speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."* We can add to say, "Do it all the time." That's what it says! Do you agree?

Look at what we know and realize. How blessed are we? What we already know is in, James 3:17, *"The wisdom that is from above is first, pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruit, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."* What a product (fruit), "gentleness"! And think where it comes from...a Converted Servant doing the Will of God in Heaven!

**3. KINDNESS**, a product of a converted life. A life which has adopted a spiritual turning to righteousness and faith predicated upon God's Word. It is a life which is blessed of God and pleasing to Him. Kindness can be defined to say: it is the state or quality of being kind, beneficence, benevolence, goodness of heart or disposition.

Go with me now to Colossians 3:12-13, where we are told, *"Therefore, as the elect of God (a Converted Servant), holy and blessed, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. . ."* The converted servant will please God by showing brotherly kindness through practical concern for their fellow Christians. Also, they will demonstrate love by being interested in the "well being" of all people.

Consider the term "well being." What all does it include? Going back to Colossians 3:12, where is stated "put on kindness", the question is asked, "How do you

do that?" When we put on all the attributes, the beautiful virtue of the Converted Servant, we put on Christ. Our life must be a life of "Christlikeness" period...end of statement! If we are to be found faithful in this, we will be Heaven bound. Amen! Read Ephesians 2:4-10, it's strong!

4. Longsuffering, another beautiful virtue and strong product of a converted life. Sure, we must look and study Scriptures so that we can understand "long-suffering", and glean the need for it to be a virtue, active and strong, in our converted life. As I see it the "long" in long-suffering is to whatever extent, a measurement or duration in time, with no end if required. We must tolerate, endure, persevere, and suffer for Christ's sake, all the days of life that God be glorified. And that Christ and Him crucified be preached and or taught to all mankind. I want to cite several Scriptures which admonish us to be long-suffering. Read these Scriptures aloud slowly and see what it does for you. You know what? I do it as I study the word and I gain great reward from doing so. It helps gather more fruit and gets deeper into one's heart.

*"I charge you therefore before God and the LORD Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season, reprove (convince), rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:1-2).*

1 Corinthians 13:4, 7, *"LOVE suffers long and is kind; love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."*

Ephesians 4:1-2, *"Walk (live) worthy of the calling which you were called, with lowliness and longsuffering, forbearing one another in Love."*

Colossians 1:10-11 *"Walk (live) worthy of the LORD, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, for all patience and long-suffering with joy, giving thanks."*

Christians in their stewardship of service must, and do I'm sure, realize long-suffering is Christlikeness. Long-suffering is also, the willingness to put up with the short-comings of others. We are taught by the Scriptures how we should treat and deal with various people. If we suffer...we should have! And yes, if we suffer in perseverance and long-suffering for Christ, we should have...it is expected of a converted servant...it is the servant's duty duty. It is commanded! Thus do!

5. Love, the most beautiful virtue and product of a converted life. *". . . And now abideth faith, hope, love, and the greatest of these is Love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13) Love, the virtue of love, the subject of love, has no end to the value of a Christian's life in exercising the blessings of doing the will of Him who first loved us.

The New Commandment cited in John 1:34-35 must be the total of a Christian's life. You know it, but read it again cited here, *"A New Commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* Love is what makes the world go 'round. Do you know why that is true? God is Love . . . Love makes the "World go" 'round! We know this. It is great! We have to keep it going and going and growing. Read and study the New Commandment and read and study the Love

Chapter, 1 Corinthians 13...then let them have their way with you. Live in Love! Read now what is said in Ephesians 5:1-2, "...walk (live) in love as Christ also has also loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling aroma."

6. Meekness, another beautiful Product of a Converted Life and in it's nature there shall be the abundance of peace. The question to us is, "How versed, how throughoutly acquainted are we of the nature, and virtue of Meekness? Read and absorb the next few lines which will help us, I know they will help! Having understanding and effecting Godly Principles in our Life Service to Him and our fellowman cannot, but help us. Amen!

Psalms 37:11 says, "*The meek shall inherit the earth . . .*" Matthew 5:5 tells us the same thing, "*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*"

Happy and fortunate, yes extremely so are those who are gentle, humble and submissive for they will receive all blessing that God has promised through Jesus Christ while here on earth, and as well as in the future, in Heaven with God. Yes, if we follow Christ He assures us that we shall never have a reason to regret the choice to follow Him. As Christians we will suffer for Christ sake, but we shall forever enjoy, in the age to come, the eternal life which is our promised reward.

There are so many great Scriptures which gives us strength and support in our effort to walk in "meekness". Cited herein for our convenience are only some. Please read aloud and benefit by growing stronger.

James 1:21 "*Lay aside all fifthiness and overflow of wickedness, and recive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your soul.*"

Colossians 3:12, "*As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with on another, and forgiving one another . . . even as Christ forgives you, so you also must do.*"

Ephesians 4:2 , "*With all lowliness, and gentleness with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.*"

Galatians 5:23 "*. . . gentleness, and self-control. Against such is no law.*"

Well the love and guidness expressed in the Scriptures goes on and on. Let us love all of them! Let's study them together and privately, and effect their principles in our lives. Teach them to others and teach others to teach others.

7. OBEDIENCE, a product of a converted life. For life to be converted, one must be obedient... is is required! It is true and can be said, for us to be pleasing and become a child of God one must effect (put into action) obedience in doing the Will of the Father. We must be obedient to the converted life as we adopt a spiritual life to righteousness and faith in God and our LORD Jesus Christ. Doing the Will of the Father faithfully, is what it's all about.

Now with what all has been said, let's read-up, study-up, act-up, and do-up the admonishment of what Romans 6:17-23 tells us. It begins with a prayer and says, "*But God be thanked that though we were servants of sin, yet we obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which we were delivered. And having been set free from sin, we became servants of righteousness.*" That is a great blessing of obedience. But the

Scripture goes further by telling us, *“Through obedience we are set free from sin to become servants to God, having fruit unto holiness, and the end . . . everlasting life. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.”* We are admonished as Paul admonished the Christians at Rome when he said, *“Your obedience has become known to all.”* Let our obedience be known to all! How is it that our obedience be made known? By what we think, say, and do. How? By *walking*, (that is living), a life of obedience in doing His Will. We know what that is! I know we know. I don’t know about you, but I do know about me. I need your help . . . please help me. I promise to join with you in helping each other. We are encouraged to be obedient to God in many Scriptures, so study the Bible and know and be obedient and grow. If we are obedient unto God, we will be obedient to all that is required of us. That being true and it is, then we must know God’s will. We must know, act, and be obedient. That is a Product of an obedient, converted servant’s life. Amen!

**8. PEACEFULNESS**, a product of a converted life. The word when spoken, come to life as we think of the beautiful and peaceful words in Luke 2:14, *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”* Christ, knowing man, knowing man’s needs, and that we would have tribulations in life here on earth, says to us, *“Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33).

Christ overcame the world, by doing the Will of His Father and for the good of man. “Peacefulness”, the product of a converted life is confidence and courage that comes from the indwelling Spirit and the ascended Christ. The peace of God is the Christian’s fortress. Our reassurance of that is in the words of John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace, I give unto you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.”*

We must realize the peacefulness which comes to us in life must be sought from God. It must be desired on our part, and may I add “desired properly”, and if peace is desired properly, it will be bestowed by God. Note Proverbs 18:7, *“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies be at peace with him.”* Now, look at 1 Timothy 2:1, *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for Kings, and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”*

Christians, as children of God of Peace, must (shall) be at peace with one another. The Gospel of Christ may aptly be described as a message of spiritual peace from God to man. Pray for peacefulness from the God of Peace, a Product of a Converted Life.

**9. SELF-CONTROL**, a product of a converted life. Self-control defined: the act, power or habit of having one’s faculties or energies under control of the will. That pretty well sums it up, don’t you think? We can see though, that power is power if it is under control of the will, if the will is that of God. We as individuals, must have control when exercising authority over, well, whatever, but it must be God sanctioned. When one has control, one is responsible for the outcome of the act. Is discipline involved here?

Look at the words which describe the action that Paul tells us about in 1Corinthians 9:24-27, *“Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it, (the prize;the outcome). And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we and incorruptible. I therefore run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

Strict discipline of body, mind, and soul is essential to the Christian life, a converted life. Self-control, to be in charge exercising authority over your individual duty and responsibility is a must. Without it we will never be what God expects or intends us to be. My duty and responsibility is mine to perform to the will of God. Yours are yours. We all are duty bound to the will of God, individual and collectively. We must know, believe, and be converted to total acceptance of this. We're all God's!

Self-control (temperance), which is calm (restrained), is listed as a Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Self-control is one of the qualifications for a Elder, Titus 1:8. And in 2 Peter 1:5, we are advised to give diligence to self-control in the face of temptations and perseverance amid difficulties, that it will help live a life that pleases God. God bless us as we walk to the Will of God. Amen!

**10.** SELF-DENIAL, a product of a converted life. Self-denial, for the most part, is the “taking of our cross”. In Matthew 10:38-39 are the words which give us the formula to self-denial and faithful discipleship. Hear it! *“He who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life will find it.”*

We, as faithful disciples, must die to self-will. God's Will must become our will. We may have to give up our desired plans and perhaps even our life. If we follow our crucified LORD, we must expect suffering in taking up our cross and following Him. If in taking up our cross and if required to give up our own interest for Jesus, we'll find a fulfilled life here, while we live, and we will be blessed, rewarded throughout eternity. This principle is repeated again in Matthew 16:24, Mark 8: 34-35, and in Luke 9:23. Please read them. Read and note also John 12:25 as John addresses “Things More Important than Life”.

In considering a converted life, the wonderful and great results, and the reward, it must be noted that total conversion is emphasized. Conversion to Christ has a great impact to the Christian's life of duty and responsibility and it comes by doing God's Will. Look at the answer, and the way Jesus answers the question in Matthew 18:1, when the disciples asked Jesus, *“Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”* Before Jesus answered, in verses 3-5, He called a little child to Him, and set the child in the midst of them, and said, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.”* What a blessing life will be if we are totally converted and become as little children. God bless us to be totally and truly converted, not seeking status as did the disciples in their desire to be greatest.

The scriptures and commentary that were set forth in this study were of great benefit to me. These wonderful scriptures and principles which we studied in this lesson are motivating to my conscience. And it is my never ending prayer that you who study this lesson and your Bible, will accept all truth therein and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith and love that we expose or submit our mind to. With confidence I say that you are studying this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you.

With confidence I also say, that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, (true abiding biblical knowledge), which is associated with responsibilities, which creates a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord's Church until death.

The church that I am speaking of cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom, which is His Church. Please be or become an obedient dedicated child of God and an active Saint in the church of the Bible. The church that we read about therein. You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in His Body. The church is Christ's Church, and it is the church that we read about in the New Testament...the one church. That is the truth. That is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view other writings on my Website. You may choose other studies along with this one. There is a writing posted that I am sure you will want to view and copy. The writing title is, "The Church of The Bible, Christ's Church." It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, "What Must I Do To Be Saved." Please study both of these "biblical-truth" writings. Please study them with an open, honest and receptive heart. Truths will begat obedience. You will be blessed beyond measurement!

I also recommend for the use on the subject of this study to check the writings titled "The Difference Between Repenting and Confessing" and "What Is Man's Most Important Focal Point?" They are under the Section of the Website, "Searching the Scripture." Under the Section of the Website, "Consecrated Writings" take a look at the writing titled "Abide In Him Always", it will complement this study also.

God bless you for studying with me on the subject of "Conversion" in this lesson. My prayer is that we have been stirred-up our memory and thinking. My prayer is also that what we related to and the scriptures reviewed and analyzed were the most needed on this subject. Also that we have been challenged to let the truth and obedience to God's Word have its proper place in our lives. God loves you...and I do too! Your servant in the Lord.

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Please note the Website information. My Website, [www.geocities.com/dubbyt](http://www.geocities.com/dubbyt) is link to: [www.hartsellechurch.org](http://www.hartsellechurch.org), which is the Hartselle Church of Christ, Hartselle, AL, a link to [www.austinvillococ.org](http://www.austinvillococ.org) which is the Website of Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur, AL, and a link to [www.northcobbchurch.org](http://www.northcobbchurch.org), which is the Church of Christ at North Cobb, Kennesaw, GA. Please visit those Websites also; you will be blessed.