



# Conversion

## Introduction

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, grant me your Holy Spirit and the wisdom of faith that comes from you. Strengthen my faith through your Word just as you have brought me to faith through that Word. Amen.

When you watch a football game or a news program on TV, you seldom see the camera operators and engineers. Yet what they do is very important. In our worship services and in talking about God's plan of salvation, we usually don't talk as much about the Holy Spirit as we do about Jesus. But the work of the Holy Spirit, like that of the people who work behind the scenes, is very important.

**Lesson Aim:** How does someone become a believer?

## Part One

Read Acts 2:38-39.

1) We looked at this passage last week too to see that the promise of baptism is for all, including children. But what does this passage tell us the promise of baptism is? What do you get baptized for?

Read Titus 3:5-7.

2) How did God save us?

3) Once we're saved, what do we become and what hope does that give us?

Read 1 Peter 3:20-21.

4) This passage starts off talking about how water saved Noah and his family from being destroyed. Then we're told that water symbolizes something that saves us. What does this passage say saves us?

5) How does it save us?

When Jesus died on the cross, God forgave the sins of everyone. In Baptism, God worked faith in us so that we would not reject that forgiveness and lose it as all unbelievers do. Instead, by faith we now can grab hold of the precious gift of forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross. That is the blessing of baptism. However, the Holy Spirit is also able to work faith in people who have not been baptized.

**KEY POINT 1** - When I was baptized, God gave me three wonderful blessings that are a great comfort for me all my life: forgiveness of sin, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal salvation.

**What I've learned so far:**



## Part Two

A little girl received a check from someone who loves her, but she wasn't able to cash it on her own. She needed someone else to do that for her. In a similar way, everything Jesus has done is for you. It's yours, like a check, but how does it become your personal possession? That's where the work of the Holy Spirit comes in.

### Read Romans 5:5.

1) How does the love of God get into our hearts?

### Read Acts 1:8.

2) Before Jesus ascended into heaven, whom did he promise to send?

3) What would the Holy Spirit empower them to do?

### Read Acts 2:1-8.

4) No one can see the Holy Spirit. So how was the presence of the Holy Spirit made known among the disciples on Pentecost?

5) As a result of the Holy Spirit coming on them, what were the disciples able to do?

6) Why was this a perfectly timed blessing? (see v5)

7) Describe the reaction of the people who heard them speaking.

### Read Acts 2:36-41.

Some people falsely accused the disciples of having had too much to drink. But it was only 9:00 in the morning! So, Peter got up and addressed the crowd that had gathered around them.

8) What did the people realize after Peter's words to them in verse 36? What had they done?

9) What was their response?

10) How were they to find forgiveness?

11) The gift of the "Holy Spirit" is faith and the power to strive to live a God-pleasing life here on earth. How many people received that gift that day?

12) Summarize the different work that we've seen the Holy Spirit do in these sections from Acts.

### Read Romans 10:17.

The word of Christ is the Bible. The Bible is the only tool which the Holy Spirit uses to work faith.

13) Is this word heard at a baptism?

People can be brought to faith through baptism, because the Word of God is the power of baptism. The Holy Spirit brings people to faith through the Word of God alone.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14.

- 14) Without the Holy Spirit, describe how we regard God's Word.
- 15) Is anyone able to understand the Word of God or accept faith in God without the Holy Spirit?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3.

- 16) Only by the \_\_\_\_\_ are we able to \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY POINT 2** - It is only by the gracious work of the Holy Spirit that we believe in Jesus and so receive the benefits of what he did for us.

**What I've learned so far:**



**Part Three**

Study 311-314 and 181 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

- 1) How does the forgiveness that Christ earned for us become ours?
- 2) Can anyone come to believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin on their own?
- 3) What are the blessings of baptism?
- 4) What is the power of baptism?
- 5) How does someone become a believer?

Helpful Passages

Galatians 3:26-27

- 5) What status do we all have through faith?

- 6) By faith we are clothed with Christ, and he covers over our sins. When God looks at us, he longer see our sins. What does he see?

John 15:16

- 7) We believe that the Holy Spirit alone can lead people to believe in Jesus as their savior. Many people believe that we can decide or choose to believe in Jesus. What would you say to them?

Ephesians 2:8-9

- 8) We believe that we are saved by faith alone in Jesus as our savior from our sins. Many people believe that we can earn salvation. What would you say to them?

**Main point—The Holy Spirit causes faith in people’s hearts through the power of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit’s work is necessary because if he had not worked faith in me, I would have rejected Jesus and all he did for me.**

Final considerations:

- 1) Agree or Disagree: We lose the blessings of baptism when we don’t act like Christians.
- 2) Conversion, the way the Bible describes it, is the Holy Spirit’s bringing people to faith. turning people around so they are not headed for hell but for heaven.
- 3) God gives us the blessings of baptism
  - A. by the water, which brings the miraculous power of God into our lives.
  - B. through the Holy Spirit, who is poured out on us in baptism, and who creates and strengthens our faith which trusts this Word of God in the water.
  - C. though the instructions which the person receives from the pastor before they are baptized.
- 4) The Bible teaches that when someone becomes a believer it is
  - A. not because of anything they have done, or are able to do, but because of the work of the Holy Spirit and the undeserved love of God.
  - B. probably due to the fact that they grew up in a good environment and are more religious and spiritual than most people.
  - C. because God saw that they are basically a good person, and the Holy Spirit has led them to decide to believe in Jesus as their savior from sin.
- 5) How much do we contribute to our salvation?
- 6) Why is the Holy Spirit’s work necessary?
- 7) Define conversion.
- 8) What does the word “conversion” mean in reference to this lesson?
- 9) What is the connection between conversion and baptism?
- 10) What are some false beliefs you know of about baptism and conversion?
- 11) Remember the jailor of Philippi from last week? Describe his conversion. How did he become a believer?



**What I’ve learned about coming to faith:**



**Commit to Memory:**

- *What does baptism do for us?*  
(with *What are these words and promises of God?*)
  - Titus 3:5
  - Romans 10:17
  - Conversion—Acts 2