# The Marks of a Healthy Church

Part 4 of 9 | Biblical Conversion | Sermon outline

**Central theme: A healthy church has a robust understanding of conversion.**

## I. What Is Conversion?

A. In everyday language, conversion means changing from one form, use, or belief to another.

B. From a human perspective: persuading someone to change their beliefs.

C. From God's perspective: changing a person into someone new.

D. Biblical conversion is more than a change of opinion; it is a change in the person.

## II. Why Is Conversion Necessary?

A. The human response is often, “No change is needed.”

1. Complacency and a sense of adequacy.

2. Flattering comparisons with others and self-affirmation.

B. Scripture answers, “Yes, change is needed.”

1. No one is righteous or naturally seeks God.

2. People love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

3. Outward godliness can exist without its power.

*Scripture: Romans 3:10-11; John 3:19; 2 Timothy 3:2-5.*

## III. We Are Changed by God's Grace

A. God initiates the change; conversion is His work in us.

B. God gives us a new nature - from fleshly to spiritual.

1. Apart from God, we are dead in trespasses and sins.

2. God replaces a heart of stone with a heart of flesh.

C. God draws us to Himself.

D. God's Spirit enables us to understand spiritual truth.

*Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-3; Ezekiel 11:19; John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 2:14.*

## IV. We Respond by God's Grace

A. Our response is a real responsibility, and God works within it.

B. **Repentance:** turning away from sin.

C. **Faith:** turning to God in belief and trust.

D. **Surrender:** acknowledging Jesus as Lord, Master, and King.

E. Repentance is granted by God, faith is His gift, and confessing Jesus as Lord is prompted by the Holy Spirit.

*Scripture: Romans 6:13; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

## V. The Result of Conversion

A. We are changed into something different, not merely persuaded to think differently.

B. God's Spirit now dwells within us, and we become partakers of the divine nature.

C. Jesus calls us to be converted and become like children.

*Scripture: Matthew 18:3; 2 Peter 1:3-4.*

**Closing question: Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?**