

Lesson D. When Did Peters Conversion Take Place.

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

**Peter Was
Just An
Ordinary
Man**

Peter was just an ordinary man that believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, he walked with him for three years, he received the revelations of the bible from him and he received perfect understanding of the scriptures from him but he was not converted.

Near the end of the three years living side by side with Jesus he denied even knowing the Lord though he made a promise to the Lord *“Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.”*{ Matt 26:35} but when the time came he failed. *Matt 26:74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*

Peter was not honorable concerning his promises because he wasn't converted. The point is that Peter was only a normal human walking in and submitting to the flesh. Peter needed what we all need and can obtain through Jesus Christ. He needed something inside of him to make him honest. He needed a counselor, a teacher and a guide to keep him on the right tract. Peter made a promise and broke it. Has anyone ever made a promise to you and failed to keep it maybe they do not have the fortitude to be consistent, or maybe they have no scruples and don't care. One thing is certain they need converted.

Peter was miserable because of the broken promise to Christ and had lost hope. He moaned and groaned with misery as he had forsaken his best friend but a few days later the Lord arose from the grave and gave him hope calling him to service.

**Christ the
redeemer, the lover
of souls and the
compassionate.**

Mark 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Notice that of all the disciples Peter was the only one Jesus mentioned personally by name because he knew the suffering that was taking place in Peter's heart for the denial. Peter believed his relationship with Christ was over. Christ had said: *Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

**The
Conversion
of Peter.**

Fifty days later something happened that converted the deserter into a loyal servant, what some may call a sissy coward was converted to a brave strong man, an unthinking "know it all" big mouth was converted into a humble servant and a precise spoken hero. He was converted from a man that would not stand into a man others could lean on, his inconsistency and untrustworthiness was converted into faithfulness and he was transformed into a reliable leader. What brought this miraculous change about? The Holy Spirit!

On the Day of Pentecost this ordinary man was filled with extraordinary power, on the day the church was born and Peter was converted; he received the Holy Spirit and it worked inside of him. Before this Day of Promise the world was without hope, corrupt and sinful but men like Peter preached Christ and hope and joy filled the air as the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of those that believed.

Peter was converted when he was filled with the Holy Spirit and it gave him courage to "*strengthen the brethren*". Peter stood up before a three thousand people and defended the gospel as he preached remissions of sin in the name of Christ bringing about a revival everywhere as the Holy Spirit did a work in them that they could not do themselves. People from all nations then and now are being transformed by the Holy Spirit from being an ordinary man into a man of power and victory.

**Conversion
brings Revival
and Hope to
Many**

Do you realize how much strength the brothers received when Peter stood with the boldness of a stone and preached the gospel for the first time? He gave them courage and excited their zeal. The Holy Spirit turned Peter into a fiery preacher that set 3000 souls on fire for Christ with his first sermon. This Pentecostal fire caught Stephen and he was willing to die as a witness for Christ. From Stephen it spread to Saul who became Paul. The fire spread to Phillip and he took it to Samaria where a multitude caught the fire and then he sent the fire into Africa through the Ethiopian Eunuch causing the fire to spread not only throughout the land but through time as there are millions of "Apostolic" witnesses in Africa today.

The fire wasn't out of control; it couldn't be called a wild fire because it was a controlled burn designed by God guided by the Holy Ghost inside of man. 2000 years later that Kingdom is still growing, the fire is still spreading as people hear the good news of salvation and the kingdom. They are converted as Peter was. In fact MSNBC recently did a one-hour program on how the Pentecostal movement is good for the world and it is the fastest growing church in the world.

When People fail to have the zeal, the fire and the boldness to use the Holy Spirit, I question if they have been converted as Peter was. God gave man the Holy Ghost not to grieve but to celebrate it and use it to burn our ways across the wilderness converting others into the prosperous Kingdom of Heaven.

The question is not what others are doing since they have been converted or received the Holy Spirit but what we are doing with it?

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 1 Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**People Change
When they Are
Converted**

We are changed from what? When a person is converted the Holy Spirit transforms him from dead works to works of righteousness. *Rom 12:2 "And be not conformed"* be not conventional, be not traditional, do not do the accepted humanistic thing, do not obey the worldly rules of competition, pride, trends, traditions, unholy entertainment and fashions. In other words this means don't play the game *"but be ye transformed"* Changed from the world, removed from the game, altered *"by the renewing of your mind,"* Let the Holy Spirit direct your thoughts, lifestyle and plans.

The Holy Spirit will convict you concerning right or wrong choices but you may take what is easy for the flesh even though it is wrong thereby grieving the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not be grieved when we use it to make proper decisions *"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"*. I will not make a decision about anything major without consulting Holy Ghost filled men who are impartial to the matter, except when I know without a doubt that it is Gods will. I want to be in God's acceptable and perfect will. Whether I like their suggestions or not I will humble myself and abide unless I absolutely without bias or doubt know it is God's will.

We must renew our minds by praying in the Holy Spirit and listening to wise men who are full of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is being mature enough to know that most of my desires are of the flesh. Wisdom is to ask: is this my thought or God's thought, my will or God's will, knowing God's thoughts and his will is to be led of the Spirit which is pleasing to God but not grieving.

Holy Spirit filled people will often be troubled and feel sorrow when they see others grieve the Spirit by making choices that are not in the will of God.

When the Apostles were converted or filled with the Holy Ghost they were transformed into something extraordinary, they changed, they did not follow the flesh and sing the same song the world sang {the bible tells us we will sing a new song.} they did not play the same old games of trying to build a prestigious lifestyle.

They did not do things that would make them socially accepted, they upset people with their doctrine and they did not listen to the heartbeat of the world but to the heartbeat of the Lord? They were so excited about the New and Living Way that they could care less if they were accepted by the world, if they were the center of society, if they were rich or if they were popular with the crowd.

**The Fire of
Conversion
Continues.**

1Thes 5:19 "Quench not the Spirit." The Holy Spirit is like a fire burning inside the soul melting away the impurities and keeping the good metals. The Holy Spirit purges, purifies and refines, when a person smothers its guidance from doing this, the Spirit is quenched.

When I was a boy in Kentucky at 11 years, my younger brother and I would help fight forest fires. We would shovel up dirt and throw it on the fire to quench it. When we allow the flesh through wants, desires, lust and likes to overrule the Spirit we reject its ability to purify. This is called quenching the Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit converts a person there is a forsaking of worldliness unto godliness. They have a fire, a burning zeal to help others find the joy, peace and power of the Holy Ghost. J.R. Ensey said it means "turning them about". Paul said: *Acts 26:17-18 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

The initial process was a quick turn {180 degrees} from sin onto a road that leads a person farther and farther from sin while getting closer and closer to heaven. The synonyms to convert are switch, change, alter, exchange. If a train switches tracks it alters it's direction and will end up in a different place. Every person is born on the wrong track and somewhere they must switch in order to get on the right track. **John 3:5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. I Jn 3:9* *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

James tells us if a person should be switched back onto the wrong track again, that we should convert him, That means to bring him back on the right track in order to keep his soul from death. **James 5:19-20** *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.* There is but one Door, one Way and one Light; if you have turned into the right Door you have made the right turn, if you switched onto the right Way Jesus will be your track of focus, and if the Light you see before you is Jesus your destination is heaven.

1. **Luke 22:32** *But I have _____ for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art _____, strengthen thy brethren.*
2. Peter was just an ordinary man that believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, he walked with him for three years, he received the revelations of the bible from him and he received perfect understanding of the scriptures from him but he was not _____.
3. **Matt 26:74** *Peter said "Though I should _____ with thee, yet will I not deny thee."* { Matt 26:35 } but when the time came he failed. *"Then began he to _____ and to _____",* Because he was not converted.
4. {**Mark 16:7**} *Christ didn't cast Peter aside but Mary was told: "But go your way, tell his _____ and _____ that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."*
5. Peter was converted; on what day did he become bold to strengthen the brethren with the gospel of Chris instead of being fearful for his life? Day of _____.
6. What did he receive that witnessed Peter's conversion and gave him the boldness? The promise, the _____ . Peter was transformed by the Holy Spirit from being an ordinary man into a man of power and strength.
7. **Gal 5:24** *"they that are Christ's have _____ the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also _____ in the Spirit.*
8. **Rom 8:15** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the _____ of _____, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

9. **1 Cor 6:19** *What? know ye not that your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

10. **1 Cor 6:20** *For ye are bought with a price: therefore _____ God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

11. **Rom 12:2** *“And be not _____”* be not conventional, be not traditional, do not do the accepted humanistic thing, do not obey the worldly rules of competition, pride, trends, traditions, unholy entertainment and fashions. In other words this means don't play the game *“but be ye transformed”* Changed from the world, removed from the game, altered *“by the _____ of your mind,”* Let the Holy Spirit _____ your thoughts, lifestyle and plans.

12. **1Thes 5:19** *“_____ not the Spirit.”* When a person smothers it guidance from doing this, the Spirit is quenched.

13. **Acts 26:17-18** **We must continue to strengthen the brethren:** *“... To _____ their eyes, and to _____ them from darkness to light, and from the _____ of Satan unto God, that they may receive _____ of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

14. **John 3:5** *“... Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

15. **James 5:19-20** *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one _____ him; Let him know, that he which _____ the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from _____, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*