

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 1 | Conversion

I. INTRO

II. CONVERSION

- **Regeneration:** “Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 699.
- **Conversion:** “Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 709.

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14–15).

III. REPENTANCE: TURN FROM

“The Nature of True Repentance” (Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance*, 18)

- Sight of sin
- Sorrow for sin
- Confession of sin
- Shame for sin
- Hatred for sin
- Turning from sin

IV. FAITH: TURN TO

V. CONVERSION IS URGENT

VI. SIGNS OF CONVERSION: HOW CAN I KNOW?

The "Three Tests" of 1 John:

- Do you believe in the Son of God?
- Do you obey the word of God?
- Do you love the people of God?

John Piper, *Finally Alive*, 126–128:

1. Those who are born of God keep his commandments.
2. Those who are born of God walk as Christ walked.
3. Those who are born of God don't hate others but love them.
4. Those who are born of God don't love the world.
5. Those who are born of God confess the Son and receive (have) him.
6. Those who are born of God practice righteousness.
7. Those who are born of God don't make a practice of sinning.
8. Those who are born of God possess the Spirit of God.
9. Those who are born of God listen submissively to the apostolic Word.
10. Those who are born of God believe that Jesus is the Christ.
11. Those who are born of God overcome the world.

"We must not expect all things at once. We must remember what children are, and teach them as they are able to bear. Their minds are like a lump of metal—not to be forged and made useful all at once, but only by a succession of little blows. Their understandings are like narrow-necked vessels: we must pour in the win of knowledge gradually, or much of it will be spilled and lost." J.C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 5.

VII. CONCLUSION

VIII. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What are the two parts of conversion? How would you define these two terms?
- How confident are you that you are a Christian?
- When do you think you became a Christian? What was that experience like? What evidences of living as a Christian did you start to show?
- If you have not yet chosen to repent and believe, what do you think is keeping you from doing so?
- Looks back over Piper's list of 11 evidences of conversion. Which evidences do you think you show and how does that encourage you?