



“Conversion” in Christian terms is more like

_____;

a _____ of what’s real,

that results in a decision to

_____.

2 Corinthians 5:16- 17

Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

The Conversion Miracle
2 Corinthians 5:16-17

www.eastridgechurch.org

study questions



Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today’s message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

“Conversion” is a misunderstood word, especially when it is used of Christians nowadays. People think it’s “shoving your religion down my throat,” or a spooky process by which people get so worked up emotionally that they think something supernatural has happened to them.

In truth, conversion is a powerful thing. It involves the recognition that God is truly there, and is intent on having a relationship with us. So, yes, that can *feel* a bit pressure inducing. It’s also a moment, often times, of great emotion. Yet as just as many Christians will testify, when they “converted” to following Jesus, it was more a moment of understanding that “only makes sense.”

The only way to get at the truth is to ask if conversion to Christ is, in fact, a supernatural thing. If it is, then it only makes sense that we finite creatures would experience the infinite with power and emotion. In a word, it would be a *miracle*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Looking back to when you began your walk with Jesus, what was it like for you? Share some of your story with your group.
- In the message Dwain said, *Conversion in Christian terms is more like an awakening, a becoming aware of what’s real, that results in a decision to change who you are going to follow.*
 - Does that ring true for you?
 - How did Jeff Hart’s experience help you in understanding what it means to follow Jesus?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 together.**
 - What does this passage tell you about what Jesus is really up to when he asks us to follow him and change?
 - Have you experienced something like what Paul talks about in verses 16-17? How would you describe the transformation?
 - Looking at v. 18 & beyond, what are we supposed to do with what’s happened to us once we turn to follow Jesus?
 - How does it make you feel to be an *ambassador for Christ*?
 - Does this whole passage and experience of the miracle of conversion help you make more sense of the “way of following” we talk about at Eastridge Church [we call it, “Come, Grow, Serve, Go”]?
- How can the people of your group be praying for you this week, as you grow in seeing yourself and others in a new way – as a *new creation* in Christ? How can you help each other be ambassadors for Christ this week?

MOVING FORWARD

If we are, as the old Christians used to say, “soundly converted,” then that transformation, that miracle, will change things. It will change how we feel (at least eventually), but it will also change how we think, how we look at others, how we treat those closest to us, and so on. And that’s good news which, if it’s real, can’t be held in and kept to ourselves.

Spend some quiet time this week just contemplating what Jesus has actually done for you. He didn’t come to trash this world and your life – he came to “save” it by transforming the world and you with it.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“He had committed to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV)