



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

From Persecution to Apostle | September 24, 2023

Summary

There are three categories of people: those who are not converted, those who are converted, and those who think they are converted but might not be. Pastor Dale uses the example of the dramatic conversion of Paul, who went from persecuting Christians to becoming a key figure in spreading the message of God's love. Like Paul, you cannot know, do and experience God's will unless you are radically converted!

Scripture

Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them--both men and women--back to Jerusalem in chains. As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.-Acts 9:1-9 (NLT)

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.-Colossians 1:21 (NLT)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"--and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen. -1 Timothy 1:15-17 (NLT)

Let's Start

How did the Lord first get your attention?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

1. In the series: "Knowing and Doing the Will of God," we've learned that:
 - Like Abraham we must practice **obedience** to God's call on our lives and be willing to go with God if we are to know, do and experience His will.
 - Like Moses we must **surrender** our reluctance to do the will of God especially when we would rather stay comfortable where we are.
 - And like Joshua we must exercise **courage** when God calls us to step out in faith.In this final message, we looked at the conversion of Paul from a murderous persecutor of Christ and His followers to the Apostle whom God would use to bring the message of His love to the world. What does this have to do with knowing and doing the will of God?
2. Pastor Dale said that conversion is a process. Can you share any personal experiences or insights into how your faith has evolved over time?
3. "One of the signs of truly being converted is we gain spiritual insight we never had before, while at the same time realizing what fools we were when we thought we could really see!" Can you relate to this quote from Pastor Dale? If so, how?
4. How do you maintain a clear spiritual vision in a world filled with distractions and conflicting worldviews?
5. Pastor Dale spoke about the idea that true conversion involves acknowledging both our sinfulness and God's forgiveness. How has this realization influenced your relationship with God and others?
6. What steps can we take to ensure that we are continually growing in our faith and not becoming complacent in their Christian walk?

Let's Act

Is Jesus disturbing your life today? What's the disturbance about?

- A choice you've made?
- An attitude you have?
- A habit you don't want to give up?
- An action you need to take?

How can you address this problem this week?
