

Conversion - a Miracle

by Selwyn Hughes

True conversion involves a miraculous change in relation to God, leading to a new life and a deeper sense of fellowship with Christ.

Topics: "True Conversion", "Spiritual Transformation"

Description

Selwyn Hughes emphasizes the importance of true vertical conversion within the church, highlighting the need for genuine transformation rather than mere statistical growth. He addresses the issue of prioritizing the horizontal aspects of Christianity over the vertical, stressing the significance of faith expressing itself through love. Hughes points out that true conversion involves a miraculous change, including the slaying of inner struggles, harmony within the soul, cleansing of conscience, abundant life, and deep fellowship with Christ. He prays for the church to be saved from superficial conversions and for the Holy Spirit to work in bringing about authentic transformation.

Transcript

"... in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value." (v. 6)

For reading & meditation:

Galatians 5:1-15

Permit me to pause in our meditations on the chief differences between the Christian faith and non-Christian religions to turn our eyes inward to the state of affairs within the church. We have not been as careful as we might in relation to this matter of vertical conversion. Oftentimes we have been more interested in statistics than in actual true conversions. The church, generally speaking, has a lot to answer for in this respect. The horizontal has outrun the vertical in some sections of institutional Christianity. This is why in a number of countries church leaders will not baptize converts until they have received some clear teaching on what the Christian life is all about. In Paul's day, as we see from our text, the main question being asked was about circumcision - whether or not that was essential. Paul threw the emphasis on being a new creature. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts, he said, is faith expressing itself through love. Conversion will involve a miraculous change; when it doesn't then it is not true conversion. What sort of change? There will be the slaying of the beast within, the gathering of the discordant forces of the soul into harmony, the cleansing of a stained conscience, entry into a more abundant life, and a deep inner sense of fellowship with Christ. Conversion doesn't have

to be cataclysmic to be real either. The underlying facts are a new life, a new relationship. But it is as much a miracle as the calling forth of Lazarus from the dead.

O God, save us in the church from the peril of horizontal conversions-people changing in relation to one another but not in Your direction. We want the real and only the real. Send us Your Spirit in even greater measure. Amen.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/selwyn-hughes/conversion-a-miracle/>

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