

Recently thinking back on my discipleship, there was a continual challenge to contend for conversions. It was a major focus of my discipleship, and a major breakthrough for not only my discipleship but also my ministry. I want to highlight the vital importance and great need for conversions. And Jesus' call to make converts!

Matthew 28:18–20 (NCV) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. ¹⁹ So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age.”

I CONVERSION IS NECESSARY:

A- This passage is Jesus final words to his disciples! What is important to God? Conversion! V19 baptizing them.

1. Baptism is about a complete turning from your old life - and beginning a new life
 - a. John the Baptist applied this action to his message of repentance... Change your actions, change your lifestyle!
2. This reminds us that God's ultimate desire is conversion!
 - a. **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
 - b. **Mark 16:16** He that believes and is baptized shall he saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.
 - i. People don't just need to attend church, they need to be saved
3. We cannot be distracted from the conversion focus... we cannot be satisfied with anything less than conversions

B- Conversions are the future of every church...

1. This is where loyalty comes from: Churches will go through tough times: Saved people will fight it through - will last
 - a. Religious people will find something else-
2. Often times disciples are **Converts**-
 - a. Only people who are radically changed by supernatural revelation will lay down their lives .
3. Conversions is what brings glory to God: **John 15:8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
 - a. When Sinners are saved & transformed: God is glorified in that! Because only He can do that!

II FIGHTING FOR CONVERSIONS:

A- Conversion must be protected!

1. In the parable of the soils: Hell tries to prevent conversion!
 - a. **Matthew 13:19** When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.
2. Sometimes converts need to be protected from people.
 - a. Harmful convert killers... **John 12:5** That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." ... When Mary (a convert) anoints Jesus' feet, Judas chimes in on the waste!
 - i. People try to dissuade new believers from committing to Jesus-
 - ii Or the other extreme is that they push too hard to fast... **Luke 9:54** When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ... NO THAT IS NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER-

- b. Religious people... **Matthew 16:6** Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees... Religious people are so damaging they try to cling to converts, challenge them, pull on them-
 - i. Religious People: (a) They are dripping with religion, or they want to change things immediately, (b) Church Shoppers. They come with trouble. They left in trouble and are looking for gushing and position.

B- As a pastor, you must protect converts!

1. This is why we don't join with other churches: Your good converts meet people who have false doctrines or they don't preach against immorality... this becomes confusing for converts and hell uses it!
2. This is why Pastors need to get rid of damaging people!
 - a. They are afraid to... like its mean! PG calls this MISGUIDED COMPASSION: *If I don't allow everyone then I am not loving*

III. BELIEVING FOR CONVERSIONS

A- It is no accident that Jesus begins his commission with supernatural power

1. **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
 - a. We have to believe in God's power to save and convert people!
 - i. This is our city! These people should be in our church... All authority is given to me because Jesus saves!
 - b. You have to trust God to save and convert people
 - i. We want to rush or demand that people change... God is better at conversion than you are!
 - c. You have to personally fight for conversions:
 - i. You pray to come into contact with people who can be converted **Acts 16:14** As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.
 - ii. You fight for people in prayer: Pray converts through the fight, pray the devil off them, pray for revelation!