

MADENEW: STUDY GUIDE

The Beginning: Conversion

Conversion is turning from Sin (repentance) and turning to Christ (faith)

It is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.

A. Knowledge is not enough

1. Knowledge is important! (Rom 10:14)
2. Knowing Gods laws doesn't mean you like them. (Rom 1:32)
3. Even Demons *know*. (James 2:19)

B. Knowledge and Approval are not enough

1. Agreement is not saving faith.
 - a) Nicodemus knew Jesus was a true teacher but Jesus said he needed to be born again. (John 3:2)
 - b) King Agrippa knew and approved of the Jewish scriptures but did not have saving faith. (Acts 26:27-28)

C. I must decide to trust Jesus personally

1. Receiving is personal. (John 1:12)
2. Believe “into Him”. (John 3:16)
 - a) Greek for “believe in” is *pisteuō eis auto* which may be better translated “believe into Him” where our trust and confidence goes *into* and *rests* in Jesus as a person.
 - b) More than an intellectual action it includes “a moral element of personal trust.”

Note: Understanding, approval and trust must be present for conversion

D. Questions:

1. Have you come to “believe into Jesus” or are you still at the point of intellectual knowledge and emotional approval without placing your trust in Him?
2. Has this helped you think of faith in Christ in more personal terms?
3. Do you think it may be easier for young children than for adults to trust Christ the same way they may trust a real person who they see today? Why?