

HOW DOES THE SPIRIT WORK IN CONVERSION?

1. Text: I Peter 1:22-25
2. We deal today with one of the most misunderstood issues in the religious world: how does the Holy Spirit work in the conversion of sinners.

I. Explanation Of The Subject

1. Not at issue: the Holy Spirit's existence or power or concern for sinners.
2. Not His involvement in conversion: not the fact but the means or how.
3. Not the sincerity of people who claim things not true.
4. Not the testimony of man but the truth of God.
5. John 16:7-15 Spirit convicts the world. Plus John 17:20 those that believe "through their word."

II. Exposition Of Scripture

1. A multitude of passages affirm the word of God saves through the word.
2. Psalm 19:7 The Lord's law is perfect, converting the soul.
3. John 6:44-45 They shall all be taught of God; those that heard and learned of Father goes to me.
4. John 8:32 Know truth and truth frees.
5. Luke 8:11,15 Seed is word of God; these who hear and keep it.
6. Mark 16:15-16 Go and preach gospel.
7. Acts 15:7,9 By faith heart's purified; Romans 10:17 Faith by word of God.
8. Romans 1:16 Gospel is power of God unto salvation.
9. John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; James 1:18 He gives us birth by the word of truth.
10. I Corinthians 4:15 I begat you through the gospel.
11. I Corinthians 1:21 By the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe.
12. I Peter 1:22-25 Examine this text carefully.
13. Problems: confusion, contradictions, partiality (Acts 10:34-35), responsibility.

III. Examples Of The Standard

1. The conversions in Acts ought to show us how the Spirit works in conversions.
 2. Acts 2:37,40,41 When they heard, many words, received word.
 3. Acts 8:5,12 Philip preached, they heard, believed what he preached.
 4. Acts 8:29,35,39 Spirit said to Philip, preached from Scripture.
 5. Acts 9:5,6 Jesus appeared to him, sent to city to be told what to do. By whom?
 6. Acts 10:6,44; 11:15-18 Peter will tell you what to do to be saved.
 7. Acts 16:13,14 Spoke to them, Lord opened her heart.
 8. Acts 16:32 They spoke the word to the jailor.
 14. Acts 18:8 Many of Corinth heard, believed, were baptized.
 15. Acts 17:11,12 Examined Scripture and believed.
 16. We can resist the Spirit (Acts 7:51) or message delivered.

Conclusion: Sanctified by the Spirit (I Corinthians 6:11) and by the word of God (John 17:17).

