

## **Real Change: Conversion (Week 4)**

### **How Does This Change Happen?**

#### **Getting Started:**

1. Have you ever experienced a surprising, unexpected change in your life? How did it come about?

In the past few studies we've been considering conversion, the radical change that comes about when a person turns from their sin and trusts in Christ. In this study we're going to focus on how conversion happens.

#### **Main Idea:**

Through the gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God gives new life to spiritually dead sinners. Conversion happens when God grants us a new nature and supernaturally enables us to repent of our sins and believe the gospel.

#### **Digging in:**

##### **Read 1 Peter 1:22-25**

1. What does Peter exhort us to do in this passage?
2. On what basis does Peter exhort us to love each other?
3. By what means have we been born again (v. 23)?
4. What does it mean that the Word of God is "imperishable" seed (v. 23)? What does this teach us about the life we obtain through the new birth?
5. What is the "word of the Lord" that gives us the new birth (v. 25)?

## Read Ephesians 2:1-10

6. How does Paul describe our spiritual state before our conversion?
7. What happened to us to bring about such radical change (vv. 4-5)?
8. Why did God save us, give us new life, and raise us up with Christ (v. 4)? What does this teach us about God's character?
9. What are the results of conversion that this passage describes (vv. 5-10)?
10. What role do our good works play in salvation?
11. Why do you think it's important for a local church to clearly teach about how conversion happens? What will be some results of good or bad teaching on this topic?
12. Churches can affirm the doctrine of conversion, but then effectively rely on worldly devices to bring people to Christ instead of the Word and Spirit. What are some of the things we, as churches, can wrongly rely upon to "make the difference" in people's lives?
13. What are some ways that reflecting on our spiritual death and the new life God has sovereignly given should impact:
  - a. How we handle sin in our lives?
  - b. How we respond to criticism?
  - c. Our prayers for others?
  - d. Our relationships in the church?

