

**Psalm 119:59-60** From Strength to Strength: Converting to Christ

This series of ten messages is collectively titled, "From Strength to Strength" based upon **Psalms 84:7**: "**They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.**" This fifth message deals with the genuine conversion leading to salvation and an impactful walk for God.

**Psalm 119:59-60**: "**When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; 60 I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.**"

- Grammatical Usage: "**think**" or in the Hebrew, "chashab" meaning, "calculate; reckon"; "**turn**" or "shub" meaning, "return"; "**keep**" or "shamar" meaning, "perform; preserve"; "**commandments**" or "mitsvah" meaning, "prescriptions".
- Literal Interpretation: I calculated my ways and returned to your decrees. 60 I hurried, not hesitating to keep your prescriptions.

In this brief testimony the psalmist defines the meaning of scriptural and spiritual conversion specifically to Christ Himself. Of course, we can be converted to anything - to communism, fascism, Protestantism, Catholicism, or any other 'ism', so it is obviously not enough to speak about conversion. What does the Bible mean by conversion? The answer is given in these two verses: scriptural conversion is not to a man, to a religion, to a church or a creed, but it is conversion to a Person - or, perhaps we should say, to the three Persons in the Godhead. It is our whole life being turned into a right relationship with God whom we come to know as our loving Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ whom we trust as our personal Savior, all brought about by the work of and by submission to the Holy Spirit.

- Contextual/Comparison: God keeps His Word, God continually uses His Word. This subject is very important in the light of our Lord's own words recorded in **Matthew 7:14**. Notice exactly what conversion is and how it takes place:

1. Christian Conversion begins with Serious Consideration.

The words to underline here are, "**I have considered my ways**". If only people would stop and think - about God, about life, about sin, about time and about everlasting life! As a matter of fact, God asks us to do this very thing, and to face up to our need of His grace and of His salvation (**Isaiah 1:18**). Until we do this we shall never be converted, because conversion does not just happen. It is only when He brings us to think upon our sin and we are faced with a deep sense of our own need that we realize how much God loves us, how much Christ has done to procure our salvation and how much the Holy Spirit is striving to convert us. Conversion begins with serious consideration, and one of the best illustrations is that of the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:11-19**). The Prodigal "**came to his senses**" and notice that he only did this when he came to the end of himself resulting in dire straits. How often this is the case! It was then that he realized how foolish he had been and how much he needed his father's love and provision. Christian conversion begins with serious consideration. But notice this second point:

## 2. Serious Consideration leads to Definite Action.

The words to underline now are, “**I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.**” When a man thinks hard and seriously about God and salvation, his own soul and his soul’s need, he soon makes a decision that leads to action. Again in **Luke 15:20** that the Prodigal Son came to the point where “**he got up and went to his father.**” He turned his back on the old life and set out towards a new life. Think of the provision which the father made for him! Think of the love, peace and joy that filled his heart! Let the wonder of this scene fill your heart with gratitude as you think about the confession, the robe, the ring, the shoes, the food, the fellowship and the joy.

## 3. Definite Action leads to Loving Obedience.

The words to underline now are, “**I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.**” Definite action does not stop short at this point - it must lead to a life of obedience. Conversion is just the beginning of a life of joyful obedience to the Lord, of finding out His perfect will, and doing it (**Romans 12:2**). Consider these evidences of conversion and indications of loving obedience to the Lord and to His Word:

1. Zacchaeus: when he was converted he showed the reality of his conversion by his obedience to the Lord in making restitution for his sin (**Luke 19:1-10**).
2. Woman of Samaria: after her conversion she gave her testimony of how she had renounced her sinful ways, and this also led her to become an evangelist (**John 4:1-42**).
3. Saul of Tarsus: evidence that he had been truly converted was when he gave up persecuting the Church and became a humble apostle of the Lord whom he had denied (**Acts 22:1-15**).
4. Cornelius: his conversion led to a desire to evangelize his family, a desire which was granted when the Holy Spirit worked mightily (**Acts 10:1-48**).
5. The Queen’s Treasurer: he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and also demonstrated publicly his trust in Him by being baptized in front of all the officials travelling with him (**Acts 8:26-40**).
6. The Jailer. The evidence of his conversion was first of all seen when he washed the wounds of Saul and Barnabas, and later in his baptism and loving hospitality (**Acts 16:25-34**).
7. Those converted at Ephesus: evidence of their conversion was seen in the bonfire they made, testifying to a desire for a clean break with the old life (**Acts 19:18-19**).

These were initial evidences, things that happened immediately after these people or groups of people were converted. Scriptural conversion can be described in three words: (1) Stop. (2) Turn. (3) Obey.

- Stop in your tracks and repent of your sin (**Isaiah 55:6-7**)
  - Turn to the Lord, trust in Him as your personal Savior (**Romans 10:9-13**)
  - Give yourself wholly and obey Him every day (**John 2:5; 2 Samuel 15:15**)
- Conclusion: **Psalm 25:5** says, “**Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long.**” Truthfully, what are you waiting for today?