

Sermon Discussion Guide:

True and False Conversion

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 8:4–25**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

In some areas of life there are simple, objective tests to distinguish a counterfeit from an authentic specimen. Identifying a fake believer among true believers is not as straightforward. There are many who profess a faith in Christ, but who don't have true faith in Christ. There is true conversion and false conversion. Those who profess faith but don't really have it may just be confused or wish to fit in with a group. But we are to focus on what we were called to do and leave the outcomes to God. **The church is called to make disciples, but only God can make converts.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

John 1:43-46, Acts 21:9, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, Deuteronomy 18:10-14, Galatians 5:20, Acts 2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 13:1-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the fact that Philip went to Samaria to preach, and that Peter and John came down there to pray for the Holy Spirit to fall on the converts there? *[The apostles were fulfilling Jesus' direction in Acts 1:8 and demonstrating that the gospel is not only intended for orthodox Israel, but also for people from all the earth]*
2. What was the content of Philip's preaching? What does the text suggest was included and not included in his message to the people?
3. What does it mean that Acts 8:13 says that Simon believed and yet in Acts 8:20-23, Peter says that Simon's heart was not right before God and that he was in gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity? How could all these things be true? *[Reference Matthew 13:1-23]*
4. Pastor Joe shared the reality that no one can truly believe unless the Father draws them to Himself. This should free you to share the gospel. Does knowing the outcome is in God's hands make you feel more equipped to witness?
5. Have you been anxious about whether a professing believer is a true believer? Does this text and sermon help you reframe and resolve that anxiety?