

2. Things Are About to Change

Last week I talked about the fact that after conversion, things will change

In conversion, we are born again.

We are in fact born again into a new life, into a new kind of life

Emphasis: this new life of the new believer is *different* from the life we were living

We've been changed — changed people live in a changed way

SHOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE

Think back to your conversion and remember what happened

Understood what was happening

1. You were separated from God — death; sins forgiven

Formerly were not in relationship with God, but now are

Of course my new life as a believer is going to be different — I'm different

2. You certainly understood that you were called to "Repent"

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" (Acts 3:19 NIV)

- I changed my *thinking* about who Jesus is and what he did
- Committed to change my *actions* — turn my back on sin and to live new kind

1 Thess 1:9b

3. Perhaps in addition you understood that you had been *dead* in your sin

Made me alive — the very core, essence of who I am, has been fundamentally changed

Life of a living person is going to be different from the "life" of a dead person

Of course my new life as a believer is going to be different — I'm different

AND YET, MUCH MORE HAPPENED TO YOU THAN YOU PROBABLY REALIZED

Fill out the picture of conversion

The more you understand about the change that God worked in you

The more you will understand how different your new life will become

Your new life as a believer is going to be different because you are different

Before conversion

It was God who drew you to himself — guilty; emptiness

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (John 6:44).

Enabled you to respond in faith — Eph 2:8-9

At conversion

Rescued from kingdom of darkness and brought into his kingdom of light

Justified — acquitted of all guilt

Free from all condemnation — Jesus absorbed all of God’s wrath against sin

Redeemed — price paid; freedom secured from mastery / tyranny of sin

Sanctified — made holy (“imputation”)

Caused me to be born again — made me into a new creation

Adopted me as child of God, new family ... inheritance

Home, citizen of heaven

Given the Holy Spirit as a helper and guarantee of God’s promises

Of course life is going to be different

It can’t possibly be the same because I am not the same

Romans 6:2

Describe imagery of baptism

Not an act of salvation but an act of obedience — Great Commission

Public proclamation that God has changed you — risen to a new life

6:3-4

If you understand what actually happened in conversion

Of course my new life as a believer is going to be different — I'm different

WHAT DOES THIS NEW LIFE LOOK LIKE?

1. Life of discipleship — follower; learned

Not a spiritual spasm or a one-time emotional event

Conversion is the crucial first step in a new life

Mark 8:34 — “deny yourself”: relinquishment your will

Hurt, anger, “not my will but yours” forgive

Unfair — get even — “not my will ...” — kindness, humility

2. “Fruits of the Spirit”

God's Spirit (Holy Spirit/Ghost)

“Monotheism” — Shema — “Trinity” — God is one and yet three (Father/Son/HS) — mystery

Holy Spirit: drew you; enabled to respond to gospel; regenerated; guides and empowers you, gives you the ability, to bear fruit

“Bear fruit”

A healthy fruit tree produces fruit, so also a healthy Christian's life will change — changes are the “fruit”

Gal 5:22-23

May already have started to see some of these changes

Process; slow; stumbles

IS THIS CHANGE AUTOMATIC? WHAT IS MY ROLE, IF ANY?

1. Not automatic — you can fight against it and win

Mastery and tyranny of sin over you has been broken — don't have to sin

Sin is still present, and it is not passive but active force seeks to destroy

You've made a new enemy — Satan did not like losing you from his kingdom

2. The desire and ability to live the Christian life is all of God —co-operate (yield)

(Not salvation)

Phil 2:12-13

Romans 12:1-2

IV. CONCLUSION

We constantly need to be reminded to live by God's power

Prov 3:5-6

We are called to be the "Salt of the Earth" — life is different

If we understand what happens in conversion — ja; of course