

How People Become Christians

1. What does the word “*gospel*” mean?
2. What are the basic elements of the gospel? I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. How many gospels are there? Romans 1:16, 17
4. Romans 1:16, 17 tell us the gospel is to be believed. What do these passages tell us about the gospel? II Thessalonians 1:8, I Peter 4:17
5. Study Galatians 1:6-10. What does Paul tell us about the gospel in this passage?
6. Study the Great Commission as give by Jesus in these verses: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24: 46, 47. What does Jesus say is man’s appropriate response to the good news?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. **Compare what Jesus says with what denominational preachers say today:**

“ Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus by faith, as an act of the will. You can receive Christ right now by Faith Through Prayer. The following is a suggested prayer: ‘Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord.’ Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.’ “

By Dr. Bill Bright in his Tract [The Four Spiritual Laws](#)

 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

8. How does the Great Commission given by Jesus compare to the teaching given by Dr. Bill Bright? In what ways are they the same? In what ways are they different?

Ways they are the same:

Ways they are different:

9. **The problem is here:**

“We receive Jesus by faith, as an act of the will. You can receive Christ right now by Faith through Prayer.”

The first part of the statement is true; the second part is false. What is the “act of the will” that Jesus commands?

10. **Study Colossians 2:11, 12 and Galatians 3:26,27. Both of these are written by the apostle Paul. What is the “act of will” that Paul says to do in faith?**

11. **Think about question 4, and the fact that these verses tell us we need to obey the gospel. Romans 6:1-6 tells us how to do that. What is the manner of obedience?**

12. **On whose word will we stand and by whose word will we be judged?
Matthew 7:21-27; John 12:44-50**

The chart on the next page lists all the conversions mentioned in the book of Acts, the book of conversions. Study each conversion. Remember that people did not become Christians different ways. We are looking for the details of salvation and conversion in these stories. The Holy Spirit did not lie when He inspired the book of Acts. We are also looking to see if the “act of will,” the “sinner’s prayer,” prescribed by Dr. Bright is ever taught by the apostles in any of the conversions.

We will trust the Holy Scriptures—II Timothy 3:16-17

Fill in the chart with checks for each element mentioned in a conversion story.

Conversion	Faith or Belief	Repentance	Confess Christ	Baptism	Obedience	Sinner's Prayer
Jews on Pentecost Acts 2:14-41						
Jews Acts 5:12-14						
Priests Acts 6:7						
Samaritans Acts 8:4:12						
Simon Sorcerer Acts 8:13						
Ethiopian Acts 8:26-39						
Saul of Tarsus Acts 9:1-18 Acts 22:6-16 Acts 26:12-18						
Cornelius Acts 10						
Sergius Paulus Acts 13:4-12						
Antioch Pisidia Acts 13:13-48,52						
Iconium Acts 14:1						
Derbe Acts 14:20,21						
Lydia Acts 16:10-15						
The Jailer Acts 16:25-34						
Thessalonians Acts 17:1-4						
Berea Acts 17:10-12						
Athenians Acts 17:22-34						
Corinth Acts 18:1-8						
Ephesians Acts 19:1-5						

13. What did Paul preach everywhere? Acts 26:19,20

This will let us check a box in every conversion story beginning at Acts 13.
Read Romans 1:6 and Romans 1:25,26. What box would this let us check?

14. Considering what Jesus taught in the Great Commission and how people become Christians in the conversion stories, what "act of will" is implied in these verses:
I Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 5:26, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:22, Revelation 1:5