



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

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## WHAT IS CONVERSION?

This is part of a letter written to William Booth in the early days of the Salvation Army. "I am a stoker and engine driver, and I wonder how I have never had an explosion. On one occasion I had been drunk overnight, and was not very sober in the morning. I went to work at half past five, and without looking to see if there was any water in the boiler, I began stoking the fire up. The fright sobered me. It cost above 100 pounds before it was fit for work again. But that did not alter me, only for the worse. I broke up my home. I got worse after that and cared for nothing. Half my wages went on drink, my wife was afraid to speak to me, and the poor children would get out of my way. Afterwards I was discharged; but although I soon got another job, I could not leave off the drink. I reckon I was a regular drunkard. I have often had the police in for ill-using my wife. On one occasion she ran down to her mother's with her head bleeding; but I went to bed. When I awoke, I saw she was not there, so I went out and got drunk. I came home and got a large carving knife, put it up my sleeve and went to her mother's with the intention of killing her, but they saw the knife. The police were called in and I was taken to Spitalfields Station. But, no one coming to press the charge, I got off.

### **Given Up by Doctors**

Eight years ago God thought fit to lay me on a bed of sickness for 13 weeks, and I was given up by all the doctors. When I got better, people thought I would alter my life and become a steady man; but no, I was as bad as ever. While I was at work another time, drunk, I lost one of my eyes by an accident; but even that didn't make me a sober man, nor make me leave off swearing and cursing. I was generally drunk two or three times on Sundays. The Sunday I was convinced I was a sinner I had been drunk twice. I have reason to bless the hour that God put the thought into your head to open the mission at the East End of London, for it has been the means of making me and my family happy in the love of Christ; it has turned me from a drunkard, blasphemer and liar to a true believing Christian. I did not think there was so much happiness for me; but I do thank God for what He has done for me. He has changed my life, He has filled me full of love for Christ; and my greatest desire is to tell sinners what a dear Saviour I have found."

### **Wesley's Transformation**

How was it that John Wesley, who in 1727 could not move a single village, after 1739 could shake three kingdoms? How did it come to pass that Wesley, who was driven out of a small village as a mere human irritant, became a leader of whole generations? The answer is not found in the personal gifts of body or brain that Wesley possessed. These were exactly the same at both stages of his career. However, something came into his life by the door of conversion that transfigured his life. It was the power of God! Nicodemus, a religious leader, came to Jesus one night and was puzzled. Like most people he understood religion on its educational and tangible side, but the doctrine of conversion perplexed him. This is the teaching of Christ and hundreds of thousands---perhaps many more---in each generation can testify to the truth of this teaching. They have been transformed, their lives changed. They bear witness to the fact that the Spirit of God has given them a new perspective on life.

### **A Decisive Turning Point**

The conversion of men and women is mystical and hard to explain to the carnal person. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wills; you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it is going. So with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Conversion is a decisive turning point, a turning to God through faith in Christ by a sinner (and that means everyone) who now gains entry into the Kingdom of God and forgiveness of their sins. Conversion consists of repentance and faith. Repentance means a change of heart toward God; faith means to believe His Word and to trust in Christ. Conversion is an action; it is something you DO. It means to commit oneself to Christ in obedience. It means to enter into union with Him in life, in death and in resurrection with Him in eternal life. Turning to God is man's act, deliberately considered, freely chosen and spontaneously performed. And yet, it is God's work in him. Man responds to the Gospel only because God has first opened his eyes to the truth.

### **Born Anew from Above**

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a man has been born anew (from above) he cannot see the Kingdom of God." You cannot be born again by your own efforts. Being christened and confirmed, taking Holy Communion or just attending church is not enough. Neither is donating money or doing good deeds is necessary to find eternal life. All these things are what God considers to be works. They have their place in His scheme of things. But they are only secondary. The primary purpose of God's plan begins with conversion, by receiving the Spirit of God to come and dwell in you. Your outlook is not changed until you are born from above. The Scriptures make this abundantly clear, as the Apostle Paul has put it: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God...so then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...He will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit. If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

### **Sons of God**

Conversion is God's act---but He only acts after you have made the first step. You must decide in your mind to put your trust in Him and hand yourself over to His guidance. This entails confessing your faith to others, admitting that He has become your Lord and Saviour. You are now born anew, born from above and led by His Spirit. From this time on you don't live for yourself but for Him! If you are willing to do this you will be able to say, with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." Be assured, "If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit these are sons of God" and "the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs---heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together, for I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

### **PRAYER**

Lord God Almighty, as Your Spirit-filled servants cleansed in the blood of Christ, we thank You that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We faithfully rest on Christ alone in His victory on the cross enabling us to pull down all the powers of Satan's evil schemes. Dear Lord, release your River of Life over all lost souls in this evil world to deeply repent of their sins and obey the commands in Your Word. Sovereign Lord, we thank You that Your judgment is unquestionable, Your ways are unfathomable and that Your will is eternal. Blessed Holy Spirit, in Your power and wisdom we pray that we all may have a personal relationship to bring us into line with the Father's divine will which is to save all who are spiritually lost. May they know the joy of finding Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords and who will reign over us all in His coming Kingdom of Righteousness, Peace and Joy, to the glory and honour of our eternal Creator and God Almighty, forever and ever. Amen.

**R.A:** Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

**REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.**