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## The Morphing Power Of Conversion

(Somewhere beyond mere belief something amazing happens)

(SERIES: Loving God Without Becoming An A. S. K. : 05 of 11)  
by Dr. David Foster

"Jesus replied, 'With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: UNLESS YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, YOU CAN NEVER GET INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.' 'Born again!' exclaimed Nicodemus. 'What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?' Jesus replied, 'What I am telling you so earnestly is this: Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven; so don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again! Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom he will next bestow this life from heaven.'" (John 3:3-8 TLB)

### A Life Beyond Belief

#### Belief can just be information.

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **demons** believe that--and shudder." (James 2:17-19 NIV)

#### Belief can just be tradition.

#### Belief can just be sentimentality.

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### The Mechanics Of Conversion

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor 5:17-21)

#### There must be a moment of confrontation.

#### There must be a moment of conviction.

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'" (Luke 5:8 NIV)

#### There must be a moment of contrition.

"**Godly sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Cor 7:10 NIV)

#### There must be a moment of confession.

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, '**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is near.'" (Mat 4:17 NIV)

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'" (Rom 10:9-11 NIV)

"But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them." (John 1:12 TLB)

#### There ought to be a lifetime of celebration.

"I tell you that in the same way there will be **more rejoicing** in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:7 NIV)

### The Conversion Effect

#### A peace that passes understanding.

"So now, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith in his promises, we can have real peace with him because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. For because of our faith, he has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to actually becoming all that God has had in mind for us to be." (Rom 5:1-2 TLB)

#### A new set of expanding desires.

"**Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Mat 5:6 NIV)

#### A passion for the life of divine intention.

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for **such a time as this?**" (Est 4:14 NIV)