

The Doctrine of Conversion

I. Faith and Repentance Are Inseparable Aspects of Conversion

First, sometimes only faith is explicitly mentioned as necessary in coming to Christ for salvation.

John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9

Second, sometimes only repentance is explicitly mentioned as necessary in coming to Christ for salvation.

Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

Third, sometimes faith and repentance are mentioned together as necessary in coming to Christ for salvation.

Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Hebrews 6:1

Wayne Grudem also summarizes this relationship well when he writes that:

Scripture puts repentance and faith together as different aspects of the one act of coming to Christ for salvation. It is not that a person first turns from sin and next trusts in Christ, or first trusts in Christ and then turns from sin, but rather that both occur at the same time. When we turn to Christ *for* salvation from our sins, we are simultaneously turning *away* from the sins that we are asking Christ to save us from. If that were not true our turning to Christ for salvation from sin could hardly be a genuine turning to him or trusting in him. (*Systematic Theology*, p. 713)

II. Faith and Repentance Continue Throughout the Christian Life

First, it is clear that repentance must continue in the Christian life.

Matthew 6:12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Revelation 3:19-20

Second, it is clear that faith must continue in the Christian life.

Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:14; 10:35-39

We must agree with the assessment found in *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Biblical Truth*., in a section entitled “Gifts That Keep On Giving”:

As a divine gift, then, repentant faith that saves can never be transient or temporary. It has an abiding quality that guarantees it will endure to the end, so that repentance and faith characterize the lifestyle of the true Christian. (John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue, General Editors, pp. 595-596)