

Conversion

Kyle Eggleston
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When the Savior's Disciples asked him "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." [1]

In that wonderful teaching moment, the Savior tells us that we must become as little children. Brothers and sisters, children are teachable. We must become like them to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must become teachable, ready and willing to learn in order for us to increase in wisdom and grow spiritually. We must also be humble to allow the Holy Ghost to teach us and help us in our lives.

The savior also stated that we must become converted. What is conversion? The Bible Dictionary tells us the following: Conversion "denotes changing one's views, in a conscience acceptance of the will of God."

A major aspect of conversion is to turn our hearts towards God. This is often referred to in the scriptures as a mighty change of heart.

After King Benjamin completed his address to his people, he desired to know “if they believed the words which he had spoken unto them.”

“And they all cried with one voice, saying: Yea, we believe all the words which thou has spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.” [2]

Once a person is converted unto the Lord, they see that many of their brothers and sisters on earth are going through life not knowing the purpose of it all. Some of them are even “...tossed to and fro, and [are] carried about with every wind of doctrine...” [3]

As we see these people, our hearts go out to them, we want to help them have the same happiness and peace we enjoy as we ourselves have found the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I would like to suggest three ways in which members may assist their friends to become converted unto Jesus Christ.

First. Be a friend and an example to those around you. In a previous area, my companion and I were visiting a ward member one evening. Since the Gospel of Jesus Christ had brought so much joy and peace into his life, he wanted to share it with his neighbors.

This brother had one concern, he didn’t know what to do. The answer to his question

was an important one. Be a friend and an example. One of the best ways to set an example for others is to live Christ-like lives and to pay full attention to the Lord when he said to the Nephites:

“...I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect.” [4]

Second. Show love. Love is one of the best ways we can show our brothers and sisters that we care about them and their welfare. Alma taught his people “that every man should love his neighbor as himself, that there should be no contention among them.” [5]

President Hinckley has stated:

“Let us love our neighbors. Many regard us with suspicion...having only one interest and that is to convert them. Conversion is more likely to come as a consequence of love.” [6]

By showing love, we can help bless the lives of others.

Third. Members can answer questions and bear testimony to their friends. The missionaries can't be everywhere at once, we need your assistance to share your knowledge of the gospel with your friends and neighbors.

A testimony is one of the most special things we have and we should have a desire to share it with others.

President Hinckley said the following about testimony:

“Personal testimony is the factor which turns people around in their living as they

come into this Church. This is the element which motivates the membership to forsake all in the service of the Lord. This is the quiet, encouraging voice which sustains without pause those who walk in faith down to the last days of their lives.” [7]

I know that as we be a friend, show love, and bear testimony to our non-member friends, we will be able to help them come closer to the Savior to help them start a journey to return to our Heavenly Father one day.

1. Matthew 18:1-4
2. Mosiah 5:1-2
3. Ephesians 4:14
4. 3 Nephi 12:48
5. Mosiah 23:15
6. Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, April 1998
7. Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, April 1998