

## Two Essentials of the Christian Life

Given by Jesus to Paul in Acts 26:18

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In Acts 26 Paul is giving his defence before King Agrippa. From verse 12 to 23 Paul is describing his conversion on the road to Damascus, when Jesus speaks to Paul and outlines the ministry that Jesus is calling him to.

**In verses 17 and 18, Jesus says to Paul,  
“I am sending you to the Gentiles,  
to open their eyes,  
turn them from darkness to light,  
from the power of satan to God,**

**that they may receive forgiveness of sins,  
and an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in Me.” (That is in Jesus Christ)**

### **The steps of our conversion are:**

having our **eyes opened**, (that is the spiritual eyes of our hearts, opened to see the light of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wow! I never knew that!

Jesus Christ died on the Cross for my sins and rose again the third day. 1Corinthians 15:3, 4.  
And I believe it.)

being **turned from darkness to light**, (so that we see and acknowledge the truth, about our need of the salvation of God through the Lord Jesus Christ, confessing our sins, believing in Jesus Christ, and receiving Him as Lord and Saviour.)

and being **turned from the power of satan to the power of God**. (so that the power of the Holy Spirit is now at work in us, transforming us as believers in Jesus Christ, **setting us apart from all evil** so that we **are new people in Jesus Christ**, growing into His likeness.)

### **And the two essentials of the Christian life are:**

**To receive forgiveness of our sins**, from the righteous and holy Almighty God, the Father in Heaven, through faith in the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, on the Cross. 1Corinthians 15:3, Matthew 26:28, 1John 1:7, Romans 5:9, Revelation 1:5

**And secondly, an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ our Lord**.

The moment we believe in Jesus Christ **the process of sanctification** begins in us.

The Holy Spirit starts **setting us apart from** all that is sinful, evil, and wicked, Romans 3:10-19, Galatians 5:19-21, and starts **setting us apart unto all that is of the likeness of Jesus Christ**. Galatians 5:22, 23, Ephesians 4:22-24, Ephesians 5:1-6, 9, 10, Colossians 3:5-9, 10-15, Romans 13:14, 1Thessalonians 4:3, 4, 7, Hebrews 12:14, 1Peter 1:15, 16  
(The words “holy” and “sanctified” mean to be “set apart”.)

**The first essential** is to be cleansed from the **guilt of sin**, of doing things that are contrary to God’s will. Romans 5:8, 10, 1John 1:9

**The second essential** is to be set apart from **the power or control of sinful habits**, such as anger, lust, immorality, adultery, stealing, swearing, pride, fear, hate, unforgiveness, telling lies, murder, unkindness, and the like.

We receive **forgiveness of our sins** through confessing our sins to God, and asking Him to forgive us through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ. 1John 1:9, Revelation 1:5, 1John 1:7

We receive **deliverance from the power and habits of sin**, by faith in the promises of God to totally set us free. As we believe the promises of God in our hearts, claim them and proclaim them out aloud, the power of sin to hold us captive is broken and we are set free. Deuteronomy 30:11-14, 2Corinthians 4:13, 2Peter 1:3, 4, 1John 1:9, Romans 6:6, 11, 14, 22

### **We all want to go to heaven to be with God.**

It is necessary for us to have received **forgiveness of our sins** and **to have lived a holy, sanctified life**, becoming more and more like Jesus each day, as best we are able.

These are **the two essentials** which Jesus spoke to Paul on the Damascus Road. Acts 26:18