Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:12-29

Singing: 227:1-3 – 428:1, 2, 7 – 384:1-5 – 203:1-5

Question: *How do I know I am truly converted?*

A. Not safe: by comparing yourself to *other conversion stories*

 1. Some are *religious* yet *barren of godliness* (Titus 3:3; Mark 10:17)

 2. Jesus warns about *deceitfulness of heart* (Matt 5:20 – 7:21-23 – 1

 Cor. 13:1-3)

B. Safe: by examining yourself against the *Scriptural marks of new life*

 1. 2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is new creature:*

 *old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**Two Distinguishing Marks of a True Conversion (1)**

I. The Evidence of Spiritual Life II. The Presence of Spiritual Battle

**I. The Evidence of spiritual life**

A. A true conversion is *not a one-time-event*

 1. Compare conception and life beyond

 a. point of conception is like ***regeneration***(John3:8)

b. growth and life are ***conversion***(1 Thess. 1:9)

B. If a true conversion is *spiritual life*, what are the ‘vital signs’?

 1. Scripture doesn’t make *our conversion* ***story***the vital sign

 2. Scripture identifies *two vital signs* of a new birth and the new life

 a. Mortification of the old man

 b. Quickening of the new man

 3. If you can’t deny these two *vital signs,* then rejoice: Phil 1:5; Col. 1:11

 a. Jesus encouraged His disciples to rejoice: Matt. 5:12; Luke 10:20

 b. resist those who discourage rejoicingin the *day of small things*

C. The characteristics of the *two signs* in *question-form*

 1. Do you have sincere sorrow of heart @ provoking God with your sin?

 a. Does sin gall your day because sin *dishonors God*? Ps. 40:12; 51:4

 b. Does sin mainly bother because it disqualifies you from heaven?

2. Do you more and more hate sin and flee from them?

 a. Are all sins your mortal enemy?

 b. Do you (still) struggle with the attractions of sin?

 c. Are you resolutely resisting and running from sin?

 3. Do you find real and sweet joy in God as revealed in Christ?

 a. Do you share anything of David’s gladness in Ps. 4:7?

 b. Is your heart ever responding to God and Jesus like the men to

 Emmaus: *abide with us, for the day is far spent?*

c. How do you answer Jesus’ question: *Will you also go away from*

 *Me?*

 4. Do you find love and delight to live holy before God and men?

 a. How much does David echo your innermost heart: *the statutes*

 *of the Lord are right, rejoicing my heart; more desirable than*

 *gold, yea, that much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the*

 *honeycomb?*

Concluding reflection: *By the fruits we shall know if we are converted!*

***Our estimate of Christ and His Law is the best gauge of our spirituality.***

***The best measure of spiritual life is not its ecstasies but its obedience, the same way marital love isn’t measured in its romantic feelings but in the sacrificial actions of serving and giving with joy.***