

June 28, 2020



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.



Pastor Peter Erratt: peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Pastor Dennis Burriss: dennis@bethanybaptist.ab.ca



3901 44 St.
Red Deer, AB
T4N 1G7



403-347-7900 or 403-343-0855



office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca



www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca

Today - Sunday, June 28

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Also Livestreamed]

Pastor Peter Erratt

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Church Wide Prayer Meeting [via Zoom]

Children's Ministries

Children's Church: activity pages emailed weekly

Wednesdays

Senior High Youth

→ 6:30 p.m. at the church

→ Google Hangouts group chat for fellowship

-Fellowship-

Important Notes!

1. Please contact the church office with any questions, concerns, or comments.
2. If you wish to have a CD of the service please contact the church office.
3. Donations may be made online on the church website, www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca, also by mail, or dropped off at the church office (no cash over \$100 please).
4. We are looking for volunteers for our audio/visual team for Sunday services, contact the church office if you are interested.

Question: "What is a faith conversion? What does it mean to be converted?"

Article from www.gotquestions.org

Answer: To convert is to change from one character, type, or purpose to another. Our bodies convert food into energy. We can convert inches to centimeters, pounds to kilograms, and dollars to euros. Our hearts can undergo similar conversions. We can change direction morally, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. We are what we think ([Proverbs 23:7](#)). In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word translated "converted" means "to turn back or return." It is also translated "restore," as in [Psalm 23:3](#), "He restores my soul." The picture the Bible paints of the word *convert* is to return to what we were initially created to be.

Since the fall of mankind, every human has been born with a sin nature. Our natural tendency is to please ourselves rather than God. Our human attempts to be good fall far short of the perfection of God ([Romans 3:10, 23](#); [Isaiah 53:6](#)). We cannot please God through our own efforts and are destined for eternal separation from Him ([Romans 6:23, 8:8](#); [John 3:16-18](#)); we cannot convert ourselves. That's why Jesus came to earth, died in our place, and rose again to conquer death and sin ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#)). He took the punishment our sin deserves. He offers to trade His perfection for our imperfection so that we can be seen as righteous before God ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

When we admit our helplessness apart from Christ, we are ready to embrace Him as Savior and Lord ([Acts 3:19](#); [Romans 10:9](#)). Conversion happens when we trade our old sin nature for the new nature Christ provides. When we come to Him humbly, confess our sin, turn away from it, and seek His ways, our entire perspective changes. The Holy Spirit moves into our spirits and transforms our entire way of life ([Acts 2:38](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)). We are *converted*—restored to the relationship God intended us to have with Him. [Second Corinthians 5:17](#) says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." This is more than a human attempt to "clean up your act." It is a wholesale change of direction. You were going east; now you are going west. Conversion changes

the human heart from sinful to righteous, from hell-bound to heaven-bound.

The Bible has many examples of people who were converted by the grace of God. The Christian-hating Saul became **Paul**, who devoted the rest of his life to serving the church he once tried to destroy ([1 Corinthians 15:9](#); [Ephesians 3:7-8](#)). The impetuous and condemning John was transformed into the "apostle of love" (see [1 John 4:7-21](#)). The demoniac of Gerasene, after meeting Jesus, was "dressed and in his right mind" and begging to follow Jesus ([Mark 5:15-18](#)). The Holy Spirit has lost none of His power. Modern conversion stories include the amazing transformations of John Newton, Mel Trotter, David Berkowitz, and Chuck Colson.

This is all accomplished through faith. Faith is placing your whole life into the hands of Someone your spirit recognizes but your physical senses cannot confirm ([Hebrews 11:1](#)). [Hebrews 11:6](#) says that "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." We are saved from our old sin nature and the penalty of that sin through faith in Jesus Christ. But even that faith is a gift from God ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). God gives us the faith to believe in Him, but we must receive it and act on it. Exercising that gift of faith results in conversion.

Conversion begins in the heart and radiates outward to affect everything we think, say, or do ([James 2:26](#)). Merely stating that conversion has occurred does not make it so. Real conversion is obvious as a person switches direction, changes allegiance and moves from self-worship to God-worship. As the heart is transformed, the actions follow until the entire life has been converted from sin-filled to God-honoring ([Romans 6:6-7](#)).

Recommended Resource: [Faith Alone, The Doctrine of Justification: What the Reformers Taught and Why It Still Matters by Thomas Schreiner](#)

Prayer Opportunities

Pray for our Missionaries.
Refer to your "In the Fold"
Missionary Prayer Cards

- **Acute Health Needs:**
- **Adult:** Women's Ministry
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** Swan Hills Baptist, Swan Hills, AB

To send a Prayer Request or join the Prayer Line: Phone or email the church office

Small Groups Ministry

Coordinator: Martin Scholz

- **Blankestijn - call:** Addie & Diana ([Fridays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Scholz - call:** Martin & Lorna (Two [Sundays](#) per month after the service)
- **Shortt/Reeve - call:** Doug & Joan ([Wednesdays](#) 7:00 p.m.)
Don & Patricia
- **Smith - call:** Tom & Tina ([Wednesdays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Street - call:** Dave & Laurel

As a way to serve and shepherd our church family better, the Elders Board would like to invite your prayer requests, comments, and questions to the Elder associated with your last name.

Elder Shepherd Groups

A - B (Richard Klassen); C-D (Pastor Peter Erratt); Du - Han (Addie Blankestijn); Har - Kom (Lyndon Unger); Kow - Me (David Street); Mu - Ree (Tom Smith); Rei - Sm (Don Collier); St - Z (Pastor Dennis Burriss)

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.