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Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi, Kenya.

The book has also been translated into three
languages in Ethiopia – Amharic, Oromo and
Somali.



[Forward – Murungi Igweta, a pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi]

Stories of God’s abounding grace to sinners are always a welcome music in a believer’s ear. I love listening to testimonies of conversions when interviewing people for church membership. But when these stories are told by God himself in his own Word, they become life to others. This book *Conversion* captures nineteen biblical testimonies of salvation of various people in the New Testament. Some people were indeed brought from death to life like Zacchaeus while others had spurious faith like Simon Magus – it is a very surgical analysis.

The book divides into three parts: Conversions in the Gospels, Conversions in Acts and Part III covers Conversions in the Letters. Each testimony deals with different aspect of salvation so that this would make an excellent read in straightening any one’s theology on the doctrine of salvation. For instance, if you consider the Conclusion which gives the order of salvation (*Ordo Salutis*) then you will see the rich and biblical soteriology that he presents so powerfully.

Education is all about grouping of information and classification of data. Keith Underhill, who is himself a trained educationist, has done a great job in helping us see how God moves in mysterious ways as he saves different individuals and groups of sinners in providence. There is no doubt that God turns around lives of different people graciously, yet in time and space, by the power of his gospel to bring them to the feet of Christ. It helps to see that while some people may remember the hour of grace and may rejoice like Saul of Tarsus, yet the vast majority of believers may never really know with certainty when the Spirit replaced their hearts of stone with that of flesh like Timothy.

The author is himself a recipient of God’s grace and an experienced pastor with over 40 years ministry in Kenya. He was both a pioneer missionary and a church planter, having planted

Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi in 1978 by God's help. Therefore, his wise counsel on a true testimony of conversion in the appendix is so helpful and practical. Questions such as, "What does a Biblical testimony of conversion look like? How can you know if your testimony is genuine? What should you listen for in a person who is giving a testimony in order for them to be brought into church membership?" Come in handy, not just for a young believer examining one's own conversion, but also for a young pastor who is planting a church and even for a pastor who wants to panel beat a church that wants to move in a more biblical direction.

The book tells these stories with crystal clarity and toddler's simplicity and yet with deep insight, tightening each thought by a careful exegetical hermeneutic. He carefully admits the danger of getting our doctrine from experiences recorded in the Bible, and labours to back up any conclusion made with specific doctrinal statements through exposition of passages. The end result is a breath-taking tapestry of God's grace in the salvation of sinners.

May this book be used of God to draw his elect from every corner of the earth to Christ. May the church of Christ be strengthened as people see how God saves sinners. But most importantly, I pray, that all these will be to the praise of God's glory.

Part I: Conversions in the Gospels

1. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector: Two Praying Men
2. Zacchaeus: an Inquisitive Tax Collector
3. Nicodemus: an Interested Pharisee
4. Bartimaeus: a Blind Beggar
5. The Prodigal Son: a Rebel
6. The Rich Young Ruler: a Disappointed Seeker
7. The Criminal: a Most Wicked Man
8. The Parable of the Sower: Four Hearers

[Question: Were people converted the same way before Pentecost as after?]

Part II: Conversions in Acts

9. The Pentecost Worshipers: the First Christians
10. Simon Magus: a False Convert
11. The Ethiopian Eunuch: a Proselyte
12. Saul of Tarsus: a Persecutor
13. Cornelius: a Roman Soldier
14. Lydia: a Business Woman
15. The Philippian Jailer: a Raw Pagan

Part III: Conversions in the Letters

16. The Romans: Slaves
17. Timothy: a Christian Upbringing
18. The Thessalonians: Idolaters
19. Paul: the Apostle