

## **“The Theology of Conversion”**

**Pastor Kent Groethe**

The road to Emmaus story is a paradigm of how people are converted to Christ. Every conversion has four participants. All four are essential actors involved whenever someone comes to a saving faith in Jesus Christ:

### **1. SATAN**

*“Their eyes were kept from recognizing [Jesus].*

Luke 24:16

*“The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel.”*

2 Corinthians 4:4

Jesus told Paul he was sending him to people to *“open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.”*

Acts 26:18

### **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*“Their eyes were opened, and they recognized [Jesus].”*

Luke 24:39

*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked to us on the road and opened the scriptures to us.”*

Luke 24:32

*“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts.”* Luther’s explanation of 3<sup>rd</sup> article of AC.

*“The gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it. Rather I received it by revelation.”*

Galatians 1:11-12

## **GOD’S WORD**

*“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all of Scriptures concerning himself.”*

Luke 24:27

*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us and opened the Scriptures to us.”*

Luke 24:32

*“Faith comes from hearing and hearing the word of God.”*

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

*“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”*

Romans 1:16

*“The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to respond to Paul’s message.”*

Acts 16:14

## **THE CHURCH**

*“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them...’What are you discussing together as you walk along?”*

Luke 24:15 and 17

God made the church (and individual Christians) the administrators of his Word. The Spirit alone creates faith, but he does it through the Word. And it is us, the church, alone who has the ability to proclaim it.

*“How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard. And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent. As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?””*

Romans 10:14-15