

When a Muslim Decides to Follow Jesus

A growing number of Muslims, after exposure to the Bible and Christian witnesses, are indicating a desire to become followers of Christ. They are discovering that Christ alone fills the void in their hearts and brings them into relationship with God as a loving heavenly Father.

Unfortunately, the Church is not always ready to receive and nurture them. The fear of false motives and the open hostility and persecution of the Muslim community are two reasons that Christian churches have not welcomed Muslim converts. However, the Muslim is easily attracted to *spiritual vitality*.

When a Muslim begins seriously considering following Christ, a period of testing motives is usual.

1. If he finds that the Christian will yield to using money or any other enticement to get him to convert, he will lose respect for him.
 2. If he finds the Christian to be sincere in his trust in Christ, he will have more confidence in trusting him with his spiritual nurture.
- C. Suspicion is an integral part of the fear motive governing Islamic society, and the Muslim will need to be sure he can trust Christians. The information he shares in private should not be repeated unless he gives permission.
- D. Conversion to Christianity has very grave consequences for most Muslims.
1. In an Islamic society, there is no separation of church and state. The law of the *Koran* is the rule of all citizens and to convert is an act of treason.
 2. For a Muslim to become a Christian may cause a life-threatening situation. Christians must be aware of the price that many Muslims pay to identify with Jesus Christ.
- E. The Muslim who accepts Christ will have a need for personal Bible study.
- F. You will want to know the convert's family situation.
1. Encourage him to witness discreetly to his family by sharing his new discoveries in the Bible.
 2. Visit in his home and make friends with his family.
- G. At every opportunity, pray with and for the new convert. Teach him to pray using the Lord's Prayer as a model.

- H. Muslims often receive insights through dreams and visions. Help him understand these, using Scripture as the basis for your interpretation.
- I. Islam has incorporated elements of the occult from pre-Islamic paganism in Arabia. You will learn to take seriously what the Bible says about the spirit world as you share the thoughts of the Muslim.
- J. Encourage the new convert to become a part of a fellowship that will nurture his spiritual growth.
- K. Let the convert make his own decision about believer's baptism. Because of the threatened loss of family, job, and even his life, he may request private baptism.
- L. Equally important, he needs the daily presence of the Holy Spirit operating in his life, teaching him the meaning of the Scriptures.
- M. It is of utmost importance that the new believer senses the unity of the Holy Spirit between various churches. Denominationalism is not our message.