



## Verses 8-10

### The Conversion

John is stating that our spiritual conversion (“repentance”) should “bring forth” or bear fruits in our lives that indicates to others the change in our hearts. What kinds of fruit should we bring forth? (**Galatians 5:22**) (**Matthew 5:3-9**) The Apostle Paul said that we should “work out our salvation”, which means that Christians should be in active pursuit of obedience to God’s Word (**Philippians 2:12**) (**Acts 26:20**). We have to train our mind and body to seek after the things of God and only then will we bear fruits for others to see. Repentance is known by good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). These religious sects had the mentality that their lineage through Abraham (chosen race) would secure them spiritually. To trust in one’s physical ancestry shifts the focus of faith away from God. What about us? Who or what do we trust to save us? Is it our family ties, church attendance, reputation, education, or financial stability? Just like sitting in a garage won’t make you a car, sitting in church every Sunday won’t make you a Christian. The truth is that only our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can save us now and forever (**Acts 16:31**). Abraham’s true children are not merely physical descendants, but those who follow the ways of God and believe God’s Word (**Romans 9:8**) (**Romans 4:11, 16**) (**Galatians 3:7**). Remember, if our faith does not change us, then we might want to examine our faith.

## Verses 11-12

### The Comparison

We see the comparison between Christ and John. Christ was “mightier” not only because He is God, but His ministry was exercised with greater power and authority, with mighty works and miracles, which were followed with the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit. Notice John’s humility, the phrase “whose shoes....to bear” means that John considered himself unworthy to even be a servant of Christ. The text tells us that people from all over were flocking to John (vs. 5). At such a time when his popularity rating was at an all time high, he admitted to Christ’s supremacy. He willingly pointed out Christ (**John 1:29**), supported His ministry, and did not try to overshadow Christ in any way. Would anyone of us relinquish our position for someone else’s benefit in the church, at home or at work especially when we are at the height of our glory? In verse 12, we see that Christ has a fan in His hand. A fan is a tool for tossing grain into the wind so that the chaff is blown away. This verse states “His wheat”, which refers to those who have made Christ their redeemer while the chaff represents the unbelievers (**Psalms 1:4**). Reading this verse, we need to ask ourselves are we “his wheat” or the chaff (**Haggai 1:5**)? Remember, obedience brings opportunity, but disobedience brings discipline. There is a destiny for both the wheat and the chaff. Are we ready for His coming?