

Acts 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Analysis

Lydia's conversion demonstrates divine initiative: 'whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.' God's opening hearts precedes and enables gospel response. This prosperous businesswoman became Christianity's first European convert and immediately offered hospitality, showing faith's practical expression.

Historical Context

A seller of purple goods from Thyatira (Asia Minor) living in Philippi, Lydia was a 'God-fearer' (Gentile who worshiped Israel's God) when Paul met her at riverside prayer (AD 50). Her home became the Philippian church's meeting place.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does God 'opening hearts' teach about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human response?
2. How did Lydia's immediate hospitality demonstrate genuine conversion versus mere intellectual assent?

Interlinear Text

καί τις γυνὴ ὀνόματι Λυδία πορφυρόπωλις πόλεως
And a certain woman named Lydia a seller of purple of the city
G2532 G5100 G1135 G3686 G3070 G4211 G4172

Θυατείρων σεβομένη τὸν θεόν ἤκουεν ἡς ὁ
of Thyatira which worshipped God heard us whose ó
G2363 G4576 G3588 G2316 G191 G3739 G3588

κύριος διήνοιξεν τὴν καρδίαν προσέχειν τοῖς
the Lord opened G3588 heart that she attended G3588
G2962 G1272 G2588 G4337

λαλουμένοις ὑπὸ τοῦ Παύλου
unto the things which were spoken of Paul
G2980 G5259 G3588 G3972

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:45 (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Isaiah 50:5 (References God): The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Revelation 3:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Romans 9:16 (References God): So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Acts 11:21 (References Lord): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Philippians 2:13 (References God): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Revelation 3:7 (Parallel theme): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Acts 18:7 (Worship): And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.