

Acts 16:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Analysis

Lydia's conversion demonstrates God's sovereign grace - 'whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.' Divine initiative precedes human response; God opens hearts to enable faith. Lydia's immediate response - baptism and hospitality - shows genuine conversion produces both public identification and practical generosity.

Historical Context

Lydia was a 'seller of purple' from Thyatira, indicating substantial wealth (purple dye was expensive). Her conversion brought resources and leadership to the fledgling Philippian church, showing how God strategically converts those positioned to advance His kingdom.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's initiative in opening hearts affect how you pray for and witness to others?
2. What does Lydia's immediate baptism and hospitality teach about authentic conversion's visible fruits?

Interlinear Text

ώς δὲ ἐβαπτίσθη καὶ ὁ οἶκόν αὐτῆς παρεκάλεσεν
when And she was baptized and G3588 house her she besought
G5613 G1161 G907 G2532 G3624 G846 G3870

λέγουσα εἰ κεκρίκατέ με πιστὴν τῷ κυρίῳ εἶναι
us saying If ye have judged me faithful G3588 to the Lord to be
G3004 G1487 G2919 G3165 G4103 G2962 G1511

εἰσελθόντες εἰς τὸν οἶκόν μου μείνατε καὶ παρεβιάσατο
come into G3588 house my and abide and she constrained
G1525 G1519 G3624 G3450 G3306 G2532 G3849

ἡμᾶς

us

G2248

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:2 (Parallel theme): Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Acts 11:14 (Parallel theme): Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

Acts 16:33 (Baptism): And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Genesis 19:3 (Parallel theme): And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Luke 24:29 (Parallel theme): But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

1 Peter 5:12 (Faith): By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

Philemon 1:17 (Parallel theme): If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

3 John 1:5 (Faith): Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3 John 1:8 (Parallel theme): We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Ephesians 1:1 (Faith): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: