

# Acts 16:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

## Analysis

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**And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**—The simplest gospel presentation in Scripture: salvation by faith alone in Christ alone. **Believe on** (πίστευσον ἐπί) means trust resting upon Christ as object, not mere mental assent. **The Lord Jesus Christ** identifies Jesus as sovereign deity (Lord), Messiah (Christ), and savior (Jesus='Yahweh saves'). **Thou shalt be saved** (σωθήσῃ) promises certain salvation—future indicative, not hypothetical possibility. **And thy house** extends the promise to his household, fulfilled immediately (v.34) as his family believed and was baptized. This doesn't teach proxy faith but corporate evangelism.

## Historical Context

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Paul's immediate answer to the jailer's question (v.30). The simplicity reflects the urgent moment—no lengthy sermon, just the gospel essence. **They spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house** (v.32) indicates fuller explanation followed. The jailer washed their wounds (v.33a), then Paul baptized him and his household (v.33b), demonstrating salvation's immediate fruit: compassion and public Christian identification.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### Study Questions

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1. How does the simplicity of 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' challenge complex religious systems?
2. What does 'and thy house' teach about family evangelism versus individual-only gospel presentations?

### Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	εἶπον,	Πίστευσον	ἐπὶ	τὸν	κύριον	Ἰησοῦν
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>they said</b>	<b>Believe</b>	<b>on</b>	G3588	<b>the Lord</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
	G1161	G2036	G4100	G1909		G2962	G2424
Χριστὸν,	καὶ	σωθήσῃ	σὺ	καὶ	ὁ	οἶκός	σου
<b>Christ</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>shalt be saved</b>	<b>thou</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>house</b>	<b>thy</b>
G5547	G2532	G4982	G4771	G2532		G3624	G4675

### Additional Cross-References

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**John 1:12** (Faith): But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**John 3:36** (Faith): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**Galatians 3:26** (Faith): For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

**Mark 16:16** (Salvation): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**Isaiah 45:22** (Salvation): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

**Acts 18:8** (Faith): And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

**Genesis 17:7** (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

**Acts 4:12** (Salvation): Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**Acts 15:11** (Salvation): But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

**Galatians 3:22** (Faith): But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

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