

Salvation For You & Your Family Acts 16:31

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household’” (Acts 16:31).

Salvation is a wonderful blessing. It is more than being saved from death that the Book of Revelation talks about for those who refuse to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and where Satan and his angels spend eternity. Salvation can bring healing to sick bodies, deliverance from sinful habits and all the blessings God has in store for those who put their faith in Him.

The blessings of salvation are not without responsibility. When you have experience the salvation of the Lord, it is your responsibility to lead your household to experience it too. Salvation is for you and your household. Let us look at this beautiful account from the Book of Acts (Acts 16:16-34).

The Jailer's Conversion

There are many ways to come to Christ but there is only one way to God and it is through Christ. The jailor came to know and accept Christ through a crisis. He was in charge of the jail. There was an earthquake one night and the prison doors flew open. He thought that the prisoners had seized the opportunity and escaped. Thinking that the worst would come to him, he was about to take his own life when the Apostle Paul shouted to him not to do so. The jailor, finding that the prisoners were still there, fell on his knees and asked Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30). Paul replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved – you and your household” (Acts 16:31).

The jailor obeyed and what a transformation he experienced after that.

In any experience of genuine salvation, as in the case of the jailor, there are three essential elements involved – represented by 3 ‘C’s’:

The first is conviction. It was the Apostle's right attitude and Christ's righteousness seen in their lives that brought about conviction of sin in the jailor's life, which made him ask, “What must I do to be saved?”

The second is confession. The jailor confessed that Jesus is Lord by his willingness to be baptized. The jailor recognized a need for Jesus to be Lord in his life to experience God's blessings. The self-centred life of sin must be rejected and the Lordship of Christ accepted.

The third is conversion. The jailor was willing to do what was right. He became a new man (2 Corinthians 5:17). The scriptures say that he washed their wounds, gave them a meal, opened his house to them and he was filled with joy (Acts 16:33-34). This was a definite change. This is also one of the most effective ways to witness to your family.

The jailor, believing that his salvation was not only for him but also for his household as the Apostle had told him, took them to his house. The wonderful gift of the God's salvation was seen in the life of the jailor, and his whole family received Jesus Christ as Lord (Acts 16:34).

It is the responsibility of every believer to bring salvation to his whole family. The best way to do this is to live out the Christian life. Let your life speak of faith in Jesus. Paul says, “For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15).

Our families need the salvation of Jesus Christ. They are seeking answers to life and a hope for living. You are commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”.

The first place to begin your witness is Jerusalem; begin with your home, then with your neighbour and finally the rest of the world.

The most powerful evidence of your salvation is your changed life. Let your light so shine before men that they will accept Jesus Christ as Lord. We have no choice as believers but to obey the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us all commit ourselves to the Lord of the Harvest and reach our families and those we know for Jesus.