

The Conversion of Lydia

This week we learn how Lydia came to Saving Faith in The Lord Jesus Christ.

‘... whose heart the Lord opened, that she (Lydia) attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul’. Acts 16 v14

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 13v1-15 (Paul visits the Church at Antioch)	
Monday	Acts 13v16-31 (Paul preaches Christ to the Jews)	
Tuesday	Acts 13v32-52 (The Jews reject the Gospel)	
Wednesday	Acts 14v1-13 (Jews and Greeks believe at Iconium)	
Thursday	Acts 14v14-28 (Paul refuses to be worshipped)	
Friday	Acts 16v1-15 (Lydia’s heart opened by The Lord)	
Saturday	Colossians 3v1-17 (The Word of Christ dwell in you)	

Important Lesson for us today: *What is Conversion to the Lord? It is a total change of attitude of heart towards God. Naturally we are proud, selfish, rebellious, and unbelieving towards God - such that we cannot, of our own doing, approach Him in an acceptable way. Thankfully, God sends His Holy Spirit to ‘quicken’ our souls, (renew us spiritually), to give us faith to believe in Christ as our Saviour, humbly recognising that He died to take the full punishment for our sin on the cross of Calvary, causing us to repent, and obey. The Bible calls this ‘being born again’. This work of the Holy Spirit gives us a new, heartfelt, desire to repent our sin, and to love, obey, and serve the Lord.*

Let us follow David’s example in Psalm 51v10, and sincerely pray, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me’.

Hymn 471. This verse is a prayer which all Christians, (like Lydia), can pray:

Give me a faithful heart –	Some work of love begun,
Likeness to Thee –	Some deed of kindness done,
That each departing day	Some wanderer sought and won,
Henceforth may see	Something for Thee.

The Wonderful Change of Lydia’s Heart by The Holy Spirit

The Spread of the Gospel by the Apostle Paul.

- Silas and Saul (Paul) embark on the 2nd Missionary Journey. See map.



- They met Lydia at Philippi, a business woman who worshipped God, along with others, but had not yet heard of Christ’s death on the cross for sinners.

Paul Preaches the Gospel to Them – About the Saviour and Calvary.

- Lydia and other Gentiles believed the Old Testament; they were excited to hear that Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Saviour, had now come.
- It requires more than hearing – good as this is – it was necessary for the Lord to ‘open’ Lydia’s heart to enable her to respond, renewing her heart spiritually so that she could sincerely repent her sin, and believe in Christ as her Saviour.
- The Bible tells us that it is **only** by the quickening work of the Holy Spirit (making us spiritually alive towards God, giving us faith to believe), that we can repent our sin, and believe in Jesus Christ as our own Saviour, and Lord.

How did the Gospel Message affect Lydia?

- Although she was rich, she realised she was a poor sinner in God’s sight.
- Although she was clever and intelligent, she realised that she needed to have faith to trust fully in God’s Word of Truth, and not her own ideas of religion.
- Although a hard worker she knew she could not ‘earn’ God’s favour.
- Although she was used to taking decisions, she knew that the Lord had to change her heart, will, and life; converting her to give spiritual and eternal life.

Now Converted, Lydia’s Life showed ‘Marks (Evidence) of Grace’.

- Because Lydia now loved the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour, and Lord - she was baptised, witnessed to others in her household, looked after the Lord’s servants, remained faithful, and continued to support Paul practically and financially.
- When we are converted this evidence of Grace will show in our lives too.

Let us examine our hearts to see if the Holy Spirit has quickened us. Can we find any evidence of the Marks of Grace? If not, pray to the Lord that He will give you this faith.

The Holy Spirit opened Lydia’s heart, “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.” Acts 16v14.