



Lydia - And Her Household

Sisters of the church often wonder what they can do in the service of God. They can't be ministers or deacons according to the scriptures, so what else is left for them to do? Most Godly women understand the admonition to bring up their children by teaching them in the home, but at times, this is neglected by both parents.

Notice the life of Lydia who was referred to by Paul as a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:14). The verse continues from general information to the fact that she **"worshipped God..."** What we know about her is that she worshipped God before Paul and the others with him arrived on the scene. This should remind us that God works in the heart of His children without the aid of a preacher. After God had opened her heart to be able to receive the things of the gospel, she came within the reach of the gospel being proclaimed by actually hearing with her own ears what Paul and the others were preaching.

After hearing the gospel preached, she then acted on her God given faith by doing that which they were instructing in their preaching. She continued to exercise that faith by sharing with her household, who having been born of the Spirit as well, then stepped forth in obeying the gospel and were also baptized.

Lydia did not stop there! She invited Paul and the others to **"come into"** her house (vs. 15). She even constrained them to do so. Here is the ultimate exercise of hospitality and Godly love and charity. Paul and Silas continued to proclaim the truths concerning Jesus Christ, and while they were going to have prayer, a **"certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met"** them (vs. 16). This resulted eventually with these two and possibly others, being tossed into prison and even beaten for their preaching Jesus and Him crucified, a resurrected Saviour.

When they were eventually released, **"they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia;..."** (vs. 40). Her home was still open to them, even after all that had occurred. Paul and Silas felt comfortable to return to her home and to comfort those of her household who were surely discomfited by their

ordeal. There is no way Lydia could have remained faithful in the light of such chaos without the presence of God's Spirit being ever present with her. By following the leadership of the Spirit of God, she was able to remain faithful.

If you have been born again of the Spirit of God, you have a measure of faith given by Him which enables us to do the things which please the Lord. Notice Philippians 4:13, "**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**" God given faith comes first which enables us to believe. We need help (God's Spirit) to believe these things to be true and then to show our faith by our works of righteousness.

Where is your household today? Is it a household of faith, dutifully exercising your God given gifts in serving His great name, or, are you lacking in hospitality, Godly love and charity? "**Think About It!**"