

Two Conversions in Acts

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Conversion #1

“From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath, we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. Acts 16:11-15

1. Paul and Silas went out searching for the opportunity to witness.
2. Lydia was converted by the river – water image fits the story.
3. God “opens” hearts so one can believe. “The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to respond.”
4. Look for people that are open to faith – People of Peace.
5. There will be fruit after conversion – Lydia cared for Paul & Silas.

Conversion #2

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and the whole family was filled with joy, because they had come to believe in God. Acts 16:25-34

1. The opportunity to witness came to Paul and Silas without planning.
2. The earthquake and open doors can be an image for the jailer’s conversion.
3. The Word is what the Spirit uses to work faith
4. Jailers fruit – joy and he fed and tended to Paul and Silas