

HOUSEHOLD CONVERSION

Request: I have read in the Bible where “a person was saved and his household”. Can you explain the meaning of it?

Let begin with an explanation of the Greek word for conversion (epistrophe). It is derived from the Greek verb (epistrepho).

“In its active since it represents the action of one who is instrumental in ‘turning’ or ‘converting’ others (Luke 1:16; Acts 26:18; James 5:19-20); intransitively, the action of man in their own conversion, i.e., the action of men empowered by divine grace to ‘turn’ from sin ‘toward’ God (Acts 3:19).” (Unger Dict., pg.219)

“Justification and regeneration are purely divine acts, repentance, faith, conversion are human acts although under the influence and by the power of the Divine agency. Thus conversion denotes the human volition and act by which man in obedience to the Divine summons determines to change the course of his life and turns to God (1 Thess.1:9).” (ISBE, vol.2, pg.707)

“The instances of conversion related in the Bible show that the objective point toward which man’s life was directed could be self-centered (Luke 18:22) [R.Y.R.]; or a life of sensuality, open sin and shame (Luke 15:13) [Prodigal]; or even a mistaken way of serving God (Acts 26:9-11 and Acts 21:10-14: 19:21) [Paul].” (ISBE, vol.2, pg.707) [turn from and turn towards]

This lesson will study three aspects of Household Conversions.

1. Two examples of salvation household conversions are given in Paul’s ministry at Philippi.

- Lydia and household (Acts 16:16:13-15).
- Jailor and household (Acts 16:22-34).

It also happened earlier in the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:24, 44-48).

2. The action of man in the preliminary stage of salvation is connected with repentance, conversion, and faith while in the later stage it is the action of God’s grace salvation (50 things).

Men of Israel (3:12): “Repent (metanoeo / a.a.impv.2pl) therefore and return (epistrepho / a.a.impv.2pl), that (eis+ac of divine purpose) your sins may be wiped away (exaleipho / a.p.infin) [to blot out], in order that times of refreshing (anaphuxis) may come (erchomai / a.a.subj 3pl) from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19) [Peter’s second sermon].

Lydia: “She was listening (akouo / impf.a.ind 3ps) [PV at GC]; and the Lord opened (dianoigo / a.a.ind 3ps) [divine grace] her heart to respond (prosecho / p.a.infin) [faith] to the things spoken (tois laleo / p.p.ptc. / dpln) by Paul (ambassador to mission field). And when she and her household had been baptized.” (Acts 16:14-15)

Jailor: “Believe (pisteuo a.a.impv.2ps) in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved (sozo / f.p.ind 2ps), you and your household.” (Acts 16:31-34) (Acts 16:34 – “Having believed (pisteuo / perf.a.ptc nsm) in God with his whole household (panoikia / inst. of assoc.”)

3. Salvation conversion involves removal of the 13 judicial charges of Adamic sin (AOS).

This was declared by Paul conversion testimony before King Agrippa (Acts 26:13-29).

“To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.: (26:18)

Conversion (man’s part)

- They may turn from darkness **to** light (Col.1:13-14; 2 Cor.4:4).
- They may turn from the dominion of Satan **to** God (1 Thess.1:9; Acts 14:15).

Grace salvation (God’s part)

- They may receive forgiveness of sins.
- They may receive an inheritance.
- They receive sanctification by faith in Christ.

Conversion salvation means believing the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Acts 15:7).

“Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, **describing in details the conversion of the Gentiles**, and were bringing great joy to all the elders.” (Acts 15:3)

Establishing first missionary Gentile church (Acts 11:19-26; 8:1)

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| • Scattered | (Acts.11:19) | persecution because of the gospel |
| • Speaking | (Acts.11:20-21) | preaching the gospel |
| • Sending Barnabas | (Acts.11:22-24) | planting of church |

(Believed (pisteuo / a.a.ptc nsm and turned / epistrepho / a.a.ind 3ps)

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| • Search for pastor-teacher | (Acts.11:25-26) | Paul and Barnabas disciplining converts |
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