

You shall be saved and your household (Acts 16:30-33) – Asaolu O.S.

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Acts 16:30-33 *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **thou shalt be saved, and thy house**. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

God's will is for all men to be saved -1 Tim 2:3-4, **indeed from the beginning that households or families be saved**

Genesis 12:2-3; 18:18-19 *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall **all families of the earth be blessed**... Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth** shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that **he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD**, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

In the old era, divine covenants were entered into with the family head and every member was brought in to partake of the benefit e.g. Adamic (tree of life/death Rm 5:12, 1 Cor 15:22); Noahic (rainbow Gen 9:11-12, Heb 11:7); Abrahamic (circumcision **of males** Gen 17:5-13); Mosaic (eating Passover feast Exo 12:14-27), Davidic (seed as ruler over Israel PIs 89:3-4). In Jeremiah 31 where God talked about the new covenant, He referred to 'all Israel... they shall all know me... with their seed.' On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17-18), Peter quoted Joel's prophecy which talked about "I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all flesh**: and **your sons and your daughters** shall prophesy, and **your young men** shall see visions, and **your old men** shall dream dreams: And on **my servants** and on **my handmaidens** I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy..."

However, there is a peculiarity in the NT; though the promise is for each family, **each individual** has to enter the covenant personally via repentance, belief and baptism upon profession of faith. Children under the age of accountability are automatic members who don't have to be baptized. Jesus gave the criteria in Lk 13:3, Mk 16:16

Mt 18:2-3; 19:14 *And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven... But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Acts 2:38-39 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For **the promise is unto you, and to your children**, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

NT conversions included households but **only adults and youths were baptized**, NEVER infants (Acts 2:41; **8:12**; 10:24-48; 16:14-15; 18:8, 1 Cor 1:14,16 |Acts 16:1-2, 2 Tim 3:14-15, **Tit 1:6**). **For one with unbelieving spouse:**

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy**... For what knowest thou, O wife, **whether thou shalt save thy husband?** or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" -1 Corinthians 7:12-14,16. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, **they also may without the word be won by the conversation** of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." -1 Peter 3:1-2.

Conclusion: Use godly conduct and prayers to stimulate your household unto the faith -Col 3:18-25. Charity should begin at home, then unto the nation and the world -Acts 1:8,14. Celibate Paul said: 'my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved... by all means save some' -Rm 10:1-2, 1 Cor 9:5,19-22