

“What Must I Do to Be Saved?”

This question is asked and answered directly in a passage of the Bible.

In Acts 16, the Bible records that Paul and Silas were thrown into prison in the city of Philippi.

²⁵But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!” ²⁹And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

What was the answer?

³¹They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

But that wasn’t all...

³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

What is the word of the Lord? It is the same message that Paul, Silas, and other disciples of Jesus had taught in other places, such as Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-41), Samaria (Acts 8:5-25), the road to Gaza (Acts 8:26-39), Caesarea (Acts 10:24-48), Phoenicia and Antioch (Acts 11:19-26), Cyprus (Acts 13:4-5), Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:14-43), Iconium, Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 14:1-10). Read these passages and see a pattern from the word of the Lord for salvation.

It wasn’t enough merely to say, “Believe in Jesus,” to the Philippian jailer. They had to speak the word of the Lord to tell him who Jesus was and what he must do.

How did the jailer respond?

³³And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

How did he know to be baptized? Why did he do this immediately? Obviously, it was because Paul and Silas commanded him to be baptized when they spoke the word of the Lord.

Let’s review:

- The jailer asked how to be saved.
- He was told to believe in the Lord Jesus.
- The word of the Lord was spoken to him.
- Immediately, he was baptized.
- Only then had he believed in God.
- Only then had he been saved.

Have you been saved? “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Jesus, Mark 16:16).