

Household Salvation

*by
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On the Monday before Thanksgiving as we were in intercessory prayer at the Abundant Word office, I felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to lay hands on our mailing list and "call in" lost loved ones to be saved. Only the Father knows how many there are, where they are, what it will require, and when it will happen.

Is it scriptural to pray like that? In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were in a Philippian jail after being severely beaten. As they sang and worshipped God, there was a violent earthquake that opened the doors and unfastened all the prisoners' chains. None of them attempted to escape, and the jailer was so amazed at the happenings that he fell down before Paul and Silas crying,

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. (verses 30-33)

Does it happen today? We hear many reports of household salvations in third world countries where families often live in the same house or village. The Spirit of God moves quickly through entire extended families.

In our church we are seeing a revival in one large family. There are ten grown siblings. I have known the two oldest daughters for almost twenty years. The oldest one is a missionary in El Salvador and the other one and her husband are very involved in Abundant Word and in our church. In the last five years, a sister and two brothers and their wives have come into the Kingdom. They have a weekly family Bible study with usually six or eight attending. In the month of November, the Holy Spirit began to draw others to Jesus. Every Sunday more family members were at the altar. Nineteen came to the family Bible study, and this extended family of siblings, children and spouses, now fills three rows of church pews!

It has been seven years since God answered our prayers for our daughter who was in the world for fifteen years. She was estranged from God and the church, filled with rebellion, on drugs and alcohol, and spent time in prison. Her salvation was sudden and complete! God's promise in 2 Peter 3:9 is true. "The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance."

2005 is Year 5765 on the Jewish calendar. The number five is the number of grace and favor. I believe we are to seek the Lord for His prophetic Word and His Plan for our families. Psalm 25 is the Psalm for 2005. It promises victory over our enemies for those

of us who cry out to the Lord for Truth. As we praise Him, we receive a new anointing for Victory. We will see this demonstrated in deliverance and healing.

"Who are they that fear the LORD? He will teach them the way that they should choose. They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He makes His covenant known to them." Psalm 25:12-14.

According to Dr. Chuck D. Pierce, this new year will be a year to circle, surround and plunder the enemy's camp. This is a year to let the ROAR of the Lord rise above the sound of the enemy. This is a year of a new expression of worship. Be expressive in praise and rejoicing in the midst of your battles. The Roar of the Lion of Judah will win your battles.

Joan Peper, our business administrator, recently returned from a trip to South Africa. While on a safari, she experienced the roar of a lion whose pride (household) was about to be invaded by another lion (an enemy). Joan said the roar came from deep in his loins and was a sound that "surrounded" them. Later they saw a herd of cape buffaloes who earlier were peacefully grazing. They were now "circling" their young (families), all facing outward as they silently protected them. Dr. Pierce has stated that 2005 is the year to circle the wagons and find security with other believers in worship and Bible study.

"O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you." Psalm 25:20-21