

The Household of Faith Romans 16:10b-11

The word “household” is used twice in these two verses to refer to a large number of people within Aristobulus’ and Narcissus’ families who had come to faith in Christ. This is not the only place in the Bible where someone comes to faith in Christ and the entire household also comes to faith in Christ. There are three prominent examples in Acts.

A man in Caesarea is told by an angel to send for Peter and, *“He shall tell the words, whereby **you and all your house shall be saved**”* (Acts 11:13). Paul said to the jailer *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **you shalt be saved, you and your household**”* (Acts 16:31). *“Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed in the Lord, together with all his household**”* (Acts 18:8). These are just three examples that lead us to conclude:

**When God saves the head of a household, it is a general rule that
He will save the entire household.**

It is a general rule, not a guarantee. However, it seems to be a general principle confirmed again and again. Of the 30 men in our Tuesday discipleship group, only 85% were men whose entire household has come to faith in Christ. The head of a household does not necessarily mean a man. It can be a single mom, or a widow or widower, or a step-parent.

I. The household of faith reveals to us the goodness and power of God.

Faith in Christ is not a matter of upbringing. Salvation is not a matter of heritage. Christians are born again *“not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:13). For you to be a child of God is a miracle of heaven. *“But the natural man receives not the things of God: for they are foolishness unto him neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”* (I Cor. 2:14).

II. The household of faith reveals to us the growth and prosperity of the church.

Someone said in our study that if this principle were true, then the entire world would feel the effects of the growth of Christianity. The structure would look like Amway! *“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed . . . which is indeed the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest and becomes a tree”* (Matt. 13:32). This is Christ’s teaching in the parables of Matthew 13 (harvest, tree, leaven). The redeemed are called *“an innumerable company”* (Heb. 12:22). Heaven is compared to a sea, hell a lake; heaven is a palace, hell a pit. The church is ultimately victorious.

III. The household of faith reveals to us the grace and peace of being a Christian.

Are you in sorrow of the rebellion of a son or daughter? Are you a believer but your spouse is lost? When you bend your knees in prayer before your heavenly Father and ask Him to work in the hearts and lives of your loved ones you can have peace within. *“For the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband . . . ”* (I Cor. 7:14). *“Prayer prompted by the Holy Spirit is the footfall of the divine decree.”* Spurgeon.