



Spirit of Grace

Herald

The Ministry of Dennis
& Benedicta Pollock

August, 2024

Spirit of Grace Ministries

P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070

Email: denandben@yahoo.com

Praying for the Lost

One concept that has sometimes been preached is that God has already done everything He's ever going to do to save people. We should not expect God to do one more thing than what He has already done, toward our salvation. After all, did not Jesus say, "It is finished," at the end of His dying on the cross?

This sounds right, and we can all agree that the saving work of Christ is finished and is complete, and yet I would disagree with the idea that God has done all that needs to be done to save us. I am convinced that there is further work that God must do for anyone to be saved. God must work in and on our hearts to bring us to a saving faith in Jesus.

In the book of Acts, we read of a woman named Lydia who sold purple, which was the clothing of rich people and royalty in those days. She was in the crowd that listened to the apostle Paul as he preached Christ in the region of Phillipi. The Bible tells us:

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed

the things spoken by Paul. (Acts 16:14)

Lydia hears Paul preaching Christ and quickly becomes a disciple of Jesus. But this is not due to her superior intellect or reasoning power, nor is it because she was a nicer, sweeter, person than most of the others. Why was she so receptive to Jesus? Why did she embrace all that Paul was saying and become a disciple of Jesus? Did she just get lucky? Did she have a certain religious gene in her that made her more receptive to the gospel than most people? We do not have to wonder about this. The Bible says: "**The Lord opened her heart**" to heed the gospel preached by Paul. Lydia became a believer because the Holy Spirit did a special work in and on her that resulted in her conversion to Christ.

It is no different today. For any of us to be saved, the very same process must occur – the Lord must open our hearts to heed the gospel of Jesus Christ, whether we are reading it in the Bible, hearing a television preacher, or listening to a powerful Christian song. Unbelievers are walking around in this world with closed, hard, locked hearts, and unless and until those hearts get opened by the Holy Spirit they will never believe.



When I was nineteen years old, I picked up a Bible and started reading the New Testament, mostly out of curiosity. At the time I was not a Christian; I wasn't even sure God existed at all. But within a couple of months, I was convinced, and I became a believer in Christ. This was no accident. I did not just stumble across Jesus, nor did I become a disciple be-

cause I had a sharp, logical mind. Just as happened with Lydia and every other believer who has trusted in Christ since Lydia, the Lord opened my heart to believe in Jesus, and my life was forever changed.

Here is a powerful prayer point as we pray for unsaved loved ones, that they might find Christ and be born again. We can pray, "Lord open their heart to hear and heed the gospel." You might say that sinners desperately need "heart surgery." They need open hearts, and this is one surgery only the Holy Spirit can do. No doctor on earth has the skills or the tools to do this kind of intricate and delicate surgery. Only God. Jesus was asked, "Who can be saved," and He replied, "**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**" (Matthew 19:26).

Our 2nd “Jesus Conference” in Africa (This time: Nigeria)

We have completed our second African “Jesus Conference” as of this month. This time we ministered to pastors, Bible teachers, and other church leaders in Nigeria. As with the first conference, the reports we heard from these men and women were fantastic!



Why a Jesus Conference?

AFRICAN PASTORS:

- They Love Jesus!
- They are Dynamic Preachers!
- They have almost no Bible training.

The sad truth is that very few African pastors have systematic Bible training. They begin their ministries with a lot of zeal but little Bible knowledge. We are attempting to remedy this by our “Jesus Conference for Church Leaders.” We are focusing upon the most important theme of all—Jesus Christ. In this conference Dennis & Benedicta share (by videos on a large screen TV) through Bible studies and lectures the need to focus upon Jesus in preaching, in teaching, and in living. We share many teachings straight from the gospels, and discuss the all-important abiding life that produces the “much fruit” that Jesus promises us. Please pray for and support this important new ministry.

