GOD SPEAKS

READ ACTS 16;25-40

This Word from God is excerpted from a study prepared by Rev. Dominic Rivken for God's Sending Heart, Study 46, "A Mind Opened to Believe." Download the entire devotion and book at thegreatsending.org.

Then [the Jailer] brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."
(Acts 16:30f)

"What must I do to be saved?" the Jailer asked. Rightly translated, Paul and Silas' response is a bit unexpected. "Believe ON the Lord Jesus" they say. This is quite different from believing IN the right thoughts, actions, and feelings about Jesus. In other words, Paul and Silas call to the Jailer is to believe ON Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. They're speaking of freedom for the captor who is captive in his sin. It's Jesus Who is for you, for your family, and for all imprisoned souls!

Belief is trust, not in principles, but on a Person. Belief is faith, not in rules, but on a Ruler. Belief is conviction, not in experiences, but on an encounter with the living God. With a mind opened to believe ON Jesus, the Jailer is converted from his captivity to sin and invited into the family of God. It is here that he and his household are baptized IN Christ Jesus!

See how his life mission changes, from minding a prison designed for punishment to a home filled with hospitality, joy, and love? With our minds opened to believe we become believers IN God as we believe ON Jesus. Together we can move confidently with the Spirit form our baptism into His mission, to God's glory and the expansion of His Kingdom!

Lord God, You know the prisons of our making and all our feeble attempts to free ourselves from the chains of sin. Come, Holy Spirit, take our thoughts captive to Christ. Come, Holy Spirit, make our actions reflections of gratitude. Come, Holy Spirit, shake our complacent beliefs with faith in the gracious encounter of Christ. Help us to believe ON Jesus, and thus to believe IN You. May Your glorious mission, to free all people in Christ, become our own mission as we seek to open our minds and our homes to Your healing power. May Your peace, O God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Acts 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

CALL TO PRAYER

Luke 10:2
The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.

SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02

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November
MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE

EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

1 Lord, as a new month begins on Your holy day, I surrender my calendar and my ambitions to You. Fill me with Your Spirit as I worship, receive Your divine gifts, and prepare my heart for thanksgiving and gratitude throughout November.

2 Father, anchor my mind and soul as a busy week begins. When priorities compete for my attention, grant me immediate discernment to choose what is best. Let my integrity and diligence reflect Your character in everything I do today.

3 God, on this election day, I pray for peace, unity, and wisdom across our nation. Guide our leaders, protect our communities, and help us to treat one another with kindness and respect, remembering that You hold the future.

4 Lord, give me eyes to see the lonely and marginalized in our neighborhoods today. Break my heart for what breaks Yours and give me the courage to initiate connections that foster healing, belonging, and genuine fellowship.

5 God of all wisdom, guide our structural and organizational decisions today. Help us to create systems that support people, foster growth, and operate with absolute transparency and integrity. Bless our leadership teams.

6 Lord, thank You for sustaining us through the demands of this week. As the weekend approaches, help me to transition away from work tasks and enter a space of mental and physical rest. Refresh my soul, Father.

7 Heavenly Father, I pray for my household and family this weekend. Protect our health, deepen our bonds, and give us moments of genuine joy together. May our home always be a sanctuary of Your peace and grace.

8 Lord, bless every community gathering and church service today. May Your hope be tangible to those who are hurting, lonely, or searching for answers. Embolden us to be an extension of Your welcome to everyone we meet.

9 God, give me a discerning mind today as I review plans. Let my decisions support and elevate others, ensuring everyone is empowered to use their unique gifts for the common good.

10 Almighty Father, grant me exceptional strength and faith today. Give me faith to trust You, even when my eyes do not yet see. Comfort those who are recovering from surgery and bring supernatural healing for those suffering from cancer and illnesses.

11 On this Veterans Day, Lord, we honor and thank those who have served our country. Protect our military families, heal the visible and invisible wounds of war, and inspire us to build a world of true peace and justice.

12 God of wisdom, guide our long-term financial stewardship and resource management. Grant us prudence, integrity, and insight so that every asset is leveraged to build up people and expand Your kingdom work.

13 Lord, protect and strengthen our professional networks. Bless colleagues who labor alongside me. Give us mutual encouragement, shared joy in our successes, and collective resilience when we face strategic setbacks.

14 Father, thank You for the beauty of autumn and the gift of the outdoors. As I take time to rest today, clear my mind of lingering anxieties. Renew my physical strength and give me a grateful heart.

15 Lord, fill our worship spaces with Your Holy Spirit today. Awaken a deeper desire within us to serve the vulnerable. Send us out from our sanctuaries ready to be Your hands and feet in our local communities.

16 God, as a new work week launches, I ask for organizational focus. Help me manage my time efficiently and utilize every resource wisely. May my daily routine be an offering of worship to You.

17 Father, bless our Lutheran schools, principals, faculty, teachers, and students. Bless them with unity, wisdom, knowledge and academic excellence across Florida and Georgia.

18 Lord, inspire our upcoming hospitality and welcome initiatives. As we plan neighborhood gatherings, prepare the hearts of those who will attend. Let every detail reflect Your warmth and unconditional love.

19 Lord, I lift up those who are navigating difficult transitions or personal losses right now. Grant them comfort, clear direction, and the right support systems. Remind them that they do not have to carry their burdens alone.

20 God, thank You for the progress made this week, both large and small. Forgive our missteps and heal any strained communication. Let us finish our work today with a sense of accomplishment and mutual respect.

21 Father, quiet my mind today. Help me to disconnect from professional responsibilities and focus on personal renewal. Remind me that my primary identity is found in being Your child, not in what I produce or accomplish.

22 Lord, let Your love overflow from our churches into the surrounding neighborhoods today. Empower us to move beyond our comfort zones, engage the culture with grace, and share the hope that anchors our souls.

23 God, give me the endurance and stamina needed for this holiday week. Keep my energy high and my focus sharp. Help me to finish outstanding projects with excellence and a positive attitude.

24 Father, I pray for the next generation of leaders in the United States, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. Raise up men and women of high character, deep empathy, and unwavering faith. Grant us the privilege of mentoring them with wisdom and patience.

25 Lord, as family and friends gather for the holidays, grant us safe travel and peaceful interactions. Soften our hearts to love deeply, forgive quickly, and create spaces of genuine warmth and joy.

26 On this Thanksgiving Day, Father, my heart overflows with gratitude. Thank You for Your steadfast love, Your daily provision, and the gift of community. May our lives be a continuous expression of thanks to You.

27 Lord, thank You for a day of rest and reflection following the holiday. Help me to slow down, enjoy the company of loved ones, and appreciate the simple blessings that often go unnoticed.

28 Father, I pray for the safety and vitality of our local communities today. Bless our families, neighborhood leaders, and local businesses. May our collaborative efforts continue to make our neighborhoods places of safety and flourishing.

29 Lord, as we enter the season of Advent, fill us with hope and anticipation. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus, our true peace, and share His light with a world in need.

30 God, thank You for bringing us to the close of November. We celebrate the goals achieved and trust You with the tasks left undone. Prepare our hearts for the joy and wonder of the month ahead.