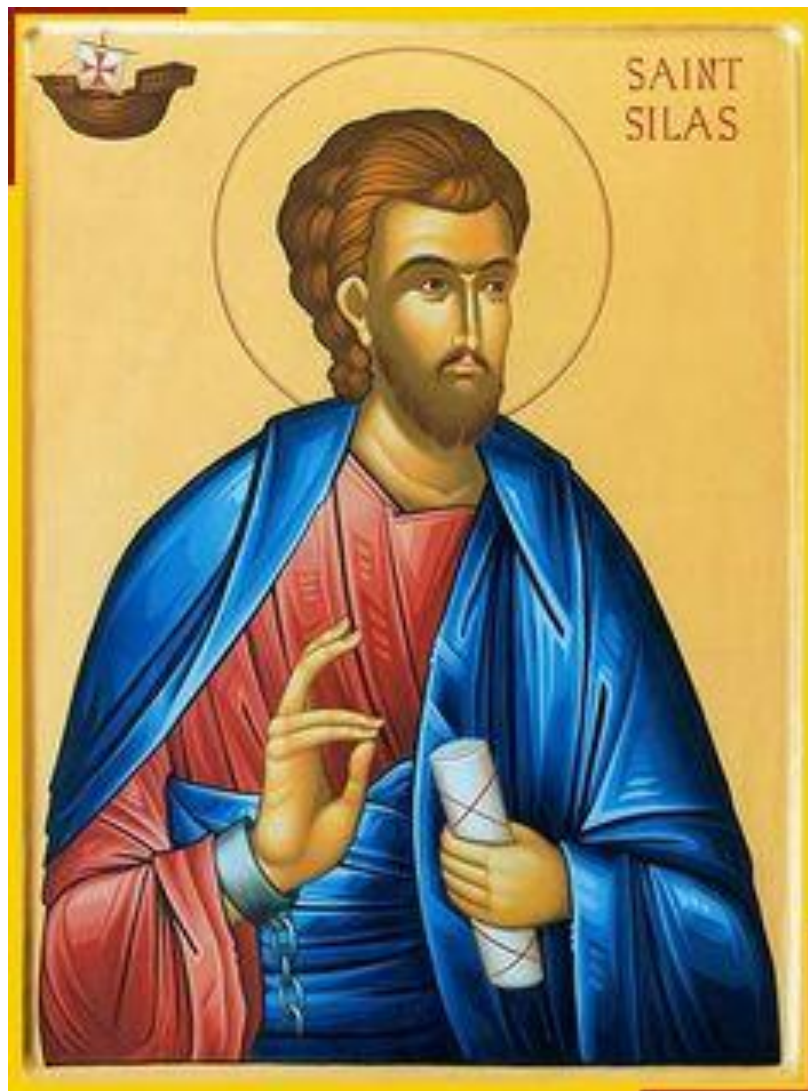


LIVING GODS WILL

The Disciple

SILAS



Saint Silas

The Disciple **SILAS**

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Born:	Rome
Died:	Macedonia
Death:	Died of natural causes

He was also known as "**Silvanos**"

He was a co-worker to the **Apostle Paul**

He was a friend and helper to the **Apostle Peter**

He and the **Apostle Paul** started the **first Christian Church in Europe (Philippi)**

Silas was a leader in the early church, a fellow missionary with **Paul**, and a "**faithful brother**" (**1 Peter 5:12**).

He was a Hellenistic Jew who, it seems, was also a Roman citizen (**Acts 16:37**). He is also referred to as "**Silvanus**" in **Paul's** Epistles (**1 Thessalonians 1:1**).

When we first meet **Silas** in Scripture, he is a leader and teacher in the Jerusalem church (**Acts 15:22, 32**).

After the Jerusalem Council, **Silas** was chosen to help communicate the council's decision to Antioch, along with the **apostle Paul**.

Silas is called a "**prophet**" who "**said much to encourage and strengthen the believers**" in Antioch (**verse 32**).

After **Paul** and **Barnabas** parted ways, **Paul** set out on his second missionary journey, and he chose **Silas** to accompany him (**Acts 15:40-41**).

They went to Syria and Cilicia, ministering to the churches (**Acts 15:41**). After that, **Paul** and **Silas** traveled to Derbe and Lystra, where they picked up another companion, **Timothy** (**Acts 16:1-3**).

Following a journey though Asia Minor, the Spirit led **Paul** and **Silas** into Macedonia (**verses 6-10**).

Then **Paul** and **Silas** traveled to Greece. In Philippi, the missionaries were arrested, beaten, and imprisoned.

During the missionaries' time in Philippi, people were saved and a church was established, but **Satan** opposed their work.

Paul and **Silas** were arrested, beaten, and put in prison for their preaching (**Acts 16:16–24**). While in prison, **Paul** and **Silas** sat with their **feet in stocks** singing hymns.

At midnight, an **earthquake** broke open the prison doors, setting the prisoners free. The jailer feared that his superiors would blame him for the jail break, and he prepared to run himself through with his sword rather than face the punishment.

Paul and **Silas** convinced him not to harm himself, they preached the gospel to him, and he was saved, along with his entire household that night (**Acts 16:25–34**). It seems from **verse 37** that **Silas**, like **Paul**, was a Roman citizen.

The next day, the city officials learned that **Paul** and **Silas** were Roman citizens, and they were immediately fearful; their mistreatment of **Paul** and **Silas** the day before had violated Roman law.

The city leaders immediately released **Paul** and **Silas** from custody. The missionaries left town, but they left behind a body of believers—**the first church in Europe**.

The start of the Philippian church is a great reminder that, even in extremely difficult times, **God** can bring about great things.

God will glorify His name, even through our trials and tribulations. **Paul** and **Silas** had this perspective, and that’s why they were able to sing at midnight.

The fact that the prisoners were “**listening**” to **Paul** and **Silas** singing hymns is not a detail to be skipped over lightly. As followers of **Jesus Christ**, we, too, have people watching how we react to life’s circumstances.

If **Paul** and **Silas** had been griping or protesting or whining about the injustice of their situation, the jailer would have never been drawn to believe in the **Lord Jesus**.

But they responded to their situation gracefully and with joy—their actions were completely foreign to how others expected them to react. Because they were “**salt**” and “**light**” (**Matthew 5:13-14**), others had their hearts opened to the gospel.

Paul and **Silas** then went to Thessalonica together and preached to a synagogue of the Jews. Some of the Jews were convinced of the truth and were saved. Many Greeks and “**leading women**” also believed (**Acts 17:1-4**).

Again, **Paul** and **Silas** were opposed by **Satan**, and the unbelieving Jews attacked the house of **Jason**, one of the new believers, accusing him of harboring “**men who have turned the world upside down**” (**Acts 17:5-8**).

Paul and **Silas** moved on to Berea. There they encountered another group of Jews who were “**more noble**” than those in Thessalonica.

The Bereans listened to **Paul** and **Silas**, and many of them believed after examining the Scriptures to ensure the truth of what **Paul** and **Silas** were saying (**Acts 17:11-12**). Later, **Silas** and **Timothy** ministered in Berea (**Acts 17:14**)

The last mention of **Silas** is in **Acts 18:5**, as he and **Paul** are in Corinth. **Paul** stayed with the Corinthians for a year and six months (**Acts 18:11**) and then left for Antioch, apparently alone.

The Bible does not say what happened to **Silas** after that. When **Paul** left Corinth, he made a promise to return if possible (**Acts 18:21**).

It is possible that **Silas** and **Timothy** remained at Corinth; a tradition says that **Silas** stayed behind as the **pastor**.

Silas served with **Peter** as well; in fact, he is thought to have delivered the epistle of **1st Peter** to its recipients. **Peter** mentions **Silas** as "a faithful brother" in **1st Peter 5:12**.

Paul mentions **Silas** in **2nd Corinthians 1:19** and in the introductions of both the epistles to the Thessalonians.

From the biblical record of **Paul** and **Silas** we learn the value of faithful companions and dedicated servants of the **Lord** in spreading the gospel. **Paul** and **Silas** were likeminded and equally committed to the service of **God**.

Whether they were praying for guidance in Asia, blazing new trails in Europe, preaching in synagogues, or singing in jail, **Paul** and **Silas** did it together.

Their loyalty to the gospel and to each other is a model of how believers should work together today. Multitudes in the early church were blessed by **Silas**, and **Paul** and **Peter** were heartened by his faithful companionship.

Silas is a great example of someone who used his gifts to serve the **Lord** and others with all his heart. The **apostles** called him "faithful," and he was known as one to "encourage and strengthen the brothers" (**Acts 15:32**).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

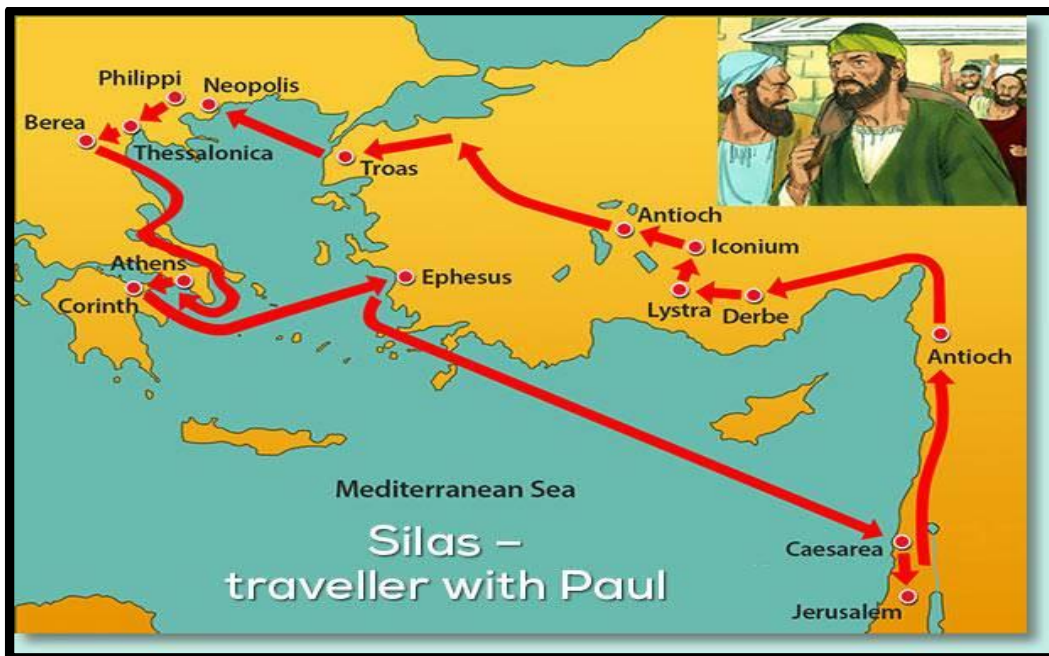
2nd Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us--by me, **Silvanus**, and Timothy--was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.

1st Peter 5:12 By **Silvanus**, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and **Silas** away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.



The Apostle Paul and Silas in Prison by Tom White



Silas – Missionary travels with the Apostle Paul