

6th But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, ⁷and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' ⁸And I answered, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.' ⁹And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.

But God.

notes

¹⁰And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.' ¹¹But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was lead by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

Rarely does God give you the full picture; He usually gives the next step.

¹²"A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. ¹⁴And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. ¹⁵For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' (having called on His name)

God uses people to reach people.

¹⁷"It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance, ¹⁸and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.' ¹⁹And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You. ²⁰And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.' ²¹And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Saved from and saved to.

²²They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!"

3 Takeaways:

1. Practice sharing your testimony in less than 5 minutes
2. Pray for opportunities to share your testimony.
3. Trust God with the results.

GROUP DISCUSSION

The Power of a Testimony: Book of Acts
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 22:1-22, October 1st & 4th, 2026
Paul's witness to the crowd.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What movie could you watch over and over again?

Read Aloud: Acts 22:1-22

1. Why do you think Paul begins his testimony by explaining who he was before encountering Jesus? What does Paul's story teach us about the difference between being religious and knowing Christ?
2. Why is the phrase "But God" such an important part of a Christian testimony? What does Paul's question, "What shall I do, Lord?", reveal about his response to Jesus? Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God when we don't have the full picture?
3. Who has God used as an "Ananias" in your life? Why is it important to recognize and thank the people God uses to encourage us spiritually?
4. How should being saved from something affect the way we live for something? What has Jesus saved you from? What has He saved you to? Who is one person you could pray for an opportunity to share your testimony with this week?