

Sometimes in this life we feel like every failure we experience is the end of the road. Our day-to-day successes and failures feel like they're so large. However, the reality is that our failures (and successes) are not so large considering the enormity of our God. Pastor taught on the Apostle Paul through the sermon *A Damascus Destiny*. The Damascus destiny of Paul can show us so much about our own walks with Christ and what it takes to move beyond our pasts and into our present and future in Christ.

Paul was a great man of God. He planted churches and ministered all over the Mediterranean from Jerusalem, to Antioch, to Rome. He is the author of 14 New Testament Epistles. Further, Paul is one of the greatest influencers of Christian doctrine to have ever lived, possibly second to only Jesus Himself. But if Paul wouldn't have accepted God's place, he wouldn't have fulfilled those goals.

Why? Because Paul was a persecutor before he was a preacher. He travelled Judea and the surrounding area persecuting and martyring Christians. For Paul to reach his *Damascus Destiny*, he had to accept his past and move forward. This required three very specific actions.

First, he needed to have **total transparency**. He had to allow God to look inside of him and for God to show him who he truly was and who he was called to be. Paul had been religious. He followed the rules. He did these things to obey God, yet those things caused Him to persecute the people of God!

This brought Paul to the point of **total transition**. God made it clear to Paul, and this can make it clear to all of us, that we are never ever too far gone. God can always reach and save us. He had prepared a place and a teacher for Paul in Damascus, literally one of the men who Paul had thought he was heading there to kill. This man was now Paul's teacher!

Experiencing a new reality required Paul to have **total surrender** to God and walking in the Spirit! Paul's flesh took him on the wrong path. It caused him to push against the pricks of the plow placed upon him (to use the farming metaphor Christ used), to push off the path God intended. God, however, was calling Paul to surrender and get back to the path he was supposed to be on.

Ultimately, God is looking for us to do what Paul did, to cry out as he did in Acts 9:6 and say "Lord, what do you want me to do?" And then, when God gives us His order, to act on it and walk in His path!

Questions for prayerful consideration and personal meditation:

1. What is the path God has called you to walk?
2. What has happened that has caused you to move off that path?
3. What can you surrender to God to move back to that path He intended?