

DIGGING DEEPER



Don't Give Up: Seeing Through God's Eyes

May 17, 2026

This powerful message centers on the dramatic conversion of Saul in Acts 9, teaching us that God can help us see things in a completely new way. We explore how Saul, a violent persecutor of Christians who genuinely believed he was serving God, encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus and experienced both physical blindness and spiritual awakening. The story challenges us to examine our own perspectives and ask where we might be spiritually blind despite our religious convictions. We're reminded that growing in Christ is like a home renovation—exciting in theory but challenging in practice, often revealing deeper issues that need addressing. The message introduces us to Ananias as well, a believer called to pray for his enemy, showing us that God sometimes asks us to see people we've written off as threats or hopeless cases through His eyes instead. Three profound questions emerge for our personal reflection: Where does our perspective need to change so we can see what God sees? Who do we need to see differently? And how can we see ourselves the way God sees us? The recurring theme 'don't stop, don't give up, God is with you' reminds us that transformation takes time, and like Saul whose heart changed quickly but whose reputation took longer to rebuild, we must persist in following God's call even when others doubt our transformation.

1. How do you typically respond when God challenges a long-held belief or perspective you have? What makes it difficult to let go of old ways of seeing things?

2. The sermon compares spiritual growth to a house renovation where you often discover more issues than you expected. What unexpected areas of growth has God revealed in your life when you started working on one area?

3. Saul was passionate and dedicated to what he believed was right, yet he was spiritually blind. In what areas of your life might you be passionately pursuing something without seeing it from God's perspective?

4. Pastor Heather mentioned that sometimes we need a shake to see truth about ourselves. What practices or relationships help you receive correction and truth in a gentle, God-honoring way?

5. Ananias had to overcome fear and past experiences to obey God's command to pray for Saul. When has God asked you to reach out to someone you considered an enemy or threat, and how did you respond?

6. The sermon states that our past experiences create a lens through which we see life. What negative lessons from your past might be preventing you from seeing people or situations the way God sees them?

7. God saw potential in Saul long before anyone else did, including Saul himself. Who in your life might God be asking you to see with eyes of potential rather than judgment?

8. Saul's heart changed quickly, but his reputation took much longer to change. How do you respond when people continue to see you based on your past rather than your present transformation?

9. The three reflection questions were about changing perspective, seeing others differently, and seeing yourself clearly. Which of these three areas feels most challenging for you right now and why?

10. The sermon emphasizes that God's voice is gentle and loving, not forceful or accusatory. How can you distinguish between conviction from the Holy Spirit and condemnation from other sources in your spiritual life?

Remember...

"When Jesus comes into our lives, he comes to change everything. His goal is not just to change our behavior so that we're a little bit nicer. His goal is to completely change our lives from the inside out."