



Day 3: The Transforming Power of Encountering Christ

KNOW IT!

Acts 9:1-19

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at

Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately, something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days, he was with the disciples at Damascus.

LIVE IT! SHARE IT!

What is your story of redemption? Was your conversion to Christianity as dramatic as the one in the Acts passage above? Probably not, but it remains just as much a miracle of God’s grace and power as Saul’s. Saul, a persecutor of Christians, became Paul, one of the greatest apostles. Saul’s dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus vividly illustrates the life-changing power of encountering Jesus, showing us that no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace. Is there a friend or relative in your life whom you find difficult to picture in a consecrated form? Continue praying for them and believing that the power of God will transform them. Additionally, reflect on how your own encounter with Christ has changed you. Are there areas of your life that are still “in progress”? Pray for a fresh encounter with Jesus, asking Him to continue His transforming work in your heart and life. And as you pray for lost loved ones or friends, ask the Lord to give you the boldness to share your story with them. People will listen more readily to those they know care about them.

*reasonsforhope**