

Who Are You Holding the Rope For?

7-19-26

As Saul (Paul) began his new life in Christ, God used his background, education, and experiences to advance the Gospel. His story reminds us that every believer has a role in God's Kingdom—whether standing in the spotlight like Paul or faithfully holding the rope behind the scenes.

Key Thought: God uses both those who lead and those who support. Every role matters in His Kingdom.

1. God Uses Your Past for His Purpose: Acts 9:22 “Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.”

Main Points: Saul immediately began sharing what Christ had done in his life. New believers are powerful witnesses because they have a fresh testimony. God redeemed Saul's training under Gamaliel and used it for Kingdom purposes. The experiences God has given you are not wasted; they can be used for His glory.

Discussion Questions:

1. What experiences has God given you that could be used to minister to others?
2. How has your personal story prepared you to serve God's Kingdom?
3. Are there gifts or experiences you have been leaving unused?

Application: Ask God to reveal how your background can become a tool for ministry.

2. Following Christ Comes with a Cost: Acts 9:23-24 and Acts 9:16 “I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Main Points: Saul's faithfulness quickly brought opposition. The Christian life is not promised to be easy. The hunter became the hunted as people sought to kill Saul. Spiritual opposition often follows spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced challenges because of your faith?
2. Why do believers sometimes expect Christianity to be easier than Scripture teaches?
3. How can difficulties strengthen our faith?

Application: Prepare your heart to remain faithful even when obedience becomes costly.

3. Stay Spiritually Watchful: Acts 9:24 and Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Main Points: Saul's enemies were constantly watching for an opportunity to destroy him. Believers must be spiritually alert and prayerful. Spiritual complacency can make us vulnerable. Watchfulness requires intentional dependence on God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What areas of your spiritual life require greater vigilance?
2. How does prayer help us stay watchful?
3. What distractions keep believers from being spiritually alert?

Application: Commit to a consistent prayer life that keeps your heart attentive to God's leading.

4. The Importance of Rope Holders: Acts 9:25 “But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.”

Main Points: Unknown believers helped save Saul's life. Their names are not recorded, but their impact changed history. Every believer has a role in God's mission. Some are called to lead; others are called to support, encourage, and serve.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who has held the rope for you during difficult seasons?
2. Are you willing to serve faithfully even if no one knows your name?
3. Who might God be calling you to support right now?

Application: Identify one person you can encourage, support, or help this week.

5. Don't Let Your Past Define Your Future: Acts 9:26-27 “But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles”

Main Points: The disciples struggled to trust Saul because of his past. Barnabas believed in God's transforming power. Everyone needs a Barnabas who will encourage and advocate for them. God's grace is greater than our failures.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt limited by your past?
2. How did Barnabas demonstrate Christlike encouragement?
3. Who could benefit from your encouragement today?

Application: Become a Barnabas for someone who needs support and affirmation.

6. God Often Prepares Us in Hidden Seasons: Acts 9:30 and Acts 11 (future ministry with Barnabas)

Main Points: Saul spent years preaching, learning, and growing before becoming the missionary we know. God's preparation often happens away from public recognition. Tarsus became a place of growth and development. Waiting seasons are not wasted seasons.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it difficult to trust God during seasons of waiting?
2. What might God be developing in you right now?
3. How can hidden seasons prepare us for future ministry?

Application: Trust God's timing and remain faithful where He has placed you.

7. Healthy Churches Continue Growing: Acts 9:31 “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened.”

Main Points: The church grew because believers walked in the fear of the Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Growth is not the ultimate goal, but it is often an indicator of spiritual health. Healthy churches focus outwardly on God's mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What characteristics made the early church healthy?
2. How does the Holy Spirit strengthen a church?
3. How can we help our church remain focused on God's mission?

Application: Pray for spiritual growth, unity, and effectiveness within your church.

Key Takeaways: God can use your past for His purposes. Following Christ involves sacrifice and perseverance. Believers must remain spiritually watchful. Every Christian has a role—some preach, others hold the rope. Encouragers like Barnabas are essential to God's work. Preparation seasons are part of God's plan. Healthy churches grow through faithfulness to Christ.

Final Reflection: Who are you holding the rope for? God's Kingdom advances not only through well-known leaders, but also through faithful believers who quietly support, encourage, pray, and serve. Ask God to show you where your hand belongs on the rope this week.

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July Love Your Neighbor
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ALLIANCE
(TICA)**

Collecting Hygiene Items:

shampoo
deodorant
toothpaste
toothbrush
soap
hand sanitizer
feminine products

Coming up in the Terrace

- Men's Coffee
Thursdays @ 6am
- Alaska MFR Mission trip
Info mtg 7/20 @ 6pm
- Italy Info mtg 7/27 @ 6pm



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PRISCILLA SHIRER

Worship with Anthony Evans



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AUGUST 3, 2026
4:30PM**

