

DEEPER ROOTS

May 13 - May 18

Planting Seeds: Read Acts 9:26-31, Ephesians 2:13-22

In verse thirty-one we see that the Holy Spirit is providing comfort and when this happens the church is built up. We hear Paul in Ephesians describe this same important picture of the church being built up. We are all bricks, being joined together into one building. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which we all rest. This picture is one of the beautiful pictures of the church. We are all necessary, we are all needed. And together we build something significantly bigger, stronger, and more beautiful than what we represent by ourselves. And all different types of people are necessary for the Kingdom. Paul uses one picture of the wall of hostility being torn down, only to then introduce the picture of the church being built up. In life there are so many “walls” that we are tempted to use to separate us from other people and other types of people. The work of the Holy Spirit is to tear down these walls and unite us as one church, as one kingdom. The Holy Spirit is at work in your life building you up. The Holy Spirit is at work in our family, community, and church building us up. The Holy Spirit is at work tearing dividing walls down. **Where do you sense the Holy Spirit working in your life to help build you up? How do you feel the Holy Spirit working in our church to build us into something bigger than ourselves?**

Digging Deep: Read Acts 9, Acts 22, Acts 26, Galatians 1:11-24

In each of these places, Paul describes his conversion experience. Reading them all together we get a picture of just how zealous Paul was for the Lord before his conversion. We also see how zealous he was after this encounter. He still practiced radical faith and demonstrated significant obedience to the Lord. But there was one big key difference. Before, he was persecuting Jesus and His followers. After, he was speaking for and serving King Jesus. We don't like to engage with people who are radically different from us, or who have loud opinions that are opposite of ours. However, if we are willing to reach out and speak the truth to those who most ardently oppose us, we might just recruit one of our greatest allies. The believers in Jerusalem were certainly wary of Paul's report of conversion but thank God for Barnabas. His faithfulness and wisdom in that moment changed the course of history forever. **How can we share grace and truth with people who oppose us? Who is someone in your life this week that needs to feel Gospel love and hear Gospel truth?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 5.13-18.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.