

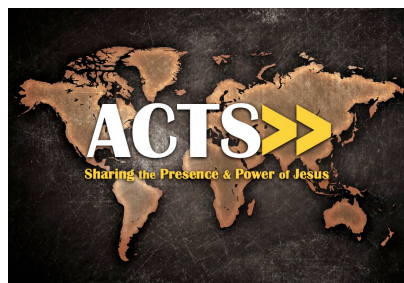
SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Seeing is Believing

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

August 3, 2025



Acts 9:1-19 (NLT) Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. ² He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains. ³ As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" ⁶ Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷ The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! ⁸ Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. ⁹ He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink. ¹⁰ Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. ¹¹ The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. ¹² I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." ¹³ "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! ¹⁴ And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

- **Seeing the risen Christ changes our perspective, our purpose, & our path.**

How does this happen?

1) Jesus meets us in our mess.

¹ "Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers."

³ "As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are

2) Seeing the risen Jesus changes everything.

⁸ "Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. ⁹ He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink."

- **The question "Who are you, Lord?" is the beginning of transformation.**

3) God calls us out of comfort into commitment.

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4) Grace makes all the difference.

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Galatians 3:13 (NLT) "But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

When you truly see Jesus, everything changes:

- **Your past is forgiven.**
- **Your present is transformed.**
- **Your future is redirected.**

C.S. Lewis: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Big Idea: See the risen Christ & step into the life He's calling you to.

Questions to reflect on this week...

- **Have you truly seen Jesus as your Saviour & King & have you given your life to Him?**
- **What is God asking you to surrender (ie. comfort, fear, control) to follow Jesus more fully?**
- **Are you extending grace like Ananias — even to those who oppose you?**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the New Living Translation (NLT) and the New International Version (NIV)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Seeing is Believing
#14 of 22 - August 3, 2025

- 1) Share about a life transformation that you have witnessed. It can be in your own life or someone else.
- 2) Read Acts 9:1-19. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and who is the recipient? What is the purpose for writing? What has happened prior to this passage?
- 3) **Observation:** What do you notice about this passage? Describe Saul before and after his encounter with Jesus Christ. What differences do you notice and why is this significant?
- 4) What is the **Meaning** of this passage? How did Jesus meet Saul where he was at? What can we learn about God from this?
- 5) What are the implications of Saul's question "Who are you Lord?" How is this question answered and how does this impact Saul?
- 6) How does Jesus call Saul and Ananias from comfort to commitment? In what ways can you relate to this?
- 7) Read Galatians 3:13 and Ephesians 2:8-10. What do these verses reveal about the grace of God? How is God's grace received?
- 8) **Application:** How will you apply this message and what next step is God asking you to take today?
- 9) **Take time to reflect on these questions:**
 - Have you truly seen Jesus as your Saviour & King & have you given your life to Him?
 - What is God asking you to surrender (ie. comfort, fear, control) to follow Jesus more fully?
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