

NOTES: On The Road | Off the Horse
May 2-3, 2026 | Compelled Church | Pastor Nate Elarton

Acts 9:1-9 NIV

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV)

Everything that happens in our life is transformative.

“Paul’s Descent into Greatness “

1. Paul says, “I am the least of the apostles.”

“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” (1 Corinthians 15:9, NIV)

2. Paul writes, “I am the least of the saints.”

“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,” (Ephesians 3:8, NIV)

3. Paul teaches he is the biggest sinner ever.

“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,”

Humility is a response to God’s grace in view of our wretchedness and sin without Him.

- **Proverbs 16:18:** "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall".
- **Proverbs 11:2:** "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom".
- **Proverbs 29:23:** "A person’s pride will humble him, but a humble spirit will gain honor".
- **James 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:5:** "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble".
- **Luke 14:11:** "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted".

Pride is self-exaltation. A life where we choose independence from God, believing our value system, our decisions are better than God’s values and will. Pride is shown in being critical, judging others, criticizing, being insolent, blaming, and never admitting fault. A prideful life is a life where repentance is absent.

- Where in your life do you live independent of God?
- Do you live and value things Christ died for?
- Are you a complainer, criticizer, judger, or are you an encourager?

What Happened to Paul?

- 1. He desired and was intentional about his life in Christ, the transformation of “inner man”.**

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, NIV)

2. His awareness of sin increased

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17–19, NIV)

3. His Inner man grew in Humility

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” (Romans 12:3, NIV)

4. Paul Focused on God’s Graces

Even in Suffering, confusion, maybe frustration

“Because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:7–10, NIV)

Pray this song “Take My Life”

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them
move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt
choose,
every power as thou shalt
choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee

The Holy Spirit is attracted to Humility

