

# INCUBATOR

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October 31/November 1, 2015

***Who were the individuals that played a key role in the narrative of your faith story?***

## **Acts 9:10-19 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

An **INCUBATOR** is an enclosed apparatus providing a controlled environment for the **CARE** and **PROTECTION** of the premature or underdeveloped.

A **FAITH INCUBATOR** is a period of time when our undeveloped faith is **MATURED** and our life's purpose is **CLARIFIED**.

Incubators of our faith are often times in...

...overwhelmingly **DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES**.

...perceived moments of **DIVINE SILENCE**.

...the **DREARY ROUTINES** of the day-to-day.

***What should I do when I am in a faith incubator?***

## **Acts 22:12-13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup> came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him."

### 1. Remain **DEVOTED**

*"a devout man according to the law"*

**Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law **shall not depart** from your mouth, but you **shall meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**Colossians 4:2** Continue **steadfastly in prayer**, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

2. Safeguard **INTREGRITY**  
*“well spoken of by all the Jews”*

**2 Timothy 2:22** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

3. Be **READY** and **AVAILABLE**  
*“came to me, and standing by me”*

**2 Timothy 4:2** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; **be ready in season and out of season**; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Additional study and Biblical “incubator” narratives:

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Exodus 1-4 (Moses)           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Genesis 37-39 (Joseph)       |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Genesis 40-46 (Joseph cont.) |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Daniel 1-3 (Daniel)          |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 2 Timothy 2                  |