

# The Gospel Changes Us

Acts 9:1-19

Main idea: The gospel changes us; so, embrace the change God wants for you.

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

<sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <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. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. (Act 9:1-19 ESV)

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The gospel changes us.

1. The gospel causes radical change (1-9).
2. Changes leads to radical obedience (10-19).

## 1. The gospel causes radical change (vv. 4-9).

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## Three parts to the change

- i. I was desperately lost (vv. 1-2).
- ii. I was blinded by the grace of God (vv. 3-5).
- iii. I am radically different (vv. 6-9).

## Desperately Lost

- i. He thought he was a “good person” (Phil 3:4-6).
- ii. His desire was against God (Rom 3:10-12).
- iii. Good intentions, but a corrupt heart (1Ti 1:15).
- iv. Have you ever realized you’re desperately lost?

## Blinded by the grace of God (vv. 3-5).

- i. Christ is better than anything (Phil 3:7-8).
- ii. He was overcome by the Holy Spirit.
- iii. A feeling of nothing else matters except Jesus.
- iv. It is a life-changing moment.
- v. Have you experienced that life changing moment?

## Radical Change (vv. 6-9).

- i. Life change always accompanies salvation (vv. 1-2; 6-9).
- ii. Paul is radically different after salvation (2Co 11:23).
- iii. Examine yourself (2Co 13:5).
- iv. Do you see evidence of the Spirit in your life?

## 2. Change leads to radical obedience (vv. 10-19).

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.

How do we know when God speaks (v. 15):

- i. It is always 100% accurate.
- ii. The Bible affirms it (2Ti 3:16-17).
- iii. We'll have peace about it (Phil 4:6-7; 1Jn 4:14).
- iv. The saints will offer confirmation (1Co 12:12).

God has a mission for you (vv. 10-12).

- i. God calls you to himself (Jn 12:32).
- ii. God has something for you to do (Eph 2:10; 1Co 12:12).
- iii. God's Word tells us what we *need* to do.

God's mission will shake you (vv. 13-16).

- i. God leads us to leave our comfort zones (v. 11).
- ii. God is already working where he sends us (v. 12).
- iii. It's okay to ask God for clarity (v. 13a; Hab 1).
- iv. Obeying God can be scary (13-14).



## Obey God's Word (vv. 17-19).

- i. "So Ananias departed ..." (v. 17a).
- ii. Obey God confidently (v. 17).
- iii. God guarantees success (vv. 18-19; Rom 8:28).

Has God produced a Radical change in your life?

If so, how's your obedience?