

A Forgotten Hero of Faith

5-Day Devotional | Acts 9:10–22

Sometimes the people God uses most aren't the people everyone remembers. Acts 9 tells the dramatic story of Saul's transformation. But tucked inside Saul's story is another man—Ananias. He wasn't famous. He wasn't an apostle. He was simply a believer willing to listen to God, trust Him when it didn't make sense, and take the next step.

Over the next five days, we'll look at what Ananias teaches us about hearing God, trusting Him in uncertainty, forgiving others, stepping out in faith, and allowing obedience to change us.

DAY 1 — AVAILABLE TO GOD

READ: Acts 9:10–12

"The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord!' he replied."
— Acts 9:10

REFLECT

Ananias wasn't introduced as a powerful leader or famous teacher. Scripture simply calls him a believer.

But when God called his name, Ananias answered.

"YES, LORD!"

Before Ananias knew what God wanted, he made himself available.

That's often where God begins. We may want the entire plan before we say yes.

We want to know where God is sending us, how difficult it will be, and how everything will turn out.

But faith begins with availability.

God may want to use a conversation, an invitation, an act of generosity, or a simple moment of encouragement to impact someone's life. You may never know how significant your obedience will become.

Ananias was an ordinary man God used in an extraordinary way.

God is still looking for people willing to say:

"YES, LORD."

ASK YOURSELF

Where might God be asking me to make myself available?

Have I been waiting for all the details before saying yes?

PRAY

Lord, I want to be available to You today. Help me listen when You speak and trust You before I know all the details. Use my ordinary life however You choose. Give me the courage to say, "Yes, Lord." Amen.

TAKE A STEP

Begin today with one simple prayer:

"God, I'm available. Show me where You want to use me today."

DAY 2 — TRUSTING GOD WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

READ: Acts 9:13–16

"But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done..."

— Acts 9:13

REFLECT

Ananias had a legitimate reason to be afraid.

God wasn't sending him to someone safe. He was sending him directly toward Saul—the man who had been persecuting Christians.

Ananias knew Saul's reputation.

So he questioned God.

Faith doesn't mean pretending our fears aren't real. It means trusting that God sees what we cannot see.

Ananias saw Saul's past.

God saw Saul's future.

Ananias saw a dangerous enemy.

God saw a chosen instrument.

Sometimes God's direction surprises us because He knows things we don't.

Faith says:

"I don't understand everything."

"I don't know how this will work."

"But I trust You, Lord."

God may move us outside our comfort zones. He may ask us to love someone difficult, forgive someone who hurt us, serve somewhere unfamiliar, or take a step before we understand the outcome.

SURPRISES MAY INTENSIFY OUR NEED FOR FAITH.

We don't need to know everything God knows.

We simply need to trust the One who does.

ASK YOURSELF

Where am I allowing fear to keep me from obedience?

What situation do I need to trust God with even though I don't understand it?

PRAY

God, You see what I cannot see. When Your direction surprises me or pushes me outside my comfort zone, help me trust You. Give me faith that is greater than my fear. Amen.

TAKE A STEP

Name one thing you've been hesitant to do because you don't know how it will turn out.

Take **one small step of obedience** today.

DAY 3 — MOVE YOUR FEET

READ: Acts 9:15–17

"So Ananias went and found Saul."

— Acts 9:17

REFLECT

Those six words changed history.

So Ananias went.

He had questions.

He had fears.

He knew the risks.

And then he moved.

There comes a point when faith has to become action.

We can pray for direction. We can ask for wisdom. We can talk about what God might want us to do.

Eventually, though, we have to move.

Ananias didn't receive every detail about what would happen with Saul. He simply obeyed what God had already shown him.

And as he stepped forward, more of God's plan became clear.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH BRINGS CLARIFICATION OF GOD'S PLAN.

Sometimes we want God to show us the entire path before we take the first step.

But often God gives enough light for the **next step**.

Then another.

Then another.

So don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet.

ASK YOURSELF

What has God already made clear that I haven't acted on?

Am I waiting for more direction when God has already shown me my next step?

PRAY

Lord, give me courage to move when You lead. Keep me from using uncertainty as an excuse for inactivity. Show me my next step and give me the faith to take it.

Amen.

TAKE A STEP

Don't solve everything today.

Just identify your **next faithful step**—and take it.

DAY 4 — BROTHER SAUL

READ: Acts 9:17–19

"He laid his hands on him and said, 'Brother Saul...'"

— Acts 9:17

REFLECT

Ananias could have called him a lot of things.

Enemy.

Persecutor.

Murderer.

Instead, his first recorded words to Saul were:

"BROTHER SAUL."

That might be one of the most powerful moments in the entire story.

Ananias didn't pretend Saul's past didn't exist. He simply believed that Jesus was powerful enough to give Saul a new future.

Then Ananias did something even more remarkable.

He touched him.

The hands Saul came to chain became the hands God used to give Saul his sight.

Forgiveness can do that.

It opens our hands when hurt makes us want to close them.

There may be someone in your life you've defined entirely by what they did.

Forgiveness doesn't mean calling wrong things right. It means refusing to let someone's past—or what they did to you—have the final word.

Jesus specializes in transformation.

The person you've written off may be someone God is still working on.

And sometimes He asks us to participate in that work.

ASK YOURSELF

Is there someone I've defined entirely by their worst moment?

Is hurt keeping me from extending grace?

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for showing me grace when I didn't deserve it. Help me extend that same grace to others. Give me wisdom, courage, and a forgiving heart. Use my hands to bring healing rather than hurt. Amen.

TAKE A STEP

Think of one person you're struggling to forgive.

Pray for them by name today.

Ask God to begin changing your heart toward them.

DAY 5 — THE POWER OF SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

READ: Acts 9:18–22

"Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight."

— Acts 9:18

REFLECT

Ananias probably had no idea how far his obedience would reach.

He simply went where God told him to go.

He found Saul.

He laid his hands on him.

He called him brother.

And God did the rest.

Saul regained his sight. He was baptized. Soon he began proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God.

The man who had been hunting Christians became one of history's greatest proclaimers of Christ.

We remember Paul.

But behind part of Paul's story stands a faithful man named Ananias.

That's the beauty of obedience.

You may never see everything God does through your yes.

A conversation may change someone's direction.

An invitation may bring someone back to church.

An act of forgiveness may restore a relationship.

An encouraging word may keep someone going.

A simple act of obedience may become part of a story much bigger than you.

OBEDIENCE STIMULATES GROWTH.

Every time we trust God enough to obey Him, He drives the roots of our faith deeper.

And sometimes the greatest thing God accomplishes through our obedience isn't what He does around us.

It's what He does **inside us**.

God's deepest work isn't what He does for you... but what He does in you.

ASK YOURSELF

Where have I seen God grow me through obedience?

What might God accomplish through one simple "yes" this week?

PRAY

Father, thank You for using ordinary people to accomplish Your purposes. Give me the faith of Ananias—a faith willing to listen, trust, move, forgive, and obey. Use my life to point people toward Jesus, even when I never see the full impact. Amen.

TAKE A STEP

Finish this sentence:

"This week, my next act of obedience is _____."

Then do it.

THIS WEEK

Ananias reminds us that following Jesus doesn't require fame, influence, or having everything figured out.

It requires faithfulness.

Be available.

Trust when you don't understand.

Move your feet.

Extend grace.

Obey what God has shown you.