



unexpected

THE DIVINE \rightleftarrows IN BETWEEN

ACTS 9:1-19

the power of one

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 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. vv. 1-2

I. The power of one Christ-centered _____ can change how a person sees Jesus. (vv. 3-9)

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." vv. 3-5

II. The power of one Christ-centered _____ can propel God's unstoppable purpose. (vv. 10-16)

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." 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, 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." vv. 10-12

III. The power of one Christ-centered _____ can display the irrational love of God. (vv. 17-19)

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." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. vv. 17-19

Never underestimate
THE POWER OF ONE ...

... act of obedience—so _____ .

... fellowship of believers—so _____ .

... Lord of all—so _____ the knee.

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Can you think of a time when a person impacted your for a Christ-centered purpose, then they moved on from your life? How did God use them as an instrument specifically for your growth?

"SAUL DID NOT 'DECIDE FOR CHRIST,' as we might say. It was rather Christ who decided for him and intervened in his life. To ascribe Saul's conversion to God's initiative can easily be misunderstood, however; the sovereign grace that captured Saul was neither sudden (in the sense that there had been no previous preparation) nor compulsive (in the sense that he needed to make no response). This was not the first time Jesus Christ had spoken to him. ... Gradually and without violence, Jesus pricked Saul's mind and conscience. Then He revealed Himself to him in a way as to enable him to make a free response. Divine grace does not trample human personality, but rather it enables human beings to be truly human. It is sin that imprisons. It is grace that liberates."

JOHN STOTT

2. Read Acts 9:1-19. Some of the language Luke uses to describe Saul in his preconversion state seems deliberately to portray him as "a wild and ferocious beast." In what ways does Saul's conversion demonstrate the marvelous grace of God?

3. William Barclay calls Ananias "one of the forgotten heroes of the Christian church." What is the significance of Ananias's ministry to Saul, and how does it encourage you?

4. While he awaited the arrival of Ananias, Paul fasted and prayed for three days, during which time he no doubt started to sort out what he believed. He had been saved by grace, not by the law, through faith in the living Christ. What might he have thought about, realizing that Jesus was alive and that the traditional Mosaic religion he had zealously practiced all his life was replaced?

5. In what ways do you see here the *irrational* nature of God's love, as mentioned in the sermon? How have you seen it in your own life?

6. After studying this passage, how do you expect to see God working in the lives of those around you who are not Christians?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

QUILTING FOR LIFE Support our wonderful pregnancy center partners by creating quilts that are given to mothers after their first sonograms! Join us on Tuesday, July 11 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Oak Room.

LUNCH WITH A MISSIONARY Ever wonder about our Global Missions Ministry? Join us Sunday, July 16 for *Lunch with a Missionary!* Fellowship with one another and learn how to support the persecuted church around the world. We will be meeting in the Oak Room at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/lunch.

RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 15! Register today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage.

KIDSCAMP TO GO Be a part of the largest outreach program of the year and take KidsCamp to your neighborhood! Equipped with all the supplies and teaching materials needed, you'll have everything to share the hope of Jesus and take the fun of KidsCamp to your community. Learn more about this REACH opportunity that the whole family can do together by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/togo.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Find steps to financial freedom and a biblical perspective on budgeting in our new class, Financial Freedom University. Led by Kris Beaulieu and developed by financial expert Dave Ramsey, this course will cover a variety of principles and practices that will strengthen all of us in being faithful owners of our resources. Join us this Sunday by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fpu and signing up!

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/production.

MANPOWER Hoping to create a space for widows to experience encouragement and practical support, Christ Chapel hosts one Saturday every month for our ManPower group to help with outdoor projects and home maintenance tasks. Learn more about being a part by emailing ManPower@christchapelbc.org.

ENCOURAGED & EQUIPPED Our Women's ministry has an incredible resource for you! Search for the *Encouraged & Equipped* podcast and hear stories from other CCBC women as they share about how the gospel has changed their lives and what that practically looks like in the everyday. From their wisdom to all the laughs, you'll want to join in on the conversation! Find it today on your favorite podcast platforms.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.