



## DEVOTIONAL FOR ACTS 13-14; JAMES

AUTHOR: NATHAN WILSON

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, he fell asleep, was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed." (Acts 13:36) Go back and read that a few times while thinking about David's life. Sure, some of David's life was for good, but some of it was for evil. It was like a life sentence or death row type of evil. However, all the while his life was serving the purpose of God in his generation.

I look back on my own life and it's not too far off from David's. Some of it has been good and some has been evil. I can get caught up replaying the tapes in my head and wondering why or how could I have done the things I did. But somehow by God's grace I am today serving the purpose of God in my own generation.

Speaking of good and evil, James 3:5 says, "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!" According to Proverbs 18:21, our tongues have the power of life and death. A fire can easily be lit by lies, gossip or slander, and it can cause all kinds of damage down the line. However, the tongue can also start a blaze proclaiming Christ is Lord that could shoot across the earth, saving people for eternity!

Lastly, in Acts 9, Paul was blinded by a light from heaven while on the road to Damascus. Because of this, he had an encounter with Jesus and became a follower of Christ! In Acts 13:4-12, we read a story very similar to Paul. Scripture doesn't say what ultimately happened with the magician, but the proconsul he was with believed because of what they saw. I can only hope that in time the magician came to Christ too.

### Questions:

1. Would you go back and preach the gospel to the same people that just tried to kill you for doing so?
2. What kind of fires are you spreading with your tongue, consuming fires or saving fires?
3. Do you remember your salvation story? Now's the time to reflect on it, and perhaps even write it down.