



#8 - "Saved By Grace"

Biblical Conversion Defined:

A Transformation Of Heart And Of Mind. "Of Heart" - Referring To Your Motives. "Of Mind" - Referring To Your Perspective And Thinking. It Involves A "Turning From" And A "Turning To" - Closely Associated With Repentance And Faith

"...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Conversion;

- Changes Our Character & Behaviors, Not Our PERSONALITY
- Is An ON-GOING Experience
- Is A Uniquely PERSONAL Experience But Includes Some Shared Elements:
 - A REVELATION Of Jesus, The Risen Christ
 - A COMMISSION To Enter The Mission of Jesus

Lessons From The Conversion Of Saul Of Tarsus.

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" . Acts 9:3-5

- Conversion Is A Gift Of God's Sovereign GRACE

He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me. Galatians 1: 15-16

- Conversion Is Never SUDDEN, It Is The End Result Of God's Pursuit

"Saul, Saul, It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Acts 26:14

Lessons From The On-going Conversion Of Ananias

*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." ¹¹ 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
Acts 9:10-12*

Ananias Was Given A NEW Set Of Eyes To See Saul In A New Way. "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." Acts 10:17

*"Conversion Is Never Completed Until Both Parties Turn Around
And Look At Things Differently." ~Charles C. Williamson~*

Life Group Discussion Guide

Connect. Grow. Move. For more information about Life Groups contact Pastor Joshua@waipunachapel.com

1. What, if anything, impacted you most from this weekend's message?
2. Read Acts 9:1-9 together with your Group. As you read, pause to briefly discuss any words, phrases or statements in the text that stand out to you, or that you may have questions about. Additionally, read Acts 22:1-16 (Paul's account of his conversion to the Jews in Jerusalem). And also read Acts 26:12-18 (Paul's account of his conversion to King Agrippa).
3. What additional information is included in these accounts?
4. How do you see God's Sovereign grace at work in Paul's conversion?
5. Consider your own conversion story. How was God sovereign grace at work in your story?
6. Looking back over your life how did God pursue you before your conversion? What are some of the "goads" you may have kicked against?
7. Pastor Shaun described conversion as an "*ongoing Christian experience*". Has this been true for you? If so, how has God continued to change your heart and mind?
8. Read Acts 9:10-19. Can you relate to Ananias's initial hesitation to meet with Saul?
9. Do you have any people like "Saul" in your life that seem so far from God that you have given up on them?
10. How has the story of Saul's conversion and Ananias's ongoing conversion helped you to see them differently?
11. Our personal conversion story is a part of our "witness" of Jesus Christ. This week take time to write your story down and when you are ready share it with your group.
12. Pray together as a group for the grace of God and revelation of Jesus to the "Saul's" in your lives.

Sources:

Charles.C Williamson "Acts" – Interpretation Bible Study – www.wjkbooks.com

John Stott "The Message of Acts" IVP Academic Publishing

William H Willimon "Acts" Bible Commentary for Preaching & Teaching - www.wjkbooks.com

Feedback or Questions? Contact Shaun@waipunachapel.com