

Rise and Impart

October 13th, 2013

Acts 26:12-29

Paul was intercepted on the road to Damascus. He was so ignorant in his persuasion that he states, “*I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so....*” *Acts 26:9-10* God literally stopped him. At that moment he found direction and he experienced the freedom to leave behind all the gains he had and count them as rubbish. What an amazing transformation Paul had in his life!

I. Surrendering Our Lives

- ❖ Paul went from religion to devotion.

The blindness of men

“*I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*” *Acts 26:9*

- ❖ Before Christ, Paul was so full of himself that he employed his own power and strength in the persecution of the church.
- ❖ When Paul had a revelation from God, he was completely the opposite; now he was full of Christ, to a point where he was considered out of his mind – crazy!
“*And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, ‘Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.’*” *Acts 26:24*

Submission to Jesus

“*And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ and the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’*” *Acts 26:14-15*

- ❖ Paul’s will had to be broken in order for him to completely surrender his life.
- ❖ Unless God changes our life, it is impossible for us to have purpose.
- ❖ Christ must be everything to us or else He is nothing to us. *Luke 14:25-27;33*
 - ↳ It is necessary to understand the cost of encountering and receiving Jesus in our lives.
- ❖ When God reveals his purpose for our life, we may not understand but we surrender.
- ❖ When we surrender our lives, we not only have a conversion of the heart, we have a complete conversion of our lives.
 - ↳ We are called to totally surrender in order to advance the kingdom of God.

Are you completely surrendered to Christ?

II. Purpose In Our Lives

- ❖ There was a revelation from God to Paul that gave a purpose and a call on his life, and that was his mission.

The irrationality of Christianity

“*...I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me...*” *Acts 26:16*

- ❖ We are wrong if we think that God saved us so He can be part of our lives with no demands and no purpose in His kingdom.

A revelation of God

“And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, ...’” Acts 26:15-16

- ❖ Why is it that for Paul, the encounter he had with Jesus completely transformed his aim in life, to such extent that he was in jail for serving and witnessing Christ. Yet for the majority of Christians today, when we encounter Jesus, it becomes just one more thing in life.

The call from God

“But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:16-18

- ❖ We are called to transform lives thru serving and witnessing.

Mission from God

“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.” Acts 26:19-21

- ❖ If you are called by God, your life is going to be transformed ... and painful at times.
- ❖ If God calls you and you don't act, that is disobedience.
- ❖ When you know God, the desire of your heart becomes to make Him known.
“...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

*“To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:”
Acts 26:22*

Endnotes:

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