



Decade of Availability

Hearing & Obeying God

Ananias/Saul: Following Jesus

There are two overriding themes in this passage. Hearing from God and then obeying God. I cannot obey God unless I can hear Him. “Many are called but few are chosen.” *Matt 22:14* The challenge is not the hearing—but the doing. Ananias and Saul both hear and do. **Will you?**

Faith must be tested
Great faith must be greatly tested!

A. Ananias vv. 10-17

Acts 9:1 starts with Paul threatening to slaughter believers and ends with the church entering a period of rest in Acts 9:31

1. The Revelation vv. 9-12; See also Isaiah 6

- **Revelation:** A revelation from God can come in many ways including dreams, visions and simply reading His Word.
- **Here I am:** Throughout the Bible the phrase “Here am I” is uttered by the prophets and people of God. It is an indication of willingness to follow the ‘Word’ of God.
- **Double revelation:** vv. 11-12 God often will speak to more than one person concerning a matter. Here, God speaks to both Ananias and Saul.

2. The Reluctance vv. 13-14

- **But Lord!** How many of us have said something like this to the Lord when he has made His will clear. From this passage it is clear that God is patient with us when we are unsure or doubting. We would echo the disciples when they asked Jesus, “Increase our faith!” *Luke 17:5*

3. The Reassurance vv. 15-16

- **Go:** In this case the Lord is very specific about telling Ananias why he is to go to Saul. Even if He had not been so specific, Ananias would have gone. When God calls us to go, He may or may not lay out the all the reasons for the going.
- **Our missional going:** This passage forms the basis for the Village Church mission: **1) Every person we see has a need 2) Every person with a need, needs prayer 3) God will give me an assignment to go and pray for some of them.**

B. Paul vv. 17-19

1. Paul is healed of his blindness

- **Brother Saul:** Jesus had assured Ananias that Saul was a believer.
- **Receive your sight:** Ananias lays hands on Saul and speaks the Word of the Lord over Saul. It is the same Word that we would pray over the sick.

2. Paul is filled with the Spirit

- **Baptized in the Spirit:** Though the text does not say that Paul spoke in tongues—based on other events of the Holy Spirit in Acts and Paul’s own statement that he spoke in tongues more than any—we can assume that Paul did speak in tongues on this occasion.

3. Paul is baptized

- **Immediate water baptism:** This was the norm throughout the book of Acts

Acts 9:10-19 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.”

And he said, **“Here I am, Lord.”**

¹¹ So the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

¹³ Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, **“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine** to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something like scales*, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

