

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 17, 2013

The Calling of Ananias
Acts 9:10-19

As the gospel advanced from Jews (Acts 1-7) to Samaritans (Acts 8:1-24) and to Gentiles (Acts 8:25-40; Acts 10), Acts 9:1-31 focuses on Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. The story of Paul's conversion is told two additional times in Acts, by Paul before a mob of Jews (Acts 22:1-21) and by Paul before King Agrippa (Acts 26:1-18).

1. The Lord's revelation to Ananias (9:10-12)

Luke referred to Paul by his Hebrew name, Saul, until Acts 13:9, when his Greek name began to be used.

Ananias had a good reputation with the Jews of Damascus (Acts 22:12). This becomes a significant fact that Paul states in Acts 22 because of his audience.

The involvement of Ananias shows us:

- God's use of His people to accomplish His will
- God's use of normal people to accomplish His will
- God's use of qualified people to accomplish His will.

Straight Street was a major thoroughfare running through Damascus that exists even today. The Lord's visions testified to the importance of connecting Saul to the existing church.

2. Ananias resists the Lord (9:13-14)

The knowledge of Saul's mission was clearly widespread leading to fear among the believers. This concern by Ananias was real and normal.

The essential problem of Ananias' response to Christ was lack of faith.

3. The Lord responds to Ananias (9:15-16)

The Lord provides Ananias with more revelation, specifically about the future nature of Saul's ministry on His behalf. This future included the same suffering that Ananias feared for himself.

Saul had been chosen for the purpose of bearing Christ's name to the Gentiles and there is a special emphasis upon "kings" as will be seen later in the book.

The word “I” grammatically emphasizes the promise of God to take care of this matter for Ananias.

The Lord is patient with us and is willing to persevere with us even when we lack faith. God’s revelation is an essential part of us living a life of faith.

4. Ananias reaches out to Saul (9:17-19)

Ananias was the person that God used to connect this new believer to the church. The laying on of hands simply demonstrates a visible connection between them.

Ananias viewed Saul as a “brother” which, along with the filling of the Spirit, indicates that Saul’s salvation occurred on the Damascus road.

The restoration of sight to Saul upon the arrival of Ananias proved to Saul that Ananias was part of God’s plan for him.

Baptism was so significant that Saul followed Christ in this initial act of obedience even before he ate. The significance of baptism does not change with culture or with eras.

May God’s grace move us to respond to Christ’s calling with the courage of Ananias.