



BETTER

**It Doesn't
Matter... God
Has Chosen You**

Acts 9:10–19 (NKJV)

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 439–440.

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.

- Saul who is known to us as Paul receives a call from God. The most amazing thing is that He will use anyone He chooses.
- Ananias was a devout Jew who was a believer in Jesus Christ.
- He knew what kind of reputation Saul had and that he was coming to Damascus to arrest believers. It was up to a week's journey from Jerusalem to Damascus, but some of the Jerusalem Christians had gotten to the city first in order to warn the saints.

Available But Not Anxious!

- Ananias was available to do God's will, but he certainly was not anxious to obey!
- The fact that Saul was “praying” instead of “preying” should have encouraged Ananias.
- “Prayer is the autograph of the Holy Ghost upon the renewed heart,” said Charles Spurgeon (*Rom. 8:9, 14–16*).

Available But Not Anxious!

- Instead of trusting himself, Saul was now trusting the Lord and waiting for Him to show him what to do. In fact, Saul had already seen a vision of a man named Ananias (*Hananiah* = “*the Lord is gracious*”) coming to minister to him; so, how could Ananias refuse to obey?

Acts 9:15 Is A Good Summary Of Paul's Life And Ministry.

It was all of grace, for he did not choose
God; it was God who chose him.

1 Timothy 1:12–15 (NKJV)

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Acts 9:15 Is A Good Summary Of Paul's Life And Ministry.

He was God's vessel.

2 Timothy 2:20–21 (NKJV)

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Acts 9:15 Is A Good Summary Of Paul's Life And Ministry.

God would work in and through him to
accomplish His purposes.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Acts 9:15 Is A Good Summary Of Paul's Life And Ministry.

Once convinced, Ananias lost no time going to the house of Judas and ministering to waiting Saul.

- God's name would be glorified as His servant would take the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles, kings and commoners, and as he would suffer for Christ's sake.
- This is the first reference in the Book of Acts to the Gospel going to the Gentiles (*see Acts 22:21; 26:17*).

Acts 9:12 (NKJV)

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.”

Acts 9:17 (NKJV)

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.”

When We Are Open To God, We Open To His Power

- The fact that he called him “brother” must have brought joy to the heart of the blinded Pharisee.
- Saul not only heard Ananias’ voice, but he felt his hands (*Acts 9:12, 17*).

When We Are Open To God, We Open To His Power

- By the power of God, his eyes were opened and he could see! He was also filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized, and then he ate some food.

What Happen Next?

- Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus and no doubt learned from them.
- He discovered that they were loving people, undeserving of the persecution he had inflicted on them; and that they knew the truth of God's Word and only wanted to share it with others.

**We Should
Emphasize Some
Practical Lessons
That All Believers
Ought To Learn.**

God Can Use Even The Most Obscure Saint.

- To begin with, God can use even the most obscure saint.
- Were it not for the conversion of Saul, we would never have heard of Ananias; and yet Ananias had an important part to play in the ongoing work of the church.

God Can Use Even The Most Obscure Saint.

- Behind many well-known servants of God are lesser-known believers who have influenced them.
- God keeps the books and will see to it that each servant will get a just reward. The important thing is not fame but faithfulness (*1 Cor. 4:1–5*).

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1 Corinthians 4:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

We Should Never Be Afraid To Obey God's Will.

- The experience of Ananias also reminds us that we should never be afraid to obey God's will.
- Ananias at first argued with the Lord and gave some good reasons why he should not visit Saul.

We Should Never Be Afraid To Obey God's Will.

- But the Lord had everything under control, and Ananias obeyed by faith.
- When God commands, we must remember that He is working “at both ends of the line,” and that His perfect will is always the best.

Romans 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

God's Works Are Always Balanced.

- There is a third encouragement: God's works are always balanced. God balanced a great public miracle with a quiet meeting in the house of Judas.
- The bright light and the voice from heaven were dramatic events, but the visit of Ananias was somewhat ordinary.

God's Works Are Always Balanced.

- The hand of God pushed Saul from his “high horse,” but God used the hand of a man to bring Saul what he most needed.
- God spoke from heaven, but He also spoke through an obedient disciple who gave the message to Saul.
- The “ordinary” events were just as much a part of the miracle as were the extraordinary.

1 Corinthians 1:20–25 (NKJV)

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,
24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

We Must Never Underestimate The Value Of One Person Brought To Christ.

- Finally, we must never underestimate the value of one person brought to Christ.
- Peter was ministering to thousands in Jerusalem, and Philip had seen a great harvest among the Samaritan people, but Ananias was sent to only one man.

Luke 15:1–7 (NKJV)

1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.

2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”

3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

- Yet what a man!
- Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle, and his life and ministry have influenced people and nations ever since.
- Even secular historians confess that Paul is one of the significant figures in world history.

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