



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ACTS 9:10-20

LESSON: ANANIAS HEALS SAUL — August 21, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

9:1-9 ¹Not content with persecuting Christians in Jerusalem, Saul received permission from the high priest to seek out those of the Way in Damascus and bring them bound to Jerusalem. It was near Damascus that Saul was blinded by a vision of the risen Jesus. Told to go into Damascus for further instructions, Saul was led blind into the city where he waited for three days, neither eating nor drinking.

LESSON: I. THE ROLE OF ANANIAS ACTS 9:10-14

9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. God had a special disciple named Ananias in Damascus waiting on assignment. God speaks to him in a vision; a dream; and he answers back unto the Lord, "Behold, I am here, Lord."— When the Lord speaks, His voice is recognized. Saul, being thrown off the horse says, "Who art thy Lord?" (v.5). Then later he says, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (v.6). Even the demon-possessed man in the Gadarene, seeing Jesus afar off, ran and worshipped Jesus crying with a loud voice, "What have I to do with thee Jesus, thou Son of the Most High God?" (Luke 8:28). Ananias just says, "I am here Lord." He was sensitive to the voice of the Lord.

My question to you: "Was Saul (Paul) saved on the Damascus Road, or when he was infilled with the Holy Spirit?"—on the Damascus Road.

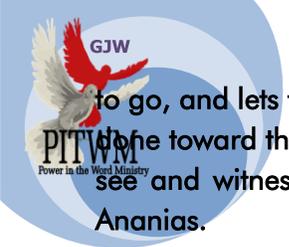
9:11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,— God tells Ananias to arise; to get up and go to the street called Straight. Do you see how God worded His Words? He gave the place to go before He revealed the name of the person he was to encounter. Saul of Tarsus was a well-known Pharisee; a Hebrew of the Hebrews who came against Christian Jews. They even knew of him in Damascus and what he came to do. But Ananias was willing to obey when God said go. Then, God tells him who he is to go to— Saul of Tarsus and he is praying. Tarsus was Saul's birthplace. This is full circle.

9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. God is working in both men, for God also lets Ananias know that Saul has seen him (Ananias) in a vision, who will come to see him, so, Saul will be expecting him. Saul has even seen in the vision Ananias put his hands upon him that he might receive his sight. God has given this vision to Saul before Ananias gets there, so that he may have clear assurance that his help, his change. his sight was on the way; that it was the Resurrected Savior speaking to him, and no doubt would linger for either of them.

9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:— Well, Ananias was told what Saul had seen in a vision, but Ananias was still afraid

¹ http://executableoutlines.com/acts/acts_09.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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to go, and lets the Lord know that he had heard from many people about Saul; the evil and great sufferings he's done toward the saints in Jerusalem. It's one thing to have heard something about somebody, but it's another to see and witness for yourself the work God can do and will do in a person's life, for God is about to show Ananias.

9:14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. Ananias continues, but Jesus already knows what Saul had come to do— to put into chains on and arrest all that call on the Name of Jesus. Saul might have had authority from the chief priest, but it will be nothing to the authority Jesus will give him. It doesn't matter what you start out to do, it's what you end up doing for the Lord.

II. THE COMMISSION OF SAUL ACTS 9:15-20

9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:— Ananias' warnings and concerns were overruled by the Lord because He's communicating: *"I know all this never mind Ananias, go ahead and go to Straight street to the house of Judas for this man is my chosen vessel; a chosen instrument of God."* *"He is to bear my name in his heart and in his behavior and actions as he goes before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."* God already prepared the way for His vessel, and He's already prepared Ananias to make the way clear for the man God uses, and it's all in Jesus' Name. God has always placed somebody before us to make the way clear. It might have not been easy for them, but we receive the benefits.

9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. As Saul had been the minister of suffering to many believers, he himself would now be the recipient of much suffering, both at the hands of believers, and especially at the hands of his own kinsmen, the Jews.

9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Ananias departs and enters the house of Judas. He places his hands upon Saul and calls him brother, and saying that the Lord, even the same Jesus that appeared to him (Saul) has sent him (Ananias). Why? – For four reasons:

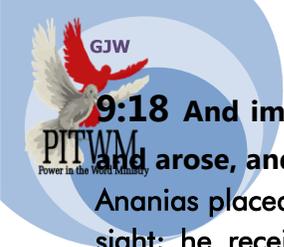
1. Saul needed to understand the faithfulness of Jesus' disciple and the touch of that disciple's hand. He needed to experience the help and ministry of God's disciple. He needed to see faithfulness in action— love, care, concern, interest, help reaching out to him in time of need, no matter how he displayed himself before.
2. Saul needed the recognition of being a *"Brother"* in the Lord. This one word probably caused Saul to break out in tears, for he was being reached out to by a dear believer of the Lord despite the terrible wrong he had done to the believers. This was confirmation to him that he had been truly forgiven and received by the Lord.
3. Saul needed the power of healing ministered. He was afflicted. He needed Ananias to help him in his affliction. He needed his eyes healed, symbolizing how the scales of spiritual darkness and sin and shame had been removed from his heart.
4. Saul needed the sharing of the Holy Spirit's infilling. He needed the sharing of the infilling power of the Spirit for service.

My question to you: *"What Spirit do you have before one is filled with the Holy Ghost?"*—Your human spirit.

My question to you: *"Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Ghost?"*—For service.

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9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. Saul was blind for three days. During that time, he fasted and prayed. But when Ananias placed his hands upon Saul, it says immediately scales began to fall from his eyes, and he received his sight; he received his healing. He got up and was baptized with water as an outward expression of his conviction; different from verse 17, filled with the Holy Spirit to be empowered for service.

9:19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. Fasting was over, but prayer is never over. Saul tended to his physical need and ate meat, so he could be strengthened because of the last three days, he was without food. He was in new surroundings and a new convert. He had to get acquainted with his new brethren. So, he joined and became associated and identified with other believers. You can imagine how stunned the other believers were because they remembered his past. However, his old nature and old man had truly died on the Damascus Road, and now he has the new nature shared by all believers.

I want to bring up one point—²There is a common misconception among Christians that the name Saul of Tarsus was changed to Paul by Jesus after Saul's life-changing encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. On the contrary, Acts 13:9 tells us that Saul *"was also called Paul"* (NIV).

In other words, he had both names before and after he became an apostle of Jesus. He apparently used the Hebrew name Shaul (Saul) in Jewish settings, as when he was addressing a crowd in Jerusalem after his arrest there (Acts 22); and the Roman name Paulus (Paul) in a Greco-Roman environment, as in his epistles. It seems to have been fairly typical for first-century Jews to have more than one name. Other New Testament examples include:

- "Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus)" (Acts 1:23).
- "Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas)" (Acts 9:36).
- "John, also called Mark" (Acts 12:12).

Paul's companion Silas (Acts 15-18), who is also known as Silvanus (2 Cor 1:19; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:1). This information raises an interesting question about the use of Saul's two names in the book of Acts. Luke, the author of Acts, refers to Saul of Tarsus as "Saul" until Acts 13:9, then shifts to "Paul" for the remainder of the book. So, Jesus did not change his name. Saul became Paul on his first missionary journey to Antioch (Acts 13).

9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. It didn't take Saul long. You know how it is with new converts—all gong-ho about Jesus! He immediately began to preach Christ in the synagogues whether they wanted to hear him or not. He now had a new belief. He was no longer talking about religion, tradition, ceremony rituals or, trying to round up the Christians to kill them. No, he preached that Christ is the Son of God!

SUMMARY:

10The Lord then appeared to a disciple named Ananias in a vision. **11**He was told to go to Straight street to the house of Judas called Saul for he's praying. **12**Saul also has seen in the vision that Ananias is coming to lay his

² <http://graceandknowledge.faithweb.com/saul2paul.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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hand upon him that he might receive his sight. **13**Ananias was reluctant to go because he had heard things about him **14**and his purpose for coming to Damascus (**9:10-14**).

15But God told him to go because Saul would be a chosen vessel for Christ, and he is to bear Christ's name before the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. **16**God would show him how he must suffer for His name's sake. **17**Ananias did as he was commanded by the Lord God Almighty. He entered the house and his laid hands upon Saul and called him *"Brother Saul, saying, the Lord sent me"* Just like that, he was healed, a brother in the body of Christ; called by God, and filled with the Holy Ghost. You have to remember that Saul had been fasting and praying for three days, indicating he had believed in the Lord and was calling on Him. **18**After three days of temporary blindness, *"Immediately"* meaning instant and quickly, the scales that had covered his eyes have fallen off, and Saul has now instantly regained his sight. He arose and was baptized with water as an outward expression of his conviction; different from verse 17, filled with the Holy Spirit to be empowered for service. **19**Saul ate to be strengthened and remained in Damascus for some days and **20**began immediately preaching *Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God* in the synagogues, **21**to the amazement of those who knew he had come to the city to arrest Christians (**9:15-20**).