

## Transformation from Spiritual Blindness to Spiritual Sight

### Acts 9:10-19

Paul began his trip to Damascus physically seeing, but spiritually blind. He ended it physically blind, but spiritually seeing. What he formerly thought that he saw, he no longer saw. What he formerly did not see, he now did see. What was formerly gain to him now was loss. What he formerly despised, he now cherished. Just as Jonah was three days and nights in the belly of the great fish, so Saul was three days and nights in the dark. When the scales fell from his eyes, he saw everything in a new light, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ. All through Scripture, blindness is a spiritual metaphor and it is used to represent the spiritual inability to see God's truth. There is obviously some symbolism or metaphor here; the scales had fallen off Saul's eyes and for the first time, he really saw the truth concerning Jesus Christ. Every truly converted person whose life has been transformed can say, "I once thought that I saw, but I was blind. Now, by God's grace, I see."

### Ananias Baptizes Saul

<sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." <sup>17</sup>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." <sup>18</sup>Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. <sup>19</sup>So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

### Discussion Questions

1. In verses 10-11, the focus shifts to Ananias. What does the Lord want him to do? How does he feel about this? What do you think was going through Ananias' mind?
2. How would you feel if God wanted you to meet with someone known for killing Christians? Would you have listened to the Holy Spirit and been obedient? Would you have allowed your fear and anger to rule or compassion to come forth through the Holy Spirit?
3. In verse 15, the Lord responds to Ananias' fear and objections by commanding him to go and by sharing his plans for Saul's life. God says that Saul is to be His chosen instrument for taking the gospel to the Gentiles. What would have made Saul a good candidate for this task?
4. In verse 16, the Lord says, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Why do think God says this?
5. In Verse 17, how did Ananias address Saul? What does that indicate?
6. What happens in verses 17–19 as Ananias is obedient to Lord's call? How does Saul respond and what do his actions say about him? What might this tell us about facing someone we don't want to talk to but whom we feel God wants us to talk to?