



Discussion Guide



Sermon Title: "Paul's Reality"

Date: October 8, 2017

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. ⌚ Why does it take an "openness" to the Holy Spirit for Him to use us more effectively?
2. Describe a time you felt you were "filled with the Spirit."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. ⌚ How have you allowed your past to prevent you from serving God more effectively?
2. ⌚ How can God use your past in your ministry today?
3. What are some reasons we shouldn't look at the spectacular circumstances (falling/light/voice) of Saul's conversion with envy?
4. ⌚ Why do you think some very religious people have a hard time hearing God?
5. What assurance do you gain from Acts 9:11 where it says "Saul is praying?"
6. What do you think of Ananias being hesitant to go see Saul after the Lord spoke to him to do so?
7. ⌚ In verse 15 it says Saul is a chosen instrument. In what way are all believers chosen instruments?

FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Discuss this statement: "The Spirit *fills* us to more effectively *use* us."
2. ⌚ Discuss this statement: "God can only *use* us and *fill* us to our fullest extent if we are yielded vessels of his."
3. Discuss this statement: "Better to have your eyes wide open and see *nothing* of this life, than to have your eyes wide open and *only* see this life."
4. ⌚ Discuss this statement: "Our *surface* questioning of his knowledge is only because of our *deeper* question of his care."

☞ Feel free to use the questions marked with a "⌚" if your time is limited ☞

NOTES:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES (NASB unless otherwise noted)

📖 Main Text: Acts 9:1-19

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 and he said, "Who are You, Lord?" and He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at 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 instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; 19 and he took food and was strengthened.

📖 Other texts referenced: 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

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