

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Instant Change.”**
➤ (Acts 9:1-16).

~INTRO~

NOW...

- As we begin our study today...
➤ Let's remember the big picture.

THE CHURCH...

- Is being persecuted & the believers have been scattered...
➤ Out of Jerusalem and into the surrounding areas.

WHICH PARTIALLY FULFILLS (Acts 1:8)...

- As the church becomes witnesses of Jesus...

“*in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”

SO... TODAY...

- Our study adds a new character...
➤ To God's unfolding plan...
 - For the spread of the Gospel.
- **Saul of Tarsus** a persecutor of the Church...
➤ Was headed to Damascus to arrest scattered Christians.

AND... (Acts 9) IS KNOWN AS...

- *The Damascus Road Conversion.*

LOCATION: Show pic here

- Sometimes on our Israel tours we stop...
➤ At the Quneitra Crossing...
 - To view the Road the road into Damascus.

WALKING TO DAMASCUS...

- From Jerusalem would take about 6-days...

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➤ And cover 140-miles.

NOW... BIBLE COMMENTATORS...

- Estimate... that Saul persecuted the church for nearly 3-years.¹
 - AND... at the time of ([Acts 9](#))...
 - Saul would have been 28 – 31 years old.

AND IN SPITE OF ALL THE PERSECUTION FROM SAUL...

- Jesus said he was “[a chosen vessel](#)” ([Acts 9:15](#)).
- God chose Saul to expand the Gospel message around the known world.

AND TO THIS DAY...

- Every believer is still playing a part in this mission.

OK... ([Acts 9](#))...

- Is the record of the “instant change” of a man who hears God.
 - And the story is told in three places:
 - 1) Luke records Saul’s conversion right here in ([Acts 9](#)).
 - 2) Paul (Saul) re-tells his story as a defense before the Jews...
 - At the Temple in ([Acts 22](#)).
 - 3) Paul again uses his conversion story while on trial...
 - Before King Agrippa II in ([Acts 26](#)) at Caesarea Maritima.
 - (Our second stop on the Israel tour)

EACH ACCOUNT ADDS DIFFERENT DETAILS TO THE EVENT.

HERE’S A FEW THINGS TO LEARN:

#1 – REALITY CHECK: ([vv.1-7](#))

FLIP AHEAD TO ([Acts 26:12-15](#)) for more details to this story.

JESUS TOOK WHAT WAS HAPPENING PERSONALLY...

¹ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Acts copyright © 2016. (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 5) (p. 261). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

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- He didn't say why are you hurting my church OR my people.

HE SAID...

- “*Why are you persecuting Me?*”

IN (Zech. 2:8)...

- God says... “*...for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*”

NOW... (Acts 26:14)

- The time of day is **12:noon**.
 - There were other people with Saul... who all fell to the ground.
 - But only Saul heard a voice speaking to him in Hebrew.

c.p. (Acts 9:7 / Acts 22:9 / Acts 26:14)...

- (Heard noise, but not actual words)

BY WAY OF APPLICATION...

GOD KNOWS...

- The language to speak... to get your attention.
 - Some require a heavy voice to come to their senses...
 - A strong rebuke.
- Others need a more delicate voice and respond much easier.

(Ecc. 12:11) NKJV

- Goads = Keep us moving in one direction.
- Nails = Keep us anchored in.

God Shepherds us by speaking words of truth to us...

- Which keeps us moving forward & anchored into Him.

#2 – HEALING: (vv.8-12)

IN THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS...

- Jesus is seen interacting & healing people.
 - And one that stands out to me is the blind man in Jerusalem...
 - Who was sent to the pool of Siloam to wash his eyes...
 - (John 9:1-41).

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IN (Acts 9)...

- Jesus sends Ananias to lay hands-on Saul...
➤ So he can receive his sight.

CHURCH...

- There are times when the ministry of presence is needed!
➤ As followers of Jesus we take the word of Christ forward – TRUE!
 - But we also take the hands of Jesus forward too.

(Matt. 25:34-40).

- The ministry of presence brings the physical touch of love...
➤ To hurting / paralyzed / sick / addicted / & abused people.

SAUL...

- Could have been healed by a supernatural touch from God.
➤ But Jesus knew it would be the kindness of a physical touch...
 - From the very people Saul was persecuting...
 - That would demonstrate a supernatural love!

SO TOO...

- Look what Jesus says to us (Matt. 5:43-48) NKJV

#3 – MISSION: (vv.15-16)

GOD SENT ANANIAS TO SAUL...

- Flip to (Acts 26:16-18)

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS:

Just like Saul...

- 1) God saved you & gave you a message (v.16).
- 2) God's protection is with you while on mission (v.17).
- 3) God will give you success in sharing His word (v.18).

The church has been commissioned...

- To take the message about Jesus into the world.
 - (Matt. 28:19-20) NLT

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~IN CLOSING~

BECAUSE OF UNSUAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE...

- The Church needs to be reminded of our mission...
 - We need to be renewed in our confidence in Christ...
 - AND encouraged to keep moving forward....
 - Until we finish our race OR Jesus returns!