

Read Passage

The famous story in Acts 9 is the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus. The less famous stories are the actions of two individuals who reached out to a person with a horrific reputation: Ananias and Barnabas. In Acts 22, after being arrested at the Temple, Saul highlights the significant role Ananias played in helping him to learn to follow Jesus and to understand God's calling on his life. (Acts 22:12–16) Barnabas plays an important role by later introducing Saul to the disciples in Jerusalem in Acts 9, then bringing Saul to Antioch from Tarsus in Acts 11:25, and then in being called by the Holy Spirit to be set apart with Saul for God's work in Acts 13:2.

Amazingly, the building blocks of God's kingdom are often the little actions of a faithful disciple rather than a BIG SPLASH. Far too often the waves created by someone's big splash result in unforeseen consequences whereas the many actions of faithful followers are amplified beyond measure. Luke 6:37–38

What happens to Saul if Ananias does not act in obedience to God's instruction?

THE TEXT**A. Ananias's Receptivity (Acts 9:10)****1. The Lord Speaks in a Vision**

- A. Dreams and Visions in the USA
- B. Reality of multiple conversions among Muslim Born Believers

B. Ananias's Response**1. Following Biblical Pattern**

- A. Abraham (Gen 22:1, 11)
- B. Jacob (Gen 31:11, 46:2)
- C. Moses (Exod 3:4)
- D. Samuel (**1 Sam 3:2, 4, 5, 6, 8**, 16)

C. Ananias's Reluctance (9:13–14)**1. Are you sure God?**

2. Do you know about this person?

D. Ananias's Reaction (Acts 9:17)

1. So Ananias left where he was and went to the house as commanded

- A. Ananias touched Saul
- B. Ananias spoke to Saul
- C. Ananias welcomed Saul as "brother"

2. Ananias identifies himself as one "sent" by Jesus

- A. Literally "The Lord Sent me, the one who appeared to you on the road, Jesus"

THE PEOPLE

E. Our Role in the Evangelism Process

1. Prepare ourselves to listen when God speaks to us

- A. How does God speak to us?
 - 1. It could be through a Vision
 - 2. It could be an impression to Call or Write someone
- B. How do we prepare ourselves?
 - 1. Accept the reality that God is still working with, through, and by people.
 - 2. Spend more time listening in times of prayer than speaking.
 - 3. Write down more of our thoughts and inspiration during times of prayer.
 - 4. Share our perceptions about how God is speaking to us with others.
 - 5. Pray for our enemies and those who persecute Christians around the globe

2. Address our reluctance to God

- A. Many of us think God will be upset or depart from us if we have an open and honest conversation with him!
- B. Read the Psalms aloud when they express how you are feeling.

1. Psalm 62:1-6

3. Change our attitude

- A. Start saying "Yes, and" more often than "Yes, but"
- B. Learn to say "Here I am"

4. Start acting on what we already know to be true

A. Luke 16:10

B. Stop waiting for “that BIG MOMENT” but prepare with each “little moment”

God asks us to be faithful followers, not famous ones. A single act by a faithful follower of Jesus can accomplish much. James 5:16

Where does God desire that we simply be faithful to His quiet prompting?