



## **Acts 9:10-16 (NRSV)**

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ 11 The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment 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 evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ 15 But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’

- Luke doesn't tell us much about Ananias, just that he was a disciple. God gave him a special role to play in the unfolding story of the early church, and it all started with a vision from the Lord.
- ❖ How does Ananias' response to the Lord **in Acts 9:10** reflect the pattern of God calling His servants in the Old Testament, such as **Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4), Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22), Moses (Exodus 3:4-12), Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10), and Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8)**, and what does this reveal about God's call and human response?
- Ananias's response of "Here I Am" is the only occurrence in the New Testament. It implied obedience and a heart ready for service to the Lord. This is significant because each person who answered the Lord's call in the Old Testament had an important and often difficult task in front of them. Ananias was no different.
- Notice the conversation between God and Ananias. God told Ananias to go to Saul to pray for him to regain his sight. Instead of immediately obeying, Ananias reminded God of Saul's reputation.
- ❖ Why did Ananias hesitate when God called him to go to Saul in **9:10-14**, and what does this teach us about obedience and trust in God?
- ❖ What else does God tell Ananias about Saul in **9:15-16**? **Keep this in mind as Saul's story unfolds in Acts.**

## Acts 9:17-19

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

## Review 9:17-19.

- Ananias obeyed God despite his fear and went to Saul, calling him “**Brother Saul.**” By doing this, Ananias accepted Saul as a fellow believer, trusting God’s word rather than Saul’s past. Because God had told Ananias that Saul was chosen by Him, Ananias treated Saul according to God’s purpose for him, not his former reputation.
- Just as on the road to Damascus, Saul’s conversion involved his whole body. He *heard* words of healing, acceptance, and calling. Something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his *sight*. He *felt* Ananias’ touch as hands were laid on him, and he *ate* food and regained strength. This shows that Saul’s conversion was not only spiritual but also physical, marking a complete transformation and the beginning of his new life in Christ.
- ❖ Why does God choose to heal Saul through human touch rather than through a direct divine act? What does this reveal about God’s desire to work through relationships, community, and embodied presence?
- ❖ Who in your life might God be calling you to actively go to, help, or encourage, even if it feels risky or uncomfortable, like Ananias going to Saul?
- ❖ Are there tangible ways—praying, touching, helping, or sharing a meal—you can minister to someone in need, reflecting God’s presence through action?