Pastor Mike O'Bannion August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

## **From Darkness to Destiny**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

1. God pursues the
Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high
priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the
Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his
journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to
him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are
persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:1-6)

## 2. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 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." (Acts 9:10-17)

## 3. Transformation leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. (Acts 9:18-22)

No one is too far from God's grace, and no act of obedience is too small, to be used by Him.