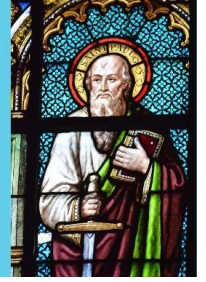




Finding Purpose in Unexpected Places: The Story of Paul



www.elim.family/paul

Embracing the Call

Read Acts 9

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In this sermon, we explore the remarkable journey of Paul, from his origins as Saul, a persecutor of Christians, to his transformation into one of the most influential figures in the early Christian church. We begin by drawing parallels between Paul's journey and modern-day adventurers, highlighting the unexpected twists and turns that can lead to profound spiritual transformations. As we delve into Paul's background, we uncover the diverse cultural influences and experiences that shaped his identity, from his upbringing in Tarsus to his education under Gamaliel in Jerusalem.

Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus serves as a pivotal moment of divine intervention, radically altering the trajectory of his life. Despite his past as a persecutor, Paul becomes a fervent disciple of Jesus, traveling extensively and spreading the message of God's grace and redemption. Through Paul's example, we are reminded of the transformative power of God's love and the boundless potential for redemption, no matter our past mistakes or shortcomings.

Ultimately, Paul's story challenges us to reflect on our own journeys of faith and surrender to God's will. Just as Paul gave every part of himself to God's service, we are called to lay bare our own vulnerabilities and allow God to work through us. As we embrace this call to surrender, we discover that our past experiences, strengths, and weaknesses can all be used by God to advance His kingdom and bring hope to others.

Questions for reflection:

1. Have you ever experienced a moment of unexpected transformation or divine intervention in your life? How did this experience shape your faith journey?
2. Reflecting on Paul's background and upbringing, what aspects of your own cultural background and upbringing have influenced your beliefs and perceptions of faith?
3. How does Paul's journey from persecution to advocacy for the Christian faith inspire you to embrace God's grace and redemption in your own life?
4. In what areas of your life do you struggle to surrender to God's will completely? How can you cultivate a deeper sense of trust and obedience in your relationship with God?

Group Discussion:

- Share examples of individuals or historical figures whose journeys resonate with Paul's transformation. How do these stories reflect the theme of redemption and renewal?
- Discuss the cultural influences and societal pressures that may have shaped Paul's identity and worldview. How do these factors parallel with contemporary challenges faced by Christians today?
- Explore the concept of divine intervention and the role of personal encounters with God in shaping one's faith journey. Have members of the group experienced similar moments of revelation or transformation?
- Reflect on Paul's role as a messenger of God's grace and redemption. How can we emulate his example in our own communities and spheres of influence?
- Consider Paul's call to surrender every part of himself to God's service. How can we support and encourage one another in this journey of faith and obedience?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.

Recommended Read:

Paul – A Biography, Tom Wright - [Paul: A Biography | Free Delivery at Eden.co.uk](#)

Paul, Charles Swindoll - [Great Lives Paul by Charles Swindoll | Free Delivery at Eden](#)