

Notes - Book of Acts Study, Part 41 – Wed, November 18, 2020

Acts 9:17-22

¹⁷ 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.” ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ 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?” ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

When God forgives us – He frees us

We play God when we won’t allow ourselves to feel free because of our past.

Galatians 5:1

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Out of our greatest mistakes can come our greatest ministry opportunities!

Saul didn’t change himself. Jesus changed him.

We can’t change who we are, we can only change what we do.

Jeremiah 17:14

*¹⁴ Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed;
save me and I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise.*

Jeremiah 6:14

*¹⁴ They dress the wound of my people
as though it were not serious.
‘Peace, peace,’ they say,
when there is no peace.*

There is a difference in changing what we do and changing who we are.

The fruit of God's presence is change

Grace changes us

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Legalism puts confidence in the flesh.

With legalism, we can dispense our own spirituality.

Few things will baffle people like a changed life!