

Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of May 19 - 25, 2019

Main Thought and Passages:

The Apostle Paul led thousands to faith, planted numerous churches, and was inspired by God to author nearly half of the New Testament. Paul had to gain victory over his past first. Before his conversion, Paul, then called Saul, had such hatred for Christians that he oversaw their persecution, hunted them down, and executed many. Like all of us, he was spiritually "blind" and lived his life in opposition to God's will. What changed him?

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁶'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' ⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything..."

...Then Ananias (a disciple) 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.' ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God."
(Acts 9:3-9, 17-20 NIV)

From Paul's example, we learn three things:

1. As we encounter Jesus through His Word, our "spiritual blindness" (areas of our lives that in opposition to God's will) is exposed. We are often unaware of it until God opens our eyes.

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 NIV)

2. Through prayer and fellowship with other believers, our "spiritual blindness" is healed.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16 NIV)

3. Paul continued to walk victoriously as he shared Jesus with others.

Reflection:

- As you reflect on the main thought and passages, what stands out to you and why?
- Share about an area of "spiritual blindness" in your own life that God has revealed to you. What did you learn from that? (For example, unforgiveness, an attitude, an addiction, etc.)

Application:

- Is there an area of "spiritual blindness" that God is revealing to you in this season of your life? What are you currently doing about it? What do you need to do going forward?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another for an area of spiritual blindness to be healed.
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