

# sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

May 18, 2025 | “Was Blind, But Now I See” | **Acts 9:1–19a**

## **EXPOSITION**

- 1) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Saul’s attention  
(9:1–3)
- 2) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with the suffering of his saints  
(9:4–6)
- 3) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Saul’s spiritual blindness for physical blindness  
(9:7–9)
- 4) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Saul’s blindness through faithful, fearful Ananias  
(9:10–19a)

## **APPLICATION**

- 1) *Be \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus can save even the worst of sinners*
- 2) *Be \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus may use you in a fear-inducing faith venture*
- 3) *Be \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus’s work of salvation should ignite wonder and worship in his church*

## **Questions for further application of God’s Word:**

### **GO DEEPER**

Why do you think Saul was so violently opposed to Christ and his disciples? Compare and contrast Saul’s actions with those of his former teacher, Gamaliel (Acts 5:33–40).

How does Paul’s temporary blindness in Acts 9:8–9 relate to his spiritual blindness? How is he healed of both? Why do you think God chose to save Saul? What took place after his conversion? Explore Saul’s (Paul’s) answer to this question in 1 Timothy 1:12–17, focusing particularly on verse 16. In light of that verse, what does Saul’s conversion mean for you as one who “believes in [Jesus] for eternal life”?

Why does Jesus say, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (9:4)? How exactly was Saul persecuting Jesus—wasn’t he targeting the church (i.e., “the Way,” or “the disciples of the Lord”)? What theological significance can we derive from this profound identification between Christ and His church?

### **GET PERSONAL**

Put yourself in Ananias’s shoes. Would you have been fearful if Jesus had called you to meet face-to-face with Saul? What are some other ways God commands His disciples to be faithful—not fearful—in obeying His Word? Does fear ever prevent you from demonstrating faithfulness?

Would you consider yourself an optimist when it comes to the salvation of sinners? Would you consider yourself an opportunist when it comes to sharing your faith? What are some ways that God can use you to be a “Philip” or “Ananias” in someone’s life this week?

### **PUT IT INTO PRACTICE**

Take some time to reflect on the work of salvation that God has accomplished in your own life. Write it out, and worship him for his saving grace. Then, remember how God has used you to be a “Philip” or an “Ananias” in someone else’s journey toward salvation. Spend time praising and worshipping the Lord for this, and ask him to do it again in the days to come.

### **ADVANCED QUESTION**

How does Saul’s conversion challenge or confirm our understanding of divine initiative in salvation? Do all Christians have a “Damascus Road experience” when they come to faith? Not everyone is saved as dramatically as Saul—by seeing and hearing the risen Christ—but how does God initiate salvation? What New Testament Scriptures support the idea of God’s divine initiative in salvation?