

## 02.10.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “Paul’s Transformation”

**Scripture Reading:** [Acts 9:1-19](#)

**Reflection:** Rev. George Vink

For several months we’ve had challenging considerations of the early church’s life, leadership, and ministry, and still we’re not even half-way through Luke’s history of the early church. Yet, I’m glad we’ve reached the account of Saul’s life-changing interruption. The church-destroying Saul is not going to get away with it any longer! He’s about to undergo a history-changing transformation! Slammed to the ground, blinded and stumbling, Saul will come to see what God has in mind for him and for Christ’s church. In Luke’s account of the church’s beginning, we see God’s calling different people like Saul at different times in different ways, but always with their transformation in mind.

God’s calling of a zealous, church-destroying enemy of the gospel and his subsequent transformation speaks volumes about God’s divine planning. Planning in which God has room for a well-educated, thoroughly cultured, yet fiercely stubborn Saul. God used this transformed zealot to author a significant section of the New Testament. God used him to plant several mission-minded churches. God touched Saul, humbled him, and later even denied his request to have a “thorn” removed. ([2 Cor. 12: 7-10](#)). God used Paul’s abilities and experiences to advance Christ’s claims over a significant segment of Paul’s world. Our God has a way of doing just that, using our abilities and our experiences to accomplish His purposes.

Not all of us have a “Damascus road experience.” Not all of us have the education and background Saul had. But we don’t need Paul’s education and experiences to qualify us to fulfill the calling coming our way. Our transformation is unique to us, yours to you, and mine to me. Saul’s is not normative. We need not feel inferior in any way. God’s Holy Spirit also transforms and equips us for whatever task our Lord calls us to accomplish. Don’t wait for a blinding light or an on-the-road experience! There’s an Ananias waiting for you too!

### **Prayer:**

Transformer of Saul and other servants, help us to recognize whatever task you have in mind for us. Like Saul, help us to be blinded to self so that we’ll see what you would have us do, wherever and whenever. Make me see the unique gift you’ve given me to be used by you. Help me find someone who can be my example of a transformed life, suited for service. Amen.

### **Action Item for the Day/Week:**

Ask, “What did I do yesterday that was a simple, obedient act of a disciple?” Where did you go, how did you grow, and what role did grace have in your doing so? If none, don’t give up. Experience God’s forgiveness, get up, and get going! You’re uniquely you!

### **Songs for today:**

[I Have Decided to Follow Jesus](#)

[For Your Gift of God the Spirit](#)