

## Acts Part 11 Transformed To Destiny

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 9:15-19 NASB95] 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; 19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

- God has a destiny for you. It will require you to change (be transformed).
- The Apostle Paul is considered by some to be on the most influential people who has ever lived. He wrote much of the NT and set forth doctrine that is at the forefront of many nations on the earth even today!
- Jesus revealed that he, Paul, had a calling (a destiny) to fulfill. It required him to change. His transformation was dramatic.
- The same is true for us. Even though our calling (destiny) may not be a dramatic or impactful, but it is no less supernatural.
- "The Christian view of destiny believes there is a place for the sovereign will of God, but also, there is a place for man's personal choice. For us to fulfil our destiny, we must make the right decisions and choices." (<https://guardian.ng/sunday-magazine/ibru-ecumenical-centre/destiny-2-the-christian-view-about-destiny/>)

### What does being transformed to destiny look like?

Here are 8 aspects to you being transformed to obtain your destiny.

#### I. Transformation to destiny starts with surrender.

- a. [Act 9:3-9 NASB95] 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He [said,] "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
- b. Three aspects of surrender
  - i. Conviction of sin.
  - ii. Revelation of the Savior.
  - iii. Pursuit of Savior. V. 11 (He is praying.)

#### II. Transformation to destiny means we must continue to grow in our understanding.

- a. [Act 9:17-18 NASB95] 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;
- b. He encountered Jesus yet needed more revelation. Even though Paul followed Jesus' orders, he still had scales on his eyes.

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- c. [Eph 1:17-18 NASB95] 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- d. Your success in your calling will be tied to your growth.

### **III. Transformation to destiny needs empowerment of the Holy Spirit.**

- a. [Act 9:17 NASB95] 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
- b. Similar to [Luk 24:49 NASB95] 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- c. Note: Although Luke does not record it here, Paul did speak in tongues. (I Corinthians 14:18)

### **IV. Transformation to destiny requires training.**

- a. [Act 9:23 NASB95] 23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,
- b. Paul was well trained and studied under Gamaliel.
- c. He spent time in the desert of Arabia. This is where he likely received revelation from Jesus Himself. [Gal 1:17-18 NASB95] 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.
- d. Remember, Peter and John though not formally educated had been with Jesus for 3 years of learning.
- e. You will need to learn how to walk in the calling God has on our lives.

### **V. Transformation to destiny will not always be celebrated by others.**

- a. [Act 9:23-24 NASB95] 23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death;
- b. These Jews were Paul's friends. Now they are trying to kill him.
- c. Expect that people will not want to see you change. Do not let others make you fit into their thoughts for you.

### **VI. Transformation to destiny is characterized by work.**

- a. [Act 9:20-22, 28 NASB95] 20 and immediately he [began] to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and [who] had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this [Jesus] is the Christ. ... 28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.
- b. [Col 4:17 NASB95] 17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
- c. You can't steer a parked car. Start taking steps toward the calling. Lazy people never reach their destiny. You will have to work.

### **VII. Transformation to destiny is better when connected with other faithful people.**

- a. [Act 9:10-17 NASB95] 10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the

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Lord [said] to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

- b. [Act 9:27 NASB95] 27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
- c. Make connections to people who are walking the same direction as you.

### **VIII. Transformation to destiny is just about you.**

- a. [Act 9:31 NASB95] 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.
- b. It has been said, you can go fast alone, but you go long with others.
- c. You fulfilling your calling (destiny), affects others.

- **God wants to transform you so you can reach His calling, the destiny He has for you.**