

Christian Education
CONVERSION

Chapter Two: Is Change Possible?

Main Idea:

By God's grace, through the gospel, we can change. Through faith in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive a new nature that delights to do God's will.

Digging In:

In Acts 9 we read of the radical change God brought about in the life of Saul of Tarsus, who is primarily known to us as the apostle Paul.

READ Acts 9.1-22 and answer the following questions:

1. What is Saul doing at the beginning of this passage (vv1-2)?
2. What happened to Saul as he was approaching Damascus (vv3-9)?
3. How does Ananias initially respond when the Lord Jesus tells him to go lay hands on Saul? What does this say about Saul's reputation (vv.10-14)?

4. Describe how Saul's life changed immediately after his conversion (vv19-22)?

5. How did Paul's understanding of Jesus change as a result of this encounter? What did he believe about Jesus before and after his decisive meeting (vv20-22).

6. How is Saul's conversion similar to all other Christians' conversions?

7. What are some other ways Paul's conversion might be different from other Christians' conversions?

8. What are the different ways Paul describes himself (whether at present or in the past) in this passage?

9. What did Paul receive from Christ (v.13)?

10. What is the trustworthy saying Paul gives us? What does this saying deserve (v.15)?

11. For what purpose did Paul receive mercy (v.16)?

12. What does it mean that Paul is an example of those who were to believe in Christ (v.16)? What does this teach us about the possibility of real change through the gospel?

13. What does Paul say that some of us were?

14. What does Paul say has happened to us? How have we been changed?

15. How should this good news that we can change in the most fundamental way through the gospel impact:

Our prayers for our own lives?

Our prayers for others?

Our evangelism?

How we handle conflict in the church?

How we interact with difficult or immature church members?