

## Blinded By The Kingdom

### Introduction to Paul

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Saul was trying to destroy the church; entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment.

Acts 8:3

”

**TMIY**

### Paul's Memory of Who He Was

“

I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city. At the feet of Gamaliel I was educated strictly in our ancestral law and was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. I persecuted this Way to death, binding both men and women and delivering them to prison. Even the high priest of the whole council of elders can testify on my behalf. For from them I even received letters to the brothers and set out for Damascus to bring back to Jerusalem in chains for punishment those there as well.

Acts 22:1-5

”

**TMIY**

## Paul's Memory of Who He Was

“

I myself once thought that I had to do many things against the name of Jesus the Nazorean, and I did so in Jerusalem. I imprisoned many of the holy ones with the authorization I received from the chief priests, and when they were to put to death I cast my vote against them. Many times, in synagogue after synagogue, I punished them in an attempt to force them to blaspheme; I was so enraged against them that I pursued them even to foreign cities.

Acts 26:8-11

”

TMIY

## Paul Enters the Road to Damascus

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Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

Acts 9:1-2

”

TMIY

## Transformation of Paul's Mind

“

Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Cor 12:7-10

”

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## Transformation of Paul's Heart

“

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now... It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace... For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more.

Phil 1:3-5, 7-9

”

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## Transformation of Paul's Tongue

“

I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared me.

1 Cor 15:3-8

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TMIY

**TMIY**  
THAT MAN IS YOU!  
BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

### Session 10

- **Does this greater attention to Paul's conversion make Paul more or less relatable to you? Why?**
- **In considering the transformation of the way St. Paul learned to see, learned to listen, and learned to speak, what would you consider the most demanding kind of transformation for you and why?**