

What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?

The Abundant Christian

Acts 9:1-6,15-16

30 December 2022

Are you living the abundant life that the Lord Jesus Christ wants you to live (John 10:10)?

- Perhaps you need to determine whether you're really a Christian. Has your life changed since you got saved?
- Are people shocked in disbelief when you tell them you're a Christian? That ought not to be so.
- We need to trust the Lord with our lives 100% and not hold back in our service for Him. Can you say to Jesus, "**Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**" and be truly willing to do whatever He shows you?

READ ACTS 9:1-6, 15-16

The life of Paul is an example to us all. See First Timothy 1:15.

- Paul considered himself to be the chief of sinners. That is why he is such a great example of what God can do in the life of any sinner.
- We'll look at Paul's salvation, surrender, service, and sacrifice as our pattern to follow.

I. HIS SALVATION (9:5-6)

- Saul of Tarsus did a lot of good things, but he wasn't saved. He was a self-righteous man.
 - Those are the hardest people to win to the Lord Jesus Christ because they think they're good enough to go to heaven without Christ.
- Saul thought he was doing a good thing when he was killing Christians, but it was wicked. He was a murderer, a persecutor, and a blasphemer (1 Tim 1:13).
 - By zealously persecuting Christians, Saul was one of "**those that oppose themselves**" (2 Tim. 2:25). So, the Lord says to him, "**It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks**" (Acts 9:5).
 - When you fight against God, you only hurt yourself. Many people prevent God from saving them by their stubborn willfulness.

A. By the Imputed Righteousness of Christ (Philippians 3:4-9)

- When Paul came to Christ, he did it through faith, trusting God's righteousness, not his own (vs 9).
 - Paul was more righteous than most men (vs 4), obeying the law, without blame, etc.
 - He knew he must let go of his self-righteousness and count it all as loss for Christ (vs 7)
 - Winning Christ (vs 8) was more important than anything to Paul. He had to cast away his own righteousness and trust the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ (vs 9).

B. As an Example of All Longsuffering (1Timothy 1:15-16)

- Paul counted himself as the chief sinner among men (vs 15). The fact that God would save such a sinner makes Paul a perfect pattern for all sinners (vs 16) and demonstrates God's longsuffering toward sinners.
 - God can save any sinner who repents and comes to Him for salvation. There are no valid excuses for not coming to Jesus Christ.

II. HIS SURRENDER (9:6)

When Paul realized he was talking to Jesus, he said, "said, "**LORD—, what wilt thou have me to do?**" That is his total surrender. He believed in verse 6 and surrendered to the Lord immediately upon his salvation.

A. To Present His Body a Living Sacrifice (Romans 12:1-20; Philippians 1:20-21; 1Corinthians 6:19-20).

- Paul had decided to give himself entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a living sacrifice.

B. To Finish the Course Given to Him by the Lord (Acts 20:24)

- Paul didn't count his life dear unto himself. That is surrender.
- Paul gave his whole life to God and wanted to finish that course.
 - It is amazing what God will do with a person who truly gives themselves to Him without reservation.
 - Once you give yourself completely to the Lord, whatever He calls you to do, He will also enable you to do it. Again, there are no excuses.

III. HIS SERVICE (9:15)

"...he is a chosen vessel unto me..." God had chosen Paul to do His work.

- After salvation and surrender, now God can use you. He'll let you know what to do.
 - If you don't surrender, God won't tell you what your service is. You are not to decide that.
 - Are you fully surrendered to the Lord? Would you do for Him whatever He asks, no matter what it is? Do you trust Him to do the right thing with your surrendered life?

A. To Spend and Be Spent (2Corinthians 12:15)

B. To Labor Night and Day (1Thessalonians 2:9)

IV. HIS SACRIFICE (9:16)

"For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

- Many people want to be saved, and they want to serve, but they don't want to surrender until they know how much they will have to sacrifice. God wants to see your total surrender first. Then, whatever the sacrifice, you will be able to handle it by God's grace.
- There is a cost to serving God. There are some things you will give up. Whatever you give up will be repaid a hundred-fold (Mt. 19:29).

A. In His Sufferings (2Corinthians 11:23-28)

- Paul suffered many things in his Christian life, but he was able to endure them because he was fully surrendered to Christ who was in him.
- God will never ask you to go through something He'll not enable you to go through.

B. In His Death (2Timothy 4:6-8)

- *"I am now ready to be offered."*

Conclusion: Where will you be a hundred years hence? What will you do between now and then? Are you fully surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ? Will you go where He wants you to go, do what He wants you to do?
