



The Damascus Experience

God has called us to work for Him. Our specific mission as light-filled Christians is to turn people from darkness to light. This great message is forever inscribed in God's Word regarding the account of Paul on the way to persecute more Christians.

(Acts 26:12-19) Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. {14} And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and



saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. {15} And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. {16} But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; {17} Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles,

unto whom now I send thee, {18} To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. {19} Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Only God's light can awaken a man from his deep spiritual slumber, wherein he rejects God and persecutes Jesus. The light of God must shine into and upon a person for them to change from dark and secret ways into His marvelous light.

Man's response to God

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is generally pride and reckless abandon. His last response should be his first response, to fall to the earth in humility. When God's light enters into your life, humble yourself before God. This will allow you to enjoy the full and entire benefits of basking in that light.

Humility allows you to hear things you would otherwise not notice.

In Paul's situation, Jesus Christ talked directly with him. Without humility, your ears will be closed to the things that matter most. It's always good to hear from Heaven in the first person, directly. Second best would be to hear these words via another person. When this happens, it means that you aren't listening in the first place.

Even in Paul's desperate state, caused by rejecting Christ, he heard Christ's voice. Some people could appear to be the

absolute worst of the worst, but that doesn't mean they won't hear from Heaven. Don't rate people based on your sense knowledge evaluation of them. Always keep an open mind and heart perchance God will work in their lives. Paul heard a voice speaking unto him. He understood it in his "religious" language, meaning, "in Hebrew." Remember that Paul was a Jew, extremely devout to the cause. Christ talked to him in this language to make a point. Because Paul's God was the God of Israel and of the Jews, this meant something to Paul. He related directly to that language. Paul was even called by his Hebrew name, Saul. Now we're talking personal. The Romans with Paul, the ones who were along to imprison Christians, spoke Greek and called him by his Greek name - Paul, not Saul.

If you humble yourself before God, He will lift you up. Paul was told to rise and stand. God will

not possess or control you; you have to act according to the Word. The Word to Paul was to rise and stand on his own two feet. And that's exactly what he did. *You have to be willing to listen and obey.* There's no room for hard-hearted rejection of God's Word. Only humility and boldness according to the things of God are warranted. For some of you, it is time to reject your principles of rejection and embrace humility so that you may rise up and stand together with the greatness of God's deliverance for others.

Protection is mankind's search, his dream, his ultimate goal in all things of life. God's ability to protect

and care for you are two of His strongest attributes. God guaranteed Paul's safety from the people and from the Gentiles, (the very people with whom he was

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soon to visit). God guaranteed this same protection for you. If God ever asks you to enter into a contract with Him, He will always guarantee your protection in the form of deliverance. Paul did get into trouble, but God always delivered him. He delivered him from death several times, and from many other perilous things as well. This deliverance did not remove Paul's experiences leading up to it; it took him out of the situation when God saw fit to do so. Paul had to go through stonings, ship wrecks, days and nights in the deep, and perils by robbers and so forth. He had to endure through many situations. You do too! Often times there is no way around them due to the nature of this life. ***You aren't invisible, transparent, able to move through walls and so forth.*** But God's deliverance takes place after these things come upon you. Of course, they can take

place before, but generally they happen after. Do you remember when Paul was let down by a rope to escape almost certain death? Well, he was ALREADY in a bad situation. God delivered him out of it.

It's time to quit worrying about the situations that seem to befall you. It's time to lay claim to God's deliverance. God has delivered you time and time again. That is His business, His promise, His guarantee. Satan took his battle with God to the people. Now, you have to deal with it, with God's help, but God has arranged things so that you are completely enabled and equipped for this situation. He has always been that way. He delivered the Israelites time and time again even though they got into some pretty bad situations. He delivered mankind even though Adam and Eve sinned.

He delivered Jesus, even though he got into such a bad situation – death. He delivered countless of his people throughout time. ***He delivered you, which is your Damascus Experience!*** You once walked in darkness; now you walk in light! Talk about a fantastic deliverance. You've been delivered. That's His job. That's the most perfect example of turning people from darkness to light that I am aware of. That's why it is so important that you exemplify the same to others. Show them that you were turned from darkness to light so that they get the picture. They, too, can turn from darkness to light when you teach them how to get born again and how to walk according to God's Word. That's how God's deliverance works today. The worst situation you will ever be in has ALREADY happened. DARKNESS! ***The greatest deliverance you will***

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ever receive has ALREADY happened.

SALVATION! Everything after that is icing on the cake. But His guarantee still works, is still in effect and can still be expected. What is your mindset? How do you perceive this? What thoughts do they promote and provoke?

Paul was going to become a minister and a witness of the things of God, and God was going to give him more information in time. You may not be a minister like Paul was called to be, but you can always be a witness of God's Word and the things of God that you experience.

God gave Paul his purpose. God always has a purpose when He moves. For us, we find His purpose in His Word. The Word had not yet been given, but it was being delivered in this situation. Your purpose is recorded in this record and abiding by it is a choice

you have to make. Paul chose to obey, but God wasn't finished with teaching Him of His greatness.

You can relive your Damascus Experience day after day.

(Acts 26:23) That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

I'd like to say that mankind persecutes Jesus until the time they are born again. Now is our time to show forth light to the people. This is a spiritual act whereby we show people God's Word and deliverance. I don't know what other form of deliverance you will be asked to show a person, but I do know that you will be asked to show him or her SALVATION!

(Rom 13:12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the

works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

God's Word is light!

Cloak yourself in it! It is supposed to be your armour. You must make it this way. No other can do this for you, not even God. You must choose your armour.

Our battle while on this earth will always be against satan and the things of satan. *Satan took the battle to the people and now we must fight!*

(2 Cor 4:3-6) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. {5} For we preach not ourselves,

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but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. {6} For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Satan is at war with God and His believers - us. The people who are not yet born again can be in Satan's army even if they don't know it. His army is an army of darkness, not light. But God's army is different! You are of light, not darkness. Your presence dispels Satan's army of darkness, rendering it ineffective. This is why we must speak according to the glorious gospel of Christ! ***Let this light shine forth with every word that you speak.*** Paul did, even if it got him in trouble. Don't worry about the trouble. Be thankful for God's deliverance. No matter what you go through in this life.

God's promise of deliverance will stand forever. He will never go back on His word, ever!

(2 Cor 11:14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Satan is a fake. You are not a fake. Satan's people are fakes. God's people are not fakes when they speak God's Word. Satan can and does transform himself into an angel, a messenger of light, just like some of God's people transform themselves into messengers of darkness when they don't speak God's accurate Word. You can't do anything about the way Satan transforms himself and shouldn't worry about it either. But you should be aware of Satan's tactics and not allow yourself to be duped by them.

If you are going to be a minister or a witness of light, you have to

know how it works.

This is how it works.

(Eph 5:8) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Never forget from where you came. People often do this. All ministers and witnesses of light today were once affected by the same foreboding darkness from which they deliver people today.

We all came out of the same thing we now speak and witness against. Don't forget this. At one time, you were just as troubled by darkness as others still are. ***God secured His troops from the very foundation of darkness against which He stands.*** He

didn't have any other way. You came out of that darkness, and

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many more are still yet to follow. You can remember your life before Christianity. Use those memories to understand how and what most people go through and are going through while you are speaking to them the glorious gospel of Christ. Don't let it be such a strange thing.

(1 Th 5:5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Spiritually, you were of darkness, but you aren't now, and never again will be. Once you are born again, you will always be in God's family.

(2 Tim 1:10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Today, our greatest "LIGHT TOOL" is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Word of God is the greatest source of light in the World today. When you speak this gospel, you will become synonymous with it, thus making you the greatest source of LIGHT in the world today too!

(1 Pet 2:9-10) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: {10} Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

(Rev 22:5) And there shall

be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

In the new earth, our source of Light will be God Himself. Go ahead and take a sample today though. You were meant for it. *It is your destiny*

to experience God's Light and love and to show it to others. Fulfill

your specific mission as a light-filled Christian, to turn people from darkness to light. Someone did this for you. You are no longer a soldier in satan's army; you are in God's army today because His light shone upon and in you and you humbled yourself so that you could hear His voice. You humbled yourself before God. Now, rise and stand upon your own two feet, fully equipped to turn others from their darkness to God's light. You have been made

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the greatest example of a witness of God's light that exists today in that you have your own story to tell. You have been turned. Witness it to others. Tell others about it. Minister to them as they decide to believe, and then tell them about God's absolute, iron-clad guarantee of deliverance from anything the world and satan can throw at them. Teach them what it means to be in the light and to walk in the light. Teach them that God will ALWAYS deliver them because that's what He promised, then, now and forever more. You are the light of the world and you are God's perfect example of deliverance! *Your life as a spirit-filled Christian proves His guarantee of deliverance!*

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown