

A WHOLE You in God! Part 5A - June 23, 2010

Greetings Everyone!

God remains faithful! Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus! 2 Timothy 2:15 says in the Amplified Version *Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.*

**Acts 9:20-31** as shared in Part 5 when read with the natural eye can be interpreted as though not much time had passed from the time Saul started preaching to the time Barnabas spoke up for him to the other apostles and Saul returning to Tarsus, his hometown. However, with time spent reading the Word and further study, you will find years had passed. There were three important and fascinating insights occurred I believe in Saul's journey worth noting: his anointing, revelations received and relationships with the other apostles [believers], and God's reconciliation. I believe these are three very important elements needed in every believer's walk with God—anointing, revelation and relationship with other believers.

As much as I would love to think and want to believe that working with other believers is always a pleasant experience, anointed or not, revelations or not, it's not. It can be unfortunately down right painful even hurtful. God knows this and yet He allows us to discover this about ourselves, each other and realize the consistent need for His Divine help and intervention. Glory to God! Hallelujah! How else can we find ourselves in God, our place in God, our giftings in God and our place in the Body of Christ? Nothing happens by chance....it's called **progressive sanctification**, whereby the believer is constantly being set apart from sin when he utilizes the means of grace (e.g., the Word and prayer) in his or her life.

The Book of The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament applies in a technical sense to certain men who played a prominent role in establishing the church. They had been witnesses to the Resurrection. Apostles were recipients of revelation and possessed the sign gifts, also called 'the signs of the apostles.'" The apostles gave us the Epistles of the New Testament as stated in The King James Study Bible.

Keep in mind this Book also shows that Peter and the other apostles, disciples, believers were already out preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews after the Pentecost experience when Saul was persecuting the church and then was subsequently converted to Christianity in the midst of their various preaching assignments. The Holy Ghost empowered them and led them just as Jesus Christ had taught them when He was with them.

The King James Study Bible states in **Acts 9:15-17** "Saul's commission does not come directly from God but through a God-appointed disciple. By contrast, his apostolic authority did come directly from Christ, not by succession through one of the apostles. **Galatians 1:[1]** *This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. [11] Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel*

*message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. [12] I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.*" [NLT] When did he receive this revelation one would ask? **Acts 9:[23]** NLT says *After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him.* The KJV of **[23]** says *And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:* The King James Study Bible states "the **many days** of this verse allow for Saul's lengthy stay in Arabia (**Gal. 1:17, 18**). Apparently after his conversion and brief stay in Damascus, Saul spent over two years alone with God in a desert region receiving revelation (**Gal. 1:12**). Then after another brief ministry in Damascus he fled to Jerusalem, returning to that city three years after he first left for Damascus (**Gal. 1:18**)." **Galatians 1:[17]** *Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus. [18] Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days.* [NLT]

Simply put, Saul received his anointing through the power of the Holy Ghost. He received his purpose and plan through God's divine revelations. It was necessary for him to meet his contemporaries in the gospel and for many reasons as expressed in the Epistles for everyone to read.

For the sake of space and time, I strongly encourage you to read **Galatians 1, 2 and 3**. Paul testifies of the dispute he and Peter had. **Galatians 2:[1]** *Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too. [2] I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. [3] And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile. [11] But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. [12] When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. [13] As a result, other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. [14] When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions? [15] "You and I are Jews by birth, not 'sinners' like the Gentiles. [16] Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." [17] But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! [18] Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. [19] For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God. [20] My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ*

*lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. [21] I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die. [NLT] Ouch! What a witness though!*

Last, **Ephesians 3** and **verses 3-6** specifically describe one of the great mysteries through revelation God opened up to Paul which will bless your socks off. I must admit if we as believers could really embrace that fact that Jews and Gentiles have the same inheritance in God, we would no longer see color in Christianity. I hope somebody caught that! Glory to God! This is what it says in NLT **[3]** *As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. [4] As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. [5] God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. [6] And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. **Genesis 12:[3]** which is the call of Abram reads *I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.*" That included all who would later accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Gentiles included. God in His infinite wisdom didn't CLEARLY show this back then because if He did they would not have crucified Jesus. I didn't make this up ya'll. It's in the Word of God!*

I'm done! I hope someone receives this teaching, sharing. It has blessed me tremendously. I hope it truly blesses you as well! He that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit is saying to you.

God bless each of you until next time,

Pastor Andra