The Preachers of the Early Church

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Acts 9:1-30, 2 Timothy 3:8, Galatians 2:1-2, Revelation 3:8, Acts 13:1

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high

priest,

And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light

from heaven:

And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why

persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a

voice, but seeing no man.

And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into

Damascus.

And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus:

for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he

might receive his sight.

Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints

at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy

name.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

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

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and

was baptized.

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.
Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were

at Damascus.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the

Son of God.

But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews

took counsel to kill him:

But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went

about to slay him.

Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and

sent him forth to Tarsus.

The call of God is given by God

The call of God is received by man

The call of God is born in the FIRE

The call of God is authorized by spiritual authority

The call of God is carried out in faithfulness

The call of God is rewarded in Heaven

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The devil will throw everythng he can at you to keep you from fulfilling the call of God

It is your responsibility to fulfill the call of God on your life no one elses

You must be willing to go through the "unknown" test

-Are you willing to stop preaching publicly for a period of time? Acts 9:30

-Are you willing to do the menial tasks?

Galatians 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Galatians 2:2

And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Revelation 3:8

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and

hast not denied my name.

You must be willing to totally submit to spiritual authority

-Your spiritual authority is anointed to lead your ministry.

-the quality of your test here is dependent on how much you go to spiritual authority, it's not their job to chase you down.

-take your volunteer position as serious or more serious than your paid job.

Acts 13:1

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

God's will must be more important to you than people's will