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*coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized...*

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■ **Living a life of grace** ■

*2 Timothy 4:6 (RSV) For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come.*

*2 Timothy 4:7 (RSV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

■ *2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defense no one took my part; all deserted me....* ■

*2 Timothy 4:16b May it not be charged against them!*

*2 Timothy 4:17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.*

■ *<sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.* ■

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## Grace: Paul's Story of Transformation

### Grace—part 6

August 4, 2019

Transformation: a heart makeover! He's changing my:

- Character,
- Identity,
- Purpose,
- Priorities,
- Power,
- What I value,
- Inclinations.,
- Personal life and
- My relational purposes and style.

■ **Paul's past life** ■

*Acts 7:57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

*Acts 8:1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.*

*Acts 8:3 Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.*

■ *Acts 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest...* ■

*Acts 9:2 ...and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.*

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### **Saul's conversion: meeting grace**

*Acts 9:3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

*<sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

*<sup>5</sup> "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.*

*Acts 9:7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.*

### **Grace: a change of "ownership"**

*Acts 9:5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting;*

*Acts 9:6 "... but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."*

*Acts 7:55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*

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*Acts 7:59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

*Acts 9:6 ... but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."*

### **Grace exhibited through a Christian to Paul**

*Acts 9:8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.*

*Acts 9:10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. <sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

*Acts 9:13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call*

*Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

*Acts 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were*

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