

Sermon Notes

I. Introduction

- **Passage:** Acts 22:1-16
- **Context:** Paul recounts his conversion experience to a hostile Jewish crowd after being arrested.

II. Key Themes and Discussions

A. Paul's Transformation (Acts 22:6-16)

- **Encounter with Jesus:** On the road to Damascus, a great light shone around Paul, and he was blinded (Acts 22:6-11).
- **Jesus' Question:** Jesus asked, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" revealing His personal identification with His followers (Acts 22:7-8).
- **Blinded by the Light:** Paul's physical blindness symbolizes his previous spiritual blindness, as he persecuted Christians out of ignorance.

B. Ananias' Role and Paul's Healing

- **Ananias' Obedience:** A devout man, Ananias was instructed by God to go to Paul, despite knowing his reputation as a persecutor (Acts 22:12-13).
- **Healing and Commissioning:** Ananias healed Paul's blindness and told him that he was chosen by God to know His will, see the righteous one (Jesus), and hear His voice (Acts 22:14-15).
- **Baptism and Forgiveness:** Paul was baptized, symbolizing his cleansing from sin and his new life in Christ (Acts 22:16).

C. Being Chosen by God

- **God's Calling:** Pastor Wes emphasizes that, like Paul, every believer is chosen by God. This calling is not about merit but about God's grace and purpose for each life.
- **Knowing God's Will:** Believers are called to seek and understand God's will for their lives through His Word and personal relationship with Christ.
- **Hearing God's Voice:** Pastor Wes highlights the importance of being attentive to God's voice, which guides us through the Holy Spirit.

D. Application for Believers

- **Personal Mission:** Just as Paul was given a specific mission, each believer has a unique calling from God, tailored to their gifts and circumstances.
- **Witnessing for Christ:** We are called to be witnesses, sharing what God has done in our lives and the truth of the Gospel with others.

- **Living in Obedience:** Pastor Wes encourages believers to live out their calling with faithfulness, relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength.

III. Conclusion

- **Reflection:** Believers are encouraged to embrace their identity as chosen by God, living with purpose and obedience.
- **Encouragement:** Pastor Wes urges the congregation to trust in God's plan for their lives, just as Paul did, and to be bold in sharing their faith.

Scriptural References

- Acts 22:1-16
- John 10:27 – "My sheep hear my voice..."
- Romans 8:28 – "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him..."