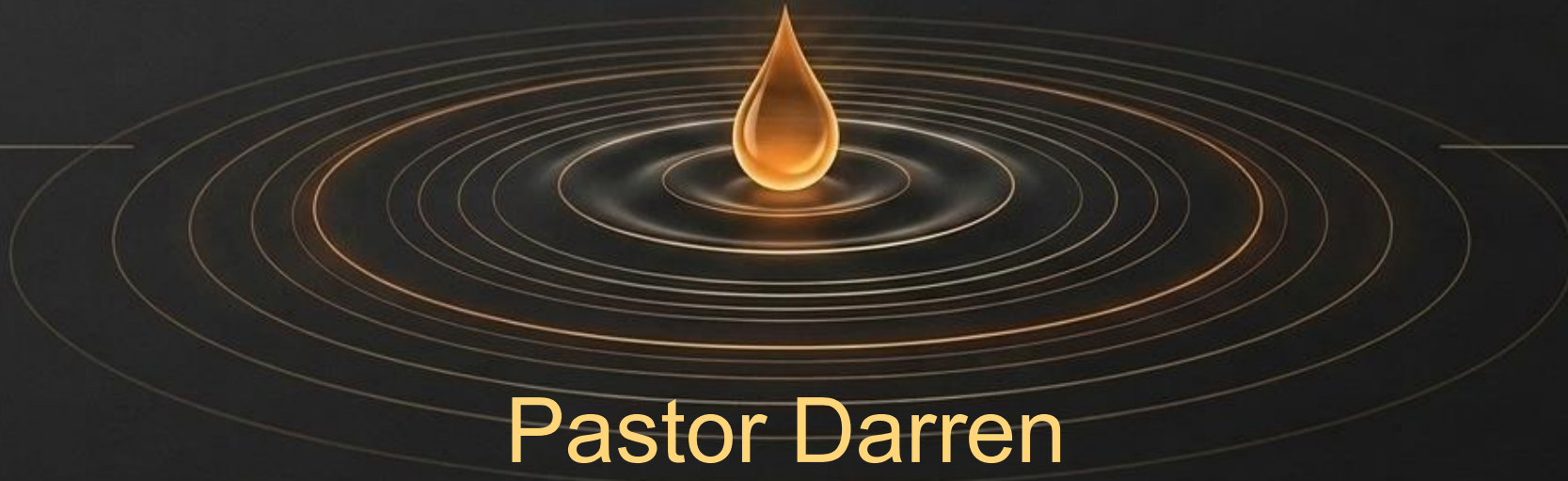


Lessons from a Life Surrendered

Acts 9:10-19



Pastor Darren
July 12, 2026

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."



Acts 9:10

NASB95

The Collision of Two Worldviews

Saul - The Persecutor

Profile:

Religious elite, armed with authority from the chief priests.

Current State:

Breathing threats and murder, but suddenly **blinded** on the Damascus road. Humbled, fasting, and waiting in the dark.

Ananias - The Average Joe

Profile:

A **disciple** at Damascus. Not a patriarch, priest, or prophet.

Current State:

A Christian going about his daily business, living a **quiet life of surrender**.

Insight:

God's global mission hinged entirely on the quiet obedience of one ordinary man.

17 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says,
'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all
mankind;
And your sons and your daughters shall
prophecy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams;



Acts 2:17

NASB95

“Ananias”

Our God is a personal God:



He knows you!

Are you listening for His call?

Writing a Blank Check to the Creator

Here I am, Lord.



The Universal Yes

Responding with this phrase does not mean waiting to hear the terms first. It is an **immediate, universal yes** to God's plan.

Revealing Purpose

It acknowledges that we are on earth for a **specific purpose**, and we want that purpose to be the Lord's.

The Divine Interruption

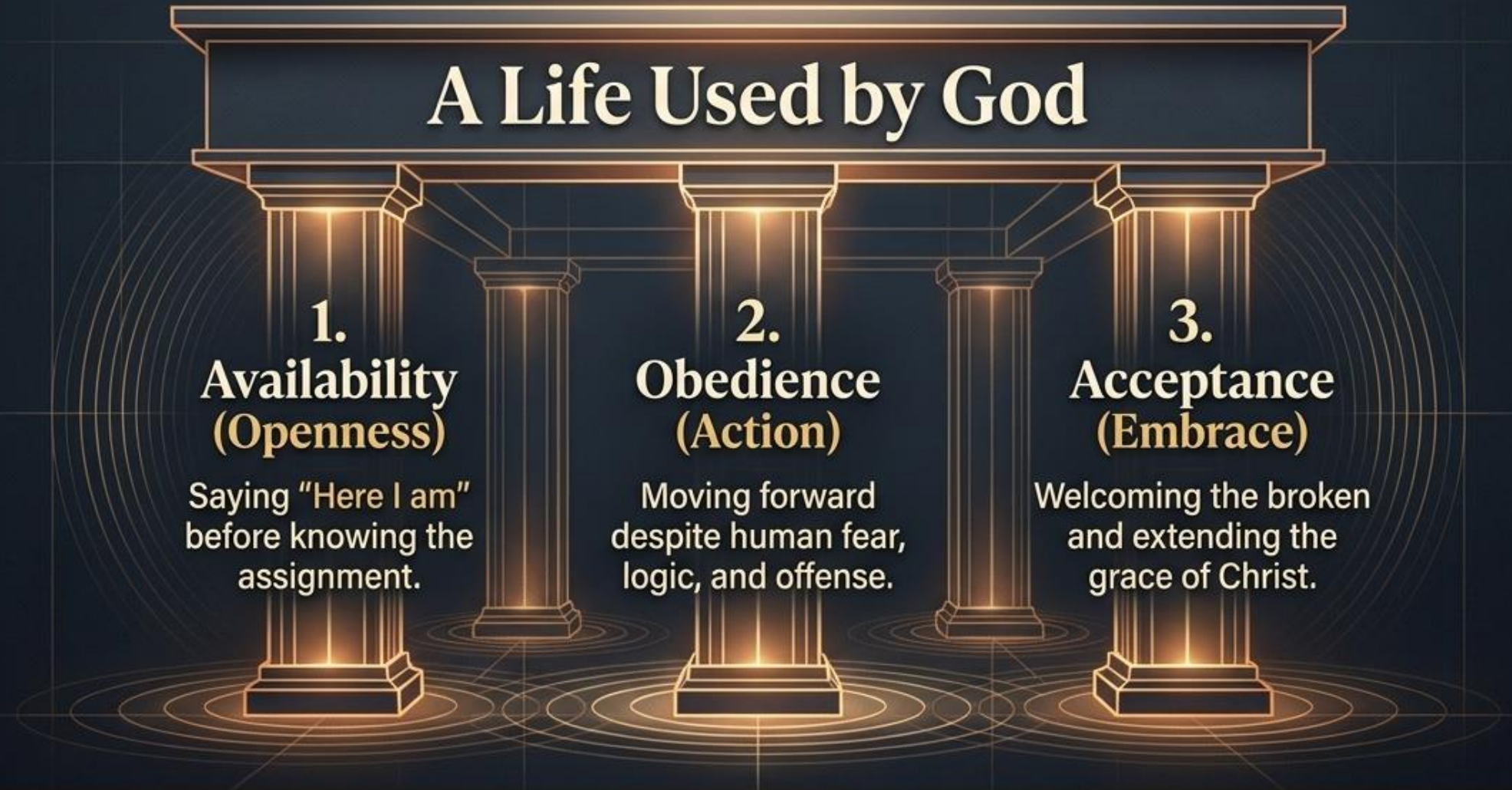
Ananias models how true availability requires **absolute openness** to having our own plans completely **upended**.

“Here I am, Lord”

The use of “Here I am Lord” reveals purpose. Isaiah was saying he was here on earth for a specific purpose and he wanted that purpose to be the Lord’s. As he immediately followed it with “send me,” he didn’t wait to hear what the Lord would say but wrote a blank check to the Lord, a universal yes to God’s plan for him.

-Molly Law of
Christianity.com

The Three Pillars of a Surrendered Posture



Surrender is not a single prayer; it is a continuous posture built on three active choices.

Lord - κύριος



11 And the Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,



Acts 9:11

NASB95

Defining the Term: Savior vs. Lord

The Ticket to Heaven Mindset: Casual acceptance.	The Lord of Life Mindset: Total submission.
Function: Treating Jesus as an escape route or a ticket to be punched.	Function: Recognizing ultimate power, authority, and rulership. Jesus is divine royalty.
Result: Saying a sinner's prayer but living without change (living like Hell).	Result: A call to come and die. Denying self, crucifying the flesh, and obeying the Master.

Is Jesus just your ticket to Heaven, or is He the actual Lord of your life?

The Paradox of Pressing In

**A Human
Falling Short**

**The Enemy's Tactic
(Retreat & Hide)**

Driven by guilt and shame.
Mirrors Adam and Eve in the garden.
Guilt demands distance.

Path 2

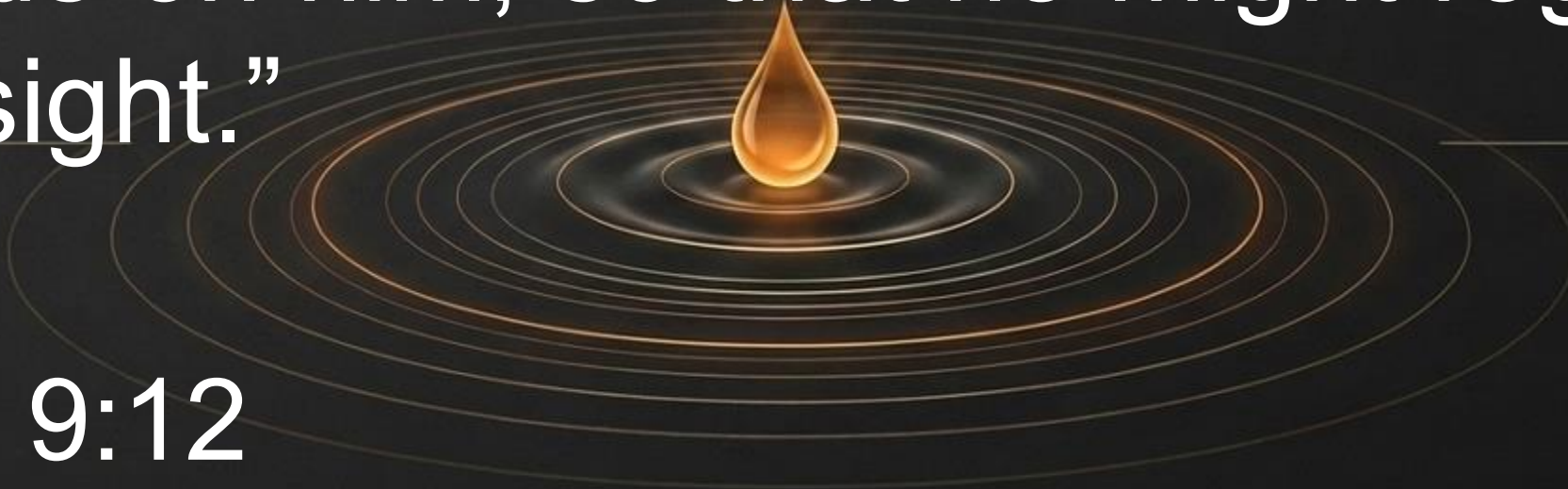
**The Surrendered Tactic
(Press In & Pray)**

Saul, in the midst of profound sin and blindness, did not retreat. He prayed.
Grace produces proximity.

Path 1

Draw near to God and He
will draw near to you.
— James 4:8

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”

A golden oil drop is shown falling into a dark, reflective surface, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The drop is perfectly spherical and has a bright highlight on its upper left side, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The ripples are thin and light-colored, contrasting with the dark background.

Acts 9:12

NASB95

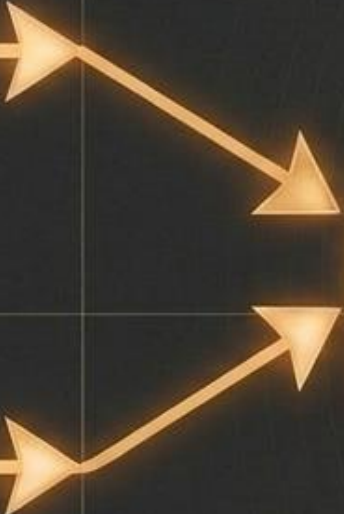
The Architecture of Unseen Background Work

Saul's Vision

Blinded and fasting, God shows Saul a vision of a man named Ananias coming to restore his sight.

Ananias's Vision

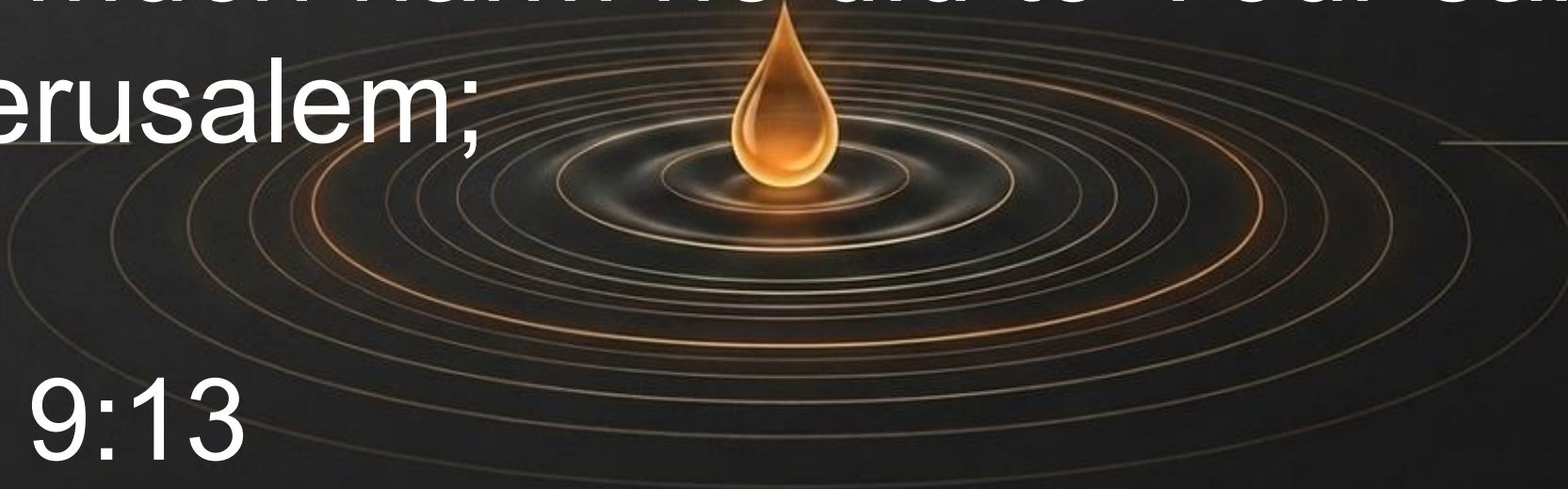
God speaks to Ananias, instructing him to go find a man from Tarsus who is praying.



The Convergence:
The House of Judas, on the
street called Straight.

Key Insight: When God speaks, you can trust He is working in the background in ways you cannot see. Correlating visions are not anomalies; they are normal for those paying attention to the Spirit.

13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem;

A golden oil drop is shown falling into a dark, reflective surface, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The drop is in the center, and the ripples are composed of many thin, glowing lines.

Acts 9:13

NASB95

Obedience in the Shadow of Valid Fear



The Hesitation

Ananias's fear was completely justified. Saul was actively hunting the people of "The Way," carrying literal papers to imprison them.

The Internal Conflict

Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints...

The Deciding Question

Despite human logic, fear, and personal offense, will we listen to the warnings of men, or will we listen to the command of God?

14 and here he has authority from the
chief priests to bind all who call on
Your name.”

Acts 9:14

NASB95

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,
2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.



Acts 9:1–2

NASB95

The Architecture of Unseen Background Work

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15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;



Acts 9:15

NASB95

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;



1 Corinthians 9:19–23

NASB95

21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.



1 Corinthians 9:19–23

NASB95

23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

NASB95

3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will
curse. And in you **all the families of the
earth** will be blessed.”



Genesis 12:3

NASB95

24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'

A glowing orange drop is positioned in the center of the text, with several concentric, glowing orange ripples emanating from it, creating a ripple effect on the dark background.

Acts 27:24

NASB95

20 “For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.”

A glowing orange drop is positioned in the center of the image, just below the main text. It has several concentric, glowing orange ripples emanating from it, creating a sense of movement or impact. The background is dark with faint, light-colored grid lines.

Acts 28:20

NASB95

23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.



Acts 28:23

NASB95

24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

Acts 28:24

NASB95

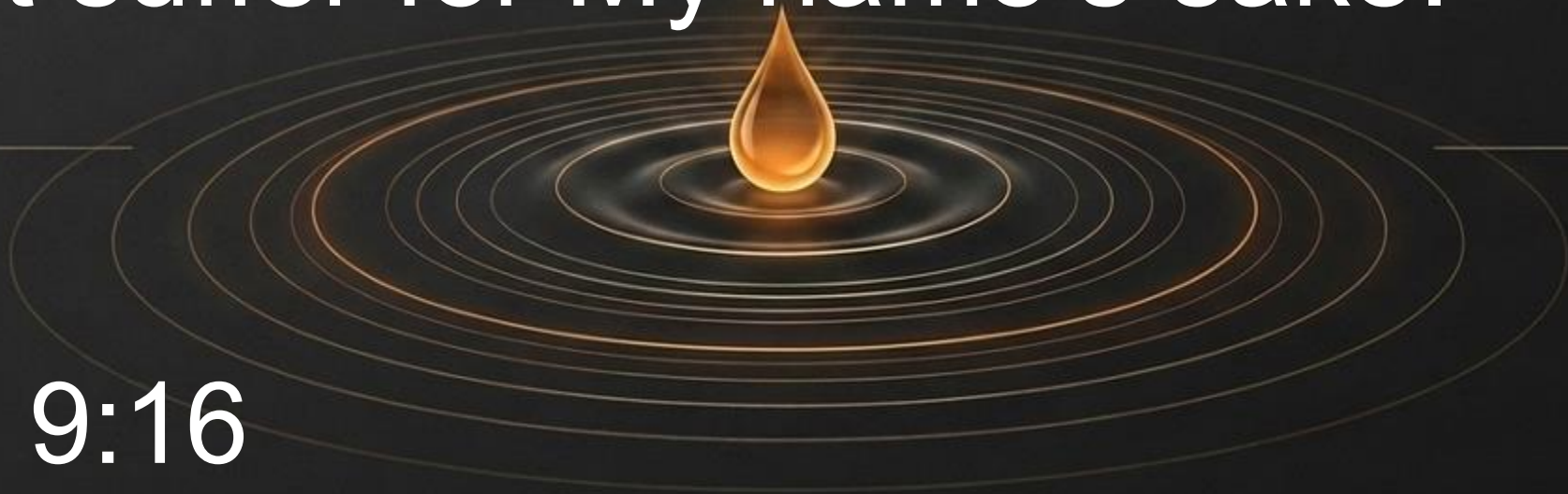
19 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

A glowing orange drop is positioned in the center of the image, just below the main text. It has several concentric, glowing orange ripples emanating from it, creating a sense of light or impact on a dark surface.

John 3:19

NASB95

16 for I will show him how much he
must suffer for My name's sake.”



Acts 9:16

NASB95

The Reality of the Call is Not Prosperity

“For I will show him how much he must suffer for
My name’s sake.” — Acts 9:16

Living for Jesus is
not a guarantee of
health, wealth, or
prosperity.

Growing in grace,
holiness, and spiritual
maturity inherently
involves laying down
our lives.

Suffering for the
Kingdom is an
expectation, not an
anomaly. True
surrender yields to the
Master even when
suffering is guaranteed.

41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

A glowing orange drop is positioned in the center of the text, with several concentric, glowing orange ripples emanating from it, creating a sense of impact or a ripple effect on the dark background.

Acts 5:41

NASB95

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.



1 Peter 2:20

NASB95

16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian,
he is not to be ashamed, but is to
glorify God in this name.

A golden oil drop is shown falling into a dark, reflective surface, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The drop is in the center, just before it hits the surface, and the ripples are a lighter golden color than the dark background.

1 Peter 4:16

NASB95

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

A golden oil drop is shown falling into a dark, reflective surface, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The drop is in the center, just above the first ripple, and is illuminated from below, giving it a glowing appearance. The background is dark and textured, with some faint grid lines visible.

1 Peter 5:10

NASB95

10 “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10–12

NASB95

12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”



Acts 4:12

NASB95

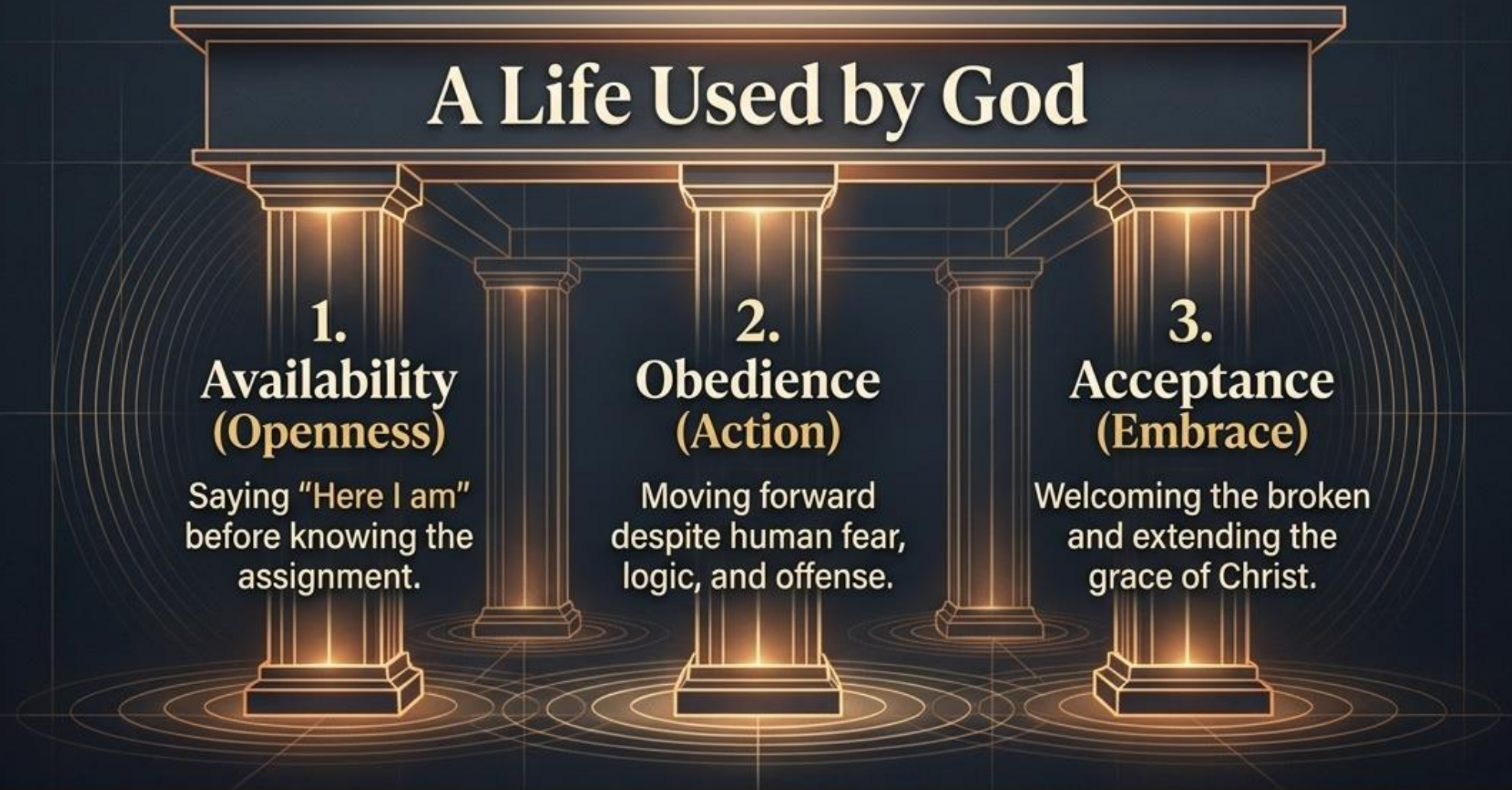
17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."



Acts 9:17

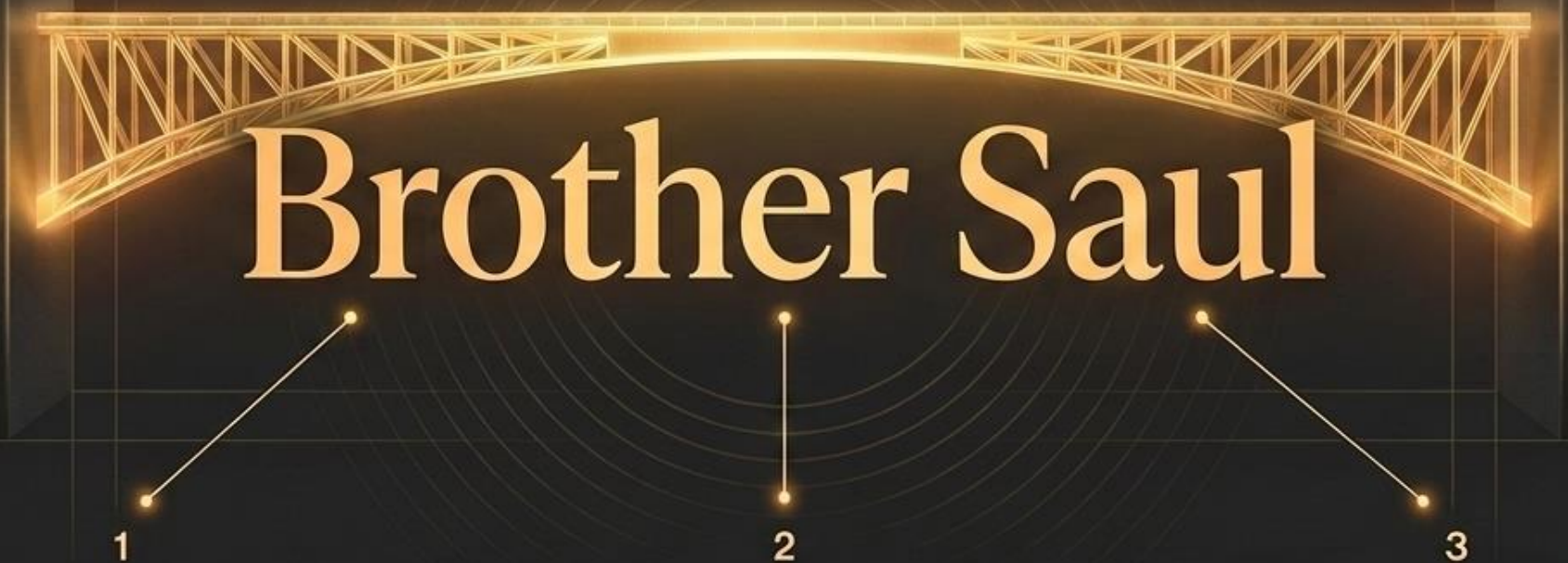
NASB95

The Three Pillars of a Surrendered Posture



Surrender is not a single prayer; it is a continuous posture built on three active choices.

Radical Inclusion of the Gospel



Brother Saul

1

The Action: Ananias enters the house of his enemy, lays hands on him, and calls him Brother.

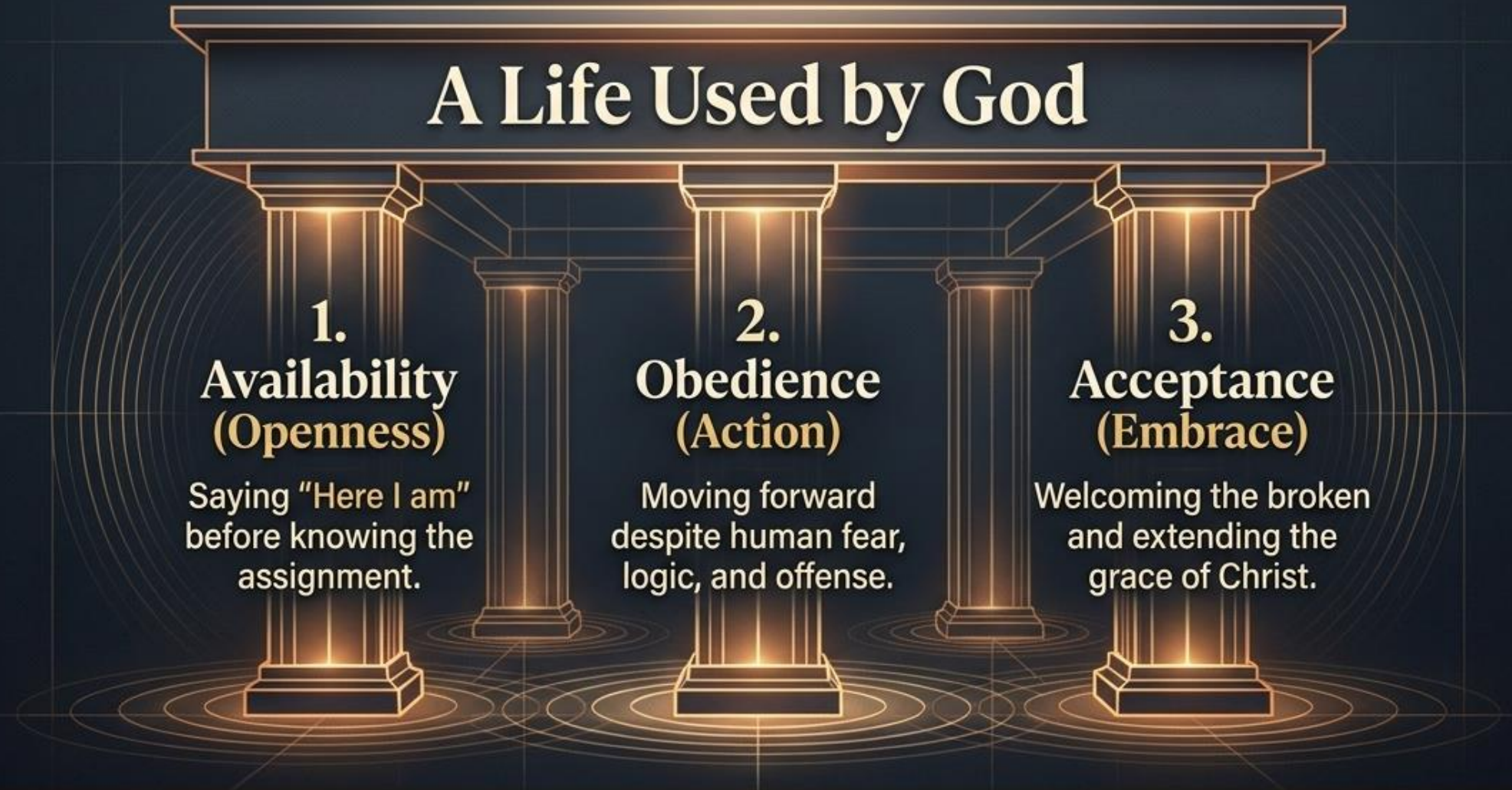
2

The Dismantling of Fear: He responds not with anger or rejection over past hurts, but with the radical love of Christ.

3

The Divine Exchange: Because Ananias accepted the call of God, Paul was able to experience the acceptance of God through Ananias.

The Three Pillars of a Surrendered Posture



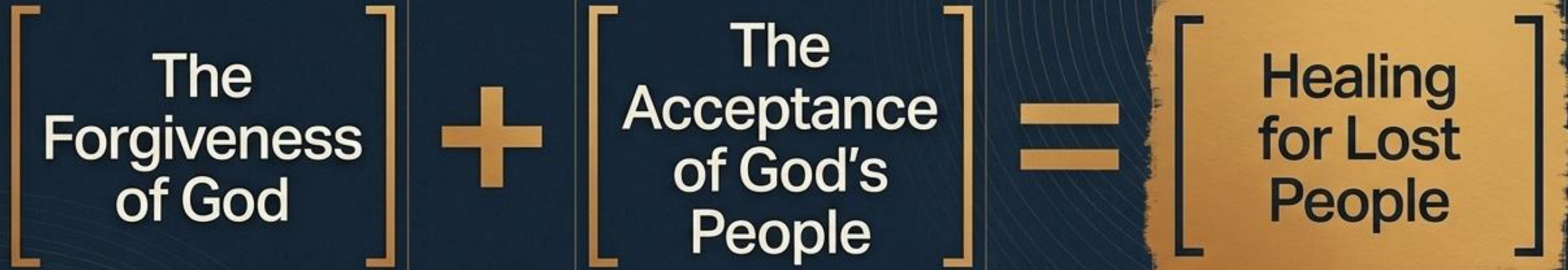
Surrender is not a single prayer; it is a continuous posture built on three active choices.

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes
something like scales, and he regained his
sight, and he got up and was baptized;
19 and he took food and was strengthened.
Now for several days he was with the
disciples who were at Damascus,

Acts 9:18–19

NASB95

The Blueprint for a Healing Culture



The Divine Role:

God provides the grace (scales falling from eyes, filling of the Holy Spirit, complete justification).

The Human Role:

God relies on the physical presence, warmth, and unapologetic acceptance of His people to administer that healing.

The Result:

A community where lost, broken people can walk in and find total restoration, regardless of their past.

The Anatomy of a New Creation



The Chief of Sinners

Paul, the great persecutor, became the foremost of all sinners who testified to the world about amazing grace.

The Logic of Grace

If God has already completely forgiven a person's sin—or your own personal failures—by what authority do we continue to hold onto it?

The Posture Forward

Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal... Old things have passed away; new things have come.

Diagnostic: Human Logic vs. Divine Vision

	Human Logic (Ananias's View)	Divine Vision (God's View)
The Identity	A violent threat and a persecutor of the Church.	A chosen instrument (Acts 9:15).
The Defining Metric	Defined by his past sins and present danger.	Defined by his future purpose and God's sovereign providence.
The Required Action	Avoid, hide from, and condemn.	Seek out, lay hands on, and restore.

God is often more forgiving than His own people. We must stop letting how someone hurt us prevent us from stepping into God's will for their restoration.

Lessons from a Life Surrendered

Acts 9:10-19



The Global Ripple Effect of a Single “Yes”

The Catalyst:

Ananias's obedient Yes

The Restoration:

Paul's sight restored and Spirit filled

To the Gentiles

(Bringing the Gospel to the rest of the world)

To Kings

(Standing trial before Festus, Felix, Agrippa, and Caesar)

To the Sons of Israel

(Testifying in the synagogues from Rome to Jerusalem)

God chooses whom He employs to bear His name. Because Ananias walked down Straight Street, the Gospel reached the edges of the earth.

The Roadmap of a Surrendered Life

Step 1: Redeemed History

God will redeem your past and use your unique story to reach those near to His heart.

Step 2: Conduit of Welcome

God will use you as a vessel to accept and welcome lost, broken souls into the Body of Christ.

Step 3: Instrument of Healing

God will cover you with His grace so that you can become the physical demonstration of His love, helping others find profound healing.

The global mission of God is waiting on your personal “Here I am.”