

# SENT Sermon Study Guide

## Power to Transform – Acts 8-9

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 8:1-8, 29-38; Acts 9:1-19  
1 Timothy 1:15-16; Romans 12:1-2



**Sermon Notes:** *(Brooklyn Friesen, TREK Ministry Intern)*

“We long to see transformation in our “worlds.” We want to be a part of the change God is doing. We want to share the joy and strength we’ve found in knowing Jesus! But as with all things that are important, a certain amount of preparation is needed. We long to see transformation take place out there but can often forget that transformation must work from the inside out. “

Before we can hope to transform the world around us, our own hearts must be transformed, and that involves a rattling of our bones, shaking off the dust of our expectations and submitting to God’s authority in our lives.

If we keep the Holy Spirit from moving within us, we can’t be used. God desires to use us, to have the Holy Spirit flowing through us out into the rest of His great world. But that can’t happen unless we ourselves become transformed first.

If we ourselves remain unchanged by our relationship with the Father, then we aren’t actually living in relationship with Him.

His [Philip’s] faith and willingness allowed the Holy Spirit to use him to do incredible things. There is no easy, one-step path to encountering the Holy Spirit. That transformation we were talking about, it can’t be skipped over.

He [Saul] is reduced to nothing, brought to his lowest point so that there is nowhere to go but up... No person acting out their own instincts would make the decision to embrace Saul, but God had shown Ananias the truth of Saul’s transformation; he was a changed man. In his helplessness he was now ready for the saving work of the Lord...

He was a living example of God’s power to make us new. And Saul/Paul does not stop with his own transformation; he goes out and he teaches, guiding the formation of the church.

Becoming, coming into our true selves, Being, happens through transformation. So what is the transformation for today? What areas of your life need transforming?

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some situations/people in your life that you long to see transformed by the power of God's Holy Spirit? Take some time together to pray for God to be at work in these situations and to accomplish His will in them.
2. What is an experience you have had in which the Spirit of God has "rattled your bones" in order to get your attention? What was the result of that wake-up call in your life – what changed? Has that changed stuck?
3. In her sermon, Brooklyn states that, "If we ourselves remain unchanged by our relationship with the Father, then we aren't actually living in relationship with Him." Are you in agreement with her or do you struggle with this? What are your reasons for either? How would express what is meant by this statement in your own words?
4. Our own willingness to be transformed by the Spirit will either allow or limit the working of the Spirit through us into the lives of those around us. What are some of the areas of your own life that need the transforming power of the Spirit? Read Romans 12:1-2 together and then pray for each other, inviting God to renew and transform these areas of our lives.
5. Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16. In this text Paul admits that he is the "worst of sinners." Despite his sinfulness, the risen Christ met him, forgave him and invited him to become a partner in proclaiming the Good News. What are some of the ways that encountering the risen Christ has resulted in transformation in your own life?
6. Paul needed other believers like Ananias (who was less than eager – but faithful) to come alongside him as he began his journey of faith. Who is someone in your life that needs someone (like you) to offer spiritual encouragement and mentoring? What supports would you need to be able to come alongside them?

### **Taking Action:**

In the coming week, take time to seriously consider and pray about who God might be calling you to walk with as a spiritual mentor or discipleship partner.