Power of God 2

Acts 9:1-19

Joe Black testimony

1. Intro
   1. Last week we heard of the saving work of God from Russell Roach
   2. We have much to celebrate in the power of God
   3. God still moves and saves us!
2. Text
   1. Acts 9 story
   2. Characters:
      1. Saul/Paul
         1. Name was not changed in conversion
         2. Referred to as Saul by the Jewish folks, and Paul seems to be the gentile version of the name.
         3. He was doing much harm to the way:
            1. He was the fist team, leader of the persecution
            2. He was the choice of the Jewish leaders to stop this movement
      2. Judas: a name that dates back to the son of Jacob, became a tribe, and the namesake for the Jewish people. So this home would have been a jewish home
      3. Ananias
         1. Wondered what he had done to get on God’s bad side
         2. But HE WENT
         3. He OBEYED!
      4. Jesus!
3. Point
   1. Saul’s conversion is because of Jesus
      1. Jesus met Saul where he was, and allowed him to see…though blinded…the Lordship of Christ
      2. Saul responded immediately with recognition, but was not complete yet
      3. He was left to pray, so He could hear from God.
   2. Ananias’ faith had to be huge
      1. The task was left to Ananias, and he didn’t ask for it or want it
      2. He was sent with only his faith to secure him.
      3. There was nothing to rescue Ananias from the threat to Christians other than the one thing that could rescue him from the threat.
   3. Jesus is glorified by our obedience
      1. Saul/Paul obeyed
      2. Ananias obeyed
      3. We should obey in like manner.
      4. We must go and do the work we are called to do, no matter the fear in our hearts.
      5. We are safe and secure in the hands of God!
4. Close
   1. No one is beyond God’s ability to save
   2. No one is saved without believing in Jesus Christ.

The Conversion of Saul

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” 5 And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” 11 And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 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.” 13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.