

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

SAUL TO PAUL: THE POWER OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE
Pastor Barry Burns
Message from Sunday, April 12, 2026

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for His transforming grace and asking the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to understand the power of His grace in our lives.

Key Scriptures

- Romans 12:2
- Acts 26:9-18
- 1 Corinthians 15:8-10
- Galatians 1:11-18

Main Takeaways

1. Transformation is the Christian's Walk

The Christian life is marked by ongoing transformation (metamorphosis) - a radical change from one state of being to another, just like a caterpillar to a butterfly or Saul to Paul.

2. Grace is Power

When the Bible speaks of grace, think "power." Grace isn't just unmerited favor - it's the supernatural empowerment that enables you to fulfill God's unique calling for your life - something we could never do in our strength.

3. Grace Produces Results

God's grace is never empty or fruitless. It always produces a visible, measurable result in our lives and ministry.

4. Grace Qualifies the Unqualified

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Paul was the "chief of sinners," yet grace transformed him into the greatest apostle.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. **Read Romans 12:2.** What does it mean to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind"? How is this different from simply changing behavior?
2. **Discuss Paul's testimony in Acts 26.** What stands out to you most about his transformation from persecutor to apostle? What does this reveal about God's grace?
3. Pastor Barry states that "fighting against God is a losing battle." Have you ever experienced resistance to God's calling or conviction? What was that like?

Personal Reflection

4. **Paul said, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10).** How would you complete this sentence for yourself: "By the grace of God I am..."?
5. **Pastor Barry mentioned that focusing on our failings, faults, and shortcomings will disqualify us.** What insecurities or feelings of inadequacy have kept you from stepping into what God has called you to do?
6. **Read Galatians 1:15.** Paul was "set apart before he was born." How does knowing that God chose you before you were born impact your understanding of your purpose?

Applying Grace

7. **Pastor Barry emphasized that "grace demands a response."** In what areas of your life is God's grace calling for a response from you right now?
8. **Paul's ministry was validated by others who "recognized this grace operating in my ministry" (Galatians 2:9).** How can we recognize God's grace operating in one another? How can we better affirm and encourage each other's callings?
9. **The transformation from Saul to Paul involved a name change and a complete identity shift.** What old identities or labels do you need to leave behind to fully embrace who God has called you to be?

Reflection Exercise

Journaling Prompt:

Write about your own "Damascus Road" experience. When and how did God's grace first transform your life? If you haven't experienced this transformation yet, what's holding you back from responding to His grace today?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Grace Inventory:** Make a list of areas where you've experienced God's transforming grace. Thank Him specifically for each one and share your testimony with someone this week.
2. **Affirmation Exercise:** Identify the grace of God operating in at least two other people in your group or church. Reach out to them and specifically affirm what you see God doing in their lives.
3. **Response to Grace:** Identify one area where you've been resisting God's calling or conviction. Take one concrete step of obedience this week in response to His grace.
4. **Mind Renewal:** Choose one negative thought pattern or limiting belief about yourself. Find three scriptures that speak truth about your identity in Christ. Meditate on these daily.
5. **Grace Declaration:** Every morning this week, declare out loud: "By the grace of God, I am..." and complete it with who God says you are (chosen, called, equipped, empowered, etc.).

Prayer Focus

Group Prayer Time

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for His transforming grace in each person's life
- **Intercession:** Pray for anyone struggling with feelings of inadequacy or disqualification
- **Empowerment:** Ask God to release His grace as supernatural power for ministry and daily living
- **Salvation:** Pray for those who haven't yet responded to God's grace
- **Boldness:** Pray for courage to step into God's calling without fear

Personal Prayer Points

- Pray for specific areas where you need God's transforming grace
- Ask for eyes to see His grace operating in your life
- Pray for the renewing of your mind in areas where old thinking patterns persist

Additional Resources

- **Grace in the Old Testament:** Study how God showed grace to Moses (Exodus 33-34), David (Psalm 51), and Jonah
- **Grace in Action:** Read through the book of Ephesians, noting every reference to grace
- **Transformation Stories:** Study other biblical transformations: Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, etc.

"Grace provides, but faith responds to that provision. Grace is never empty or fruitless - it always produces a result. The question is: will you respond to the grace God is extending to you today?"

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- If you've never been Water Baptized, registration is now open.
- Intro to Cornerstone Life registration is open
- Our Ladies Spring Event is May 2. Registration is open!
- May 7 - National Day of Prayer

