



Ordinary vs. Spectacular

By Shannon Ford January 22, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Acts 9

The story of Saul's conversion is one of the most memorable and one of the most spectacular stories in the Bible. This Pharisee was the strongest opponent of Christianity and the head of the persecution movement. He and his followers had been so successful in Jerusalem that the Christians had scattered to other cities and towns. But Saul was not satisfied. He wanted to find all Christians and stop this poison story about a risen Christ. So, he set out for Damascus where a growing group of these radical followers of "the Way" were known to be. But Jesus had other plans for Saul. His plans were of such magnitude that they demanded spectacular action. So, Jesus Himself, the risen, glorified Christ, stopped Saul dead in his tracks on the road to Damascus, blinding him and leaving him unable to even walk by himself.

As spectacular as this story is, it is just one of many amazing and awe-inspiring stories you and I have heard about how God has worked in people's lives. Whether it is a story of conversion, like Saul to Paul, or a story of some other grand miracle God has worked, our Lord has made it plain repeatedly how powerful He truly is. With Saul, it took a God-sized two-by-four to get his attention. Perhaps it was because there was a God-sized mission set out for Saul. Or perhaps it was because Saul was such a strong-willed individual, God knew it would take something big to turn him in the direction God would have him go.

God also works in very quiet ways. For every spectacular miracle, there are a hundred unspectacular miracles--quiet, gentle, subtle miracles that God performs every day. Seemingly insignificant coincidences occur every day that reveal God's hand in one life after another. So why the difference? Why doesn't every person have some sort of incredible story to tell about the day he or she accepted Christ? Why doesn't every life

reveal a history of one spectacular event after another? Why are some lives so very ordinary?

God works in individual lives in individual ways just like He did with Paul. He deals with each person in a singular, individual manner. He has a divine purpose for each life, and He works in the best way for that individual life to achieve His purpose. None are more or less important than the others. None are more or less loved by the Father. Every life is important in God's eyes. So do not judge the significance of a life on the magnitude of the miracles or trials within it. Your life is significant to God.

PRAYER: Father, thank You for the ways You work in my life and the lives of others. Thank You for having a divine purpose for each one of us. Help me to refuse to listen to the lies of this world and realize that my life is significant to You. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 16

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