



#### PAUL'S CALLING TO BE A MISSIONARY

Acts 9.15-16: But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

### **GOD INITIATES**

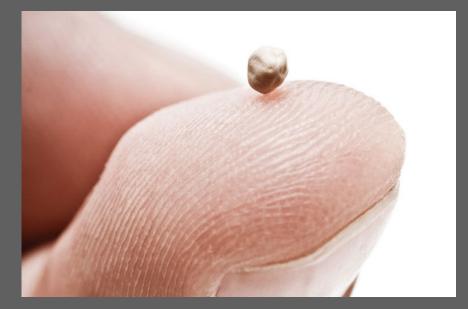
- 'This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and the people of Israel' Acts 9.15
- [Y] ou will be told all that you have been assigned to do. Acts 22.10
- 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and ... You will be His witness to all people... Acts 22.14-15
- 'I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I am sending you to [the Gentiles] Acts 26.16-17

# WE RESPOND

- However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20.24
- "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." Acts 23.1
- 'I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven' Acts 26.19

# START SMALL WHERE YOU ARE

Acts 9.19-20- Paul spend several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.





Zechariah 4.10: Who dares despise the day of small things?

# START SMALL WHERE YOU ARE

Galatians 1.15-17: But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

- In wilderness to:
  - Cultivate character
  - Develop skills

## BE READY TO SUFFER

I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. – Acts 9.16

- Five times 39 lashes from Jews
- Three times beaten w/rods
- Once pelted w/stones
- Three times shipwrecked
- Spent a night and a day in the open sea
- Been constantly on the move
- Been cold and naked

- Been in danger from rivers, bandits, Jews, Gentiles, false believers
- In danger in city, country, at sea
- Labored/toiled; often gone w/o sleep
- Known hunger/thirst; often gone w/o food

#### **DON'T FOCUS ON RESULTS**

- When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. Acts 24.27
- Some [Jews] were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. Acts 28.24
- Be aware of your definition of success- that is the idol you will be tempted to serve.