

# MY NOTES

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

Week 28

# ACTS

A God that Goes Ahead of Us

## TODAY'S VERSES:

### Acts 9:32-43

James 1:5  
Philippians 1:9  
Romans 12:2  
Hebrews 10:14  
Romans 5:8

## UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

### Planting Roots Re-Mix

Our Re-Mix Journey begins in 2 weeks! Check out [elementroots.org/remix](http://elementroots.org/remix) for more info!

### Motorcycle Ride

Join us for a ride & lunch on Sunday, August 21st. Leave the parking lot at 1pm

### Women's Create & Paint

August 20th, 6-8:30p  
Childcare available. RSVP [women@ourelement.org](mailto:women@ourelement.org)



Guidance That Leads Us

A Heritage That  
Informs Us

Worship That  
Reminds Us

Preaching That  
Changes Us

Generosity That  
Defines Us

Compassion That Is  
Bigger Than Us

Truth That  
Challenges Us

Community That  
Encourages Us

Membership That Accounts  
For Us

Accountability That  
Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

A Joy In Our Identity

A Lifestyle of Mission

Leadership That Grows  
Through Mistakes

A Peace That  
Speaks For Us

A Theology That  
Informs Us

A Calling That Kills Us

Words That Scatter Us

A Spirit That Humbles Us

A Baptism That  
Unifies Us

A Discipline That  
Restores Us

Passion That Speaks  
Through Us

A Grace That  
Welcomes Us

## Week 28 – Acts 9:32-43

### A God That Goes Ahead of Us

This is week 28 of our journey through the first half of the book of Acts, today we return to focusing on Peter after a few weeks looking at Paul's salvation story. As a reminder, Element is going through the book of Acts because we want to come face to face with what Jesus called the early church to be, how they at times fell short, and how they learned from their mistakes. We are looking at these things so you can know what a church is called to be in the world today!

**How do you make decisions?**

**Is it difficult for you?**

The section in Acts we look at today has Peter going "here and there," which are words for him seemingly to wander, but we understand that he was going "here and there" because God simply told him to Go and Peter went. It looks much like the patriarch Abraham from Genesis chapter 12. God showed up and told Abraham to simply, "go." Abraham didn't know where he was going, He simply needed to trust God in the journey.

**Read Acts 9:32-43.**

**How do you know if you are where God wants you to be?**

**How do you discern the will of God?**

A few weeks ago we looked at the story of Philip when God told him to "Go to Gaza." That is actually a rarity in our lives, an absolute command of where we are supposed to be. If we today got absolute commands all the time it would take away a lot of anxiety we have when we make decisions, but looking at Peter we see that he didn't get any other absolute command other than to "Go." Peter does not get clear directions; we read that he

"went here and there, among them all," but Peter trusted Jesus despite the ambiguity. That same command given to Peter has been given to us where God has us move forward despite not always having a clear answer.

**Do you think there is only one right decision in a given situation?**

**What things are ambiguous to you?**

**Have you ever been in a position where you felt like God was not there?**

It can be scary when we look at the unexplainable circumstances in our lives, but those same situations can also breed great faith when we trust God when we are wandering "here and there." The New Testament calls us "saints," which means set apart ones...we are set apart to do the works of God.

**What has been your understanding of a saint?**

**Would you call yourself a saint? Why or why not?**

The truth is that we, as believers in Jesus, are His...which in turn makes us saints in the broadest definition of the term. As His image bearers He gives us the ability (and responsibility) to make decisions. We have free will, but we have to remember God's will is always free-er than ours. What that means is that we don't need to live in fear of making decisions when we are loving God above all things. When we love God first we will begin to make decisions based upon what brings Him glory.

**What does it mean to trust God?**

**How have you trusted God in the past?**

**How are you trusting him now?**

We want all of our decisions to follow a logical course of hearing God's call, having a deep sense of peace, making a decision to obey, then having everything work out easily. The truth is that when we make decisions that honor God we usually have a calling that is riddled with tension, anxiety, and stress, but ultimately through our trials our faith becomes deepened and we can trust that God has us, that He has gone before us!

**Are you willing to live with the uncertainty of not always knowing whether to turn right from left, but having the depth of trust that no matter where you end up, Jesus was always there before you?**