

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 8:15am 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.

- The Element Team

Week 25

ACTS

A Discipline That
Restores Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 9:1-19

1 Timothy 1:16

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

Hosea 6:1-2

Romans 1:6

Acts 1:8

Romans 7:7-20

Matthew 5:21-22

Psalms 143, 14, 53

Romans 3:10-11

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Redemption Groups

Start September 9th.

Applications available
at the Welcome Center
or online at:

[ourelement.org/
redemption](http://ourelement.org/redemption)

eKids! Baptism Information Meeting

Sunday, August 18th at
9:30am Service.





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

Week 25 – Acts 9:1-19

A Discipline That Restores Us

Element is currently going through the first half of the book of Acts; this is week 25. Today we are looking at Jesus' conversion of Saul of Tarsus into Paul the Christian and follower of Jesus. We do not say that "Paul found Jesus," because that is not how it works, we are the ones that are lost and it is God who finds us by shining forth His light into our souls. Many times this leads us to say that, "We found Jesus," but it was not Jesus who was lost; it was us, and we are saved by His great grace.

Do you think you are morally superior to others?

Who are you morally better than?

Who are your worse than?

According to research 85% of us think we are morally superior when compared to other people we know in our lives (or watch on reality TV).

What is the danger in using other people as a compass for our morality?

When we use others as a standard for our morality, we can justify our actions that we know aren't always the best. We find ways to say, "We are not that bad; at least I didn't do x, y, or z like 'so and so.'" The simple truth is that we tend to look in the wrong place when we try to justify our actions; we need to look to God in order to see what life is meant to look like.

Read Acts 9:3-6 and Acts 9:17-19.

How does someone "get saved?"

What is your definition of "conversion?"

Share your conversion story.

Conversion has three elements.

1. A personal experience: By personal we mean that it changes you completely from the inside out; it doesn't mean that everything is perfect, but that God is moving us to a place where bit by bit we are changing to more reflect Jesus. Paul doesn't say, "By the grace of God I think what I think" or "I do what I do." He says, "By the grace of God I am what I am," which means his entire being is changed.

When/if you became a follower of Jesus, what changed in your life?

Can you pin point any things that God is still working on changing in you?

Becoming a Christian is a profoundly personal experience. Jesus doesn't say to us, "What are your opinions?" or even "What are your ethics?" Jesus says, "What *are* you?" He completely changes us from the inside out as we understand the personal nature of the Gospel more and more.

2. A powerful experience: The Gospel has a power to change our lives completely. Everybody who listened to Paul realized that he was a brilliant scholar, activist, and extremely religious, yet the Gospel of Jesus Christ knocks him on his butt and changes him into a new person. The Gospel has always had this power in every society where it is preached.

In what ways have you seen and noticed the power of the Gospel?

3. A grace experience: This means that we are undone because we realize our salvation does not rest on our goodness, but upon Jesus who rescued us. Grace means that Jesus was seeking us when we didn't even know we needed him. Grace shows that when everything falls apart Jesus is still there showing us our need for redemption. When we realize that we are not acceptable before God because of our goodness, but because of His mercy, we begin to understand grace.

How do you wrestle with an understanding of grace?

Romans 3:10-11 reminds us, "No one is righteous; no not one."

How does this verse make you feel? Do you believe it?

Has Jesus ever knocked you on your butt?

Do you feel Jesus has left you or remade you?