

**BIBLE CHALLENGE:**

*Paul is Healed*

Review:

How did Paul lose his sight?

- a. He was attacked by thieves
- b. He is old
- c. He saw the light of God

What is the name of the disciple at Damascus?

How did he know to go and pray for Paul?

What did Ananias do?

How did Saul respond to being healed?

How did the people respond to Saul?

Why was there a plot to kill Saul?

How did he get away?

Acts 9.14 - 26

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

**Sermon Title: *Unhindered***

9 June 2024

1 Thessalonians 2.1-13-20 *underline the word hindering or hindered.*

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last! But since we were torn away from you, brothers and sisters, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.

*What is **hindered**? What words would you use to describe **UNHINDERED**?*

<b>Hindered</b>	<b>Unhindered</b>
Make something difficult Stopped Kept from doing something Blocked Delayed Held back Restrained Limited  <i>Example: I was <b>hindered</b> from getting to church by traffic.</i>	

## God is calling us to turn the world *upside down*. HOW?

We must recognise and overcome all that **hinders** us.

### 1. We are hindered by our minds

Our minds often take us to:

- Bad thoughts
- Doubts
- Anxieties

How we **overcome** these hinderances:

- Accept the Word of God as THE Word of God
- Allow God's Word to work in us by grace and the power of the Spirit

### 2. We are hindered by our experiences

Our experiences make us:

- Have unrealistic and unbiblical expectations
- Blame God instead of blaming sin and evil in the world
- Assume that we are 'basically good people' who don't deserve unpleasant or difficult things in our lives

How we **overcome** these hindrances:

- Seek out mature churches and become imitators of mature Christians
- Accept suffering as a normal part of the Christian life
- Set Biblical expectations for your life and your experiences

### 3. We are hindered by people around us

Some people will always hinder us:

- Those who displease God
- Those who oppose God's good will for humanity
- Those who will experience God's wrath

How people around us can hinder us:

- They 'kill' our hopes, dreams and our obedience
- They drive us away from our calling
- They oppose us (*they are against us*)
- They prevent us from sharing our faith so other might be saved

How we **overcome** these hindrances:

- Unite our hearts with other believers
- Make every effort to be face to face with other Christians

### 4. We are hindered by Satan

How Satan can hinder us:

- Through the world
- Through the flesh
- Interfering with our thoughts and relationships

How we **overcome** Satan's hindrances:

- Look for God's alternatives, just like Paul did
- Remain *steadfast* in the Lord
- Keep your eyes on the prize – Jesus is coming!
- Find hope, joy crown in Jesus



What things could HINDER you from living God's ways? What will you do about these hinderances?