



Behold, I Am Here, Lord! [Foundation To Spiritual Usefulness]

“And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ” (Acts 9:10).

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Of the four peopled named Ananias in the Bible, only one was a disciple of Jesus. They are:

- 1) A church member who lied about how much he sold a piece of land (Acts 5).
- 2) A disciple of Jesus (Acts 9:10-18; 22:11-16).
- 3) A high priest (Acts 23:2; 24:1).

This study focuses on Ananias the disciple. He was not one of the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:14-19, and Luke 6:13-16), but a devout believer in Christ who had a good report of the Jews. The key need today is that Christians should just be genuine believers that God can use at the time of need, even if we are not in the limelight for the rest of the time.

- 1) Saul of Tarsus had just had his Damascus road encounter with Jesus, as a result of which he became blind for three days and desperately praying for divine help. The apostles were far away in Jerusalem and God needed a disciple nearby that he could use to help transition the “Saul of Tarsus” into “Paul the apostle”, and he found Ananias. All around us, there are people who have just had their “Damascus road” experience and God is looking for “Ananias” to help them. Could you be the “Ananias” that God could rely upon and use?
- 2) Not much is known about this Ananias other than Luke’s account of him in Acts 9:10-18 and 22:11-16. He was obviously not in the limelight of the scriptures (e.g. mighty evangelist, eminent pastor, etc.), but he was just a faithful and reliable believer that God found dependable enough to use at a moment of need to accomplish His will. His life throws a challenge to every Christian to just be who / where God wants him/her to be so that God can depend upon and use him/her at any moment to achieve His purpose on earth. The foundation to spiritual usefulness lies in being faithful / steadfast in silent years as well as in the days of small beginnings.

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

- 3) Although a local believer, Ananias was fully aware of current affairs regarding the church, as evident in his answer to God “Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name” (Acts 9:13-14).
- 4) Ananias was a sensible man. Based on his knowledge, he would not put himself on the path of danger by going to pray for the healing of Saul. But he was also a devout believer with deep spiritual discernment and commitment, who changed his mind and went to pray for Saul in response to a divine vision. Like Paul later, he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision due to fear (Acts 26:19).
- 5) Despite his initial doubt and objection, he went once he was convinced the vision was from God. On arriving, he was so confident of what God had told him in the vision that he addressed Saul as “Brother Saul”! (Acts 9:17)
- 6) His prompt obedience wrought a miracle and commissioned Saul into a limelight ministry that made him “Paul the apostle” (Acts 22:12-16).
- 7) Enoch was another great believer that not much is known of other than the fact that he “walked with God ... three hundred years... and was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14). If Enoch walked with God in a sinful world that God soon after destroyed with a flood, so can I and you. May God find us dependable and useful in the moment of need!