



God Can Do It Again

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven” (Acts 9:3).

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“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. 23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. 25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket” (Acts 9:20-25).

The chorus of one of the popular songs in some Christian circles goes states:

God can do it again, and again and again,
He's the same God today as he always has been.
Yesterday and today forever he's always the same,
There's no reason to doubt, our God can do it again!

It reminds us that the miracles we read of in the Bible are not historical records of the past that can never be replicated in contemporary times. As God transformed persecutor Saul into Preacher Paul, He can still do the same today. This calls for great faith to see as God sees and believe for the ‘impossible’ to happen anytime. Note the following salient points from this text.

- 1) “And **straightway** he preached Christ in the synagogues....” (vs 20). Straightway implies a state of immediacy, urgency and no delay. Saul, had just found the Christ he persecuted, and there was no hesitation in making Him known as his saviour. He recognised that many may still be in a similar state that he was and needed help to clear their ignorance and bring them into the light of the gospel. He recognised the need to preach, if others must know. To him, it was a task that must be done NOW, before it becomes too late. Later on, when admonishing his spiritual son, Timothy, he commanded “Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2)
- 2) In his preaching, he started in the synagogues, where people normally come to hear the word of God.

“And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me” (Acts 9:4).

- 3) The focus of his message was that Jesus “is the Son of God” (vs 20). This was the very point that the Jews of the time did not want to hear, and the very reason that the rejected and crucified Jesus. Effective and acceptable preaching to God, must be determined and directed by the word of God, not what the people with itching ears want to hear.
- 4) His entire audience “were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?” (vs 21). The change was so noticeable that it could not be hidden.
- 5) Such response could have intimidated some preachers into silence, but not for Saul who “increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ” (vs 22).
- 6) His continued preaching provoked the Jews who “took counsel to kill him” (vs 23). It is not what Paul said that provoked such response, but the intolerance of the hearers to accept the truth and change. Some are so intolerance about the truth that they are bent on eliminating the source of the truth in order to carry on with their ‘status quo’ in life. Such people often waste their lives in ignorance and ultimately perish as fools.
- 7) They were so determined and dedicated to their evil plot that they laid await and “watched the gates day and night to kill him” (vs 24). What a difference it would have made to the world, if they invested such effort and time to doing good that would benefit humanity!
- 8) As they watched the gates, the disciples devised a creative plan to rescue Paul from their evil plot. Creativity is important in defeating Satan’s plots and creating opportunities for the spreading of the Gospel.

Paul has served his generation, it is now your turn and mine to serve ours. May God depend on us!