

# IMPACT

08 JANUARY 2017

Volume XLII No. 01

A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing  
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

## Our Memory Verse

*4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.— Acts 9:4-6 KJV*



STRAIGHT FROM THE  
BELOVED PASTOR'S HEART

**January Theme: PATIENTLY SERVING (Romans 12:11-12; Rom. 8:45; Acts 9, 26; 1 Sam. 12:24;)**

## **PAUL: SAVED AND SET TO SERVE**

**ACTS 9:1-16; 26**

In Acts 9, we begin to read about Paul (Saul) whom the Bible described as the persecutor of the believers of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-2). But in verse 3, we find Paul encountering his own "Damascus" experience. He was arrested by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and Paul found salvation and forgiveness of all his sins in Christ alone (Acts 9:3-6).

### MESSAGE

As believers of the Lord, we stand as His chosen vessels to bear witness of Him and His Gospel. His work is divine and so is our battle. The need to be equipped with the grace and power of God to be able to perform our divine task has been already met by the Lord Jesus Himself. There is no need for us to rely upon our own abilities and strength. He built in us the same strong qualities that we can see in Paul—both in his life and service to God. So what are these qualities that we can find in the transformed apostle Paul?

**1. Strong Will and Personality (Acts 9:15, 16; 2 Cor. 4:7; Jn 15:16).** The Lord said, "... he is a chosen vessel unto Me..." Transformed Paul possessed a very strong will and personality that prepared him for the Gospel of the Lord. The Lord made him as such because He chose him. And this does not only apply to Paul but it is also true to every believer of the Lord. As the Lord chooses to use us, He equips us with strong will and personality that like Paul we can do and triumph in His work.

**2. Spirituality (Romans 8:4; Gal. 5:22-23).**

Paul was very sensitive to God's leading and this was evident in his complete obedience to the Lord's instructions. He has his eyes and mind all focused on the Lord and the things of God, realizing that only through the power of the Spirit in his life (not his own power and ability and skills and the things of the world), that he can do what he has to for the Gospel and for all the ekklesias the Lord has given and entrusted to his care.

**3. Humility (Phil. 3:7-9).** Paul has laid down aside whatever he has achieved in life and has chosen the Lord, His Word and His ministry over and above all the riches and fame this world could proffer him. For Paul, humility is to know Christ only and to live for Him and for others. It is dying to oneself.

**4. Life-long Commitment (Phil. 3:13-14; 1:21).** Paul has committed his life, service and all to the Lord since the day he got saved. For him, life is fleeting that it should be wholly dedicated, used and spent for the Lord and His Gospel. Short of this is a wasted and meaningless life.

### CONCLUSION

Paul could have been a national hero (he was choleric leader) and a patriot (Jewish zealot) but before King Agrippa and Festus and the rest of the Jewish leaders, he boldly and unashamedly declared his genealogy, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus and his new found faith and life in Christ (Acts 26; Rom. 1:16). Are we like Paul who can live for God and serve Him while patiently waiting for His promised return?

**—Dr. Benny M. Abante, Jr., 01.08.17**



*Contd. from p. 1*

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU!**

This year 2017, let us go on serving the Lord together. We might not see each other often but the Lord is always there, ever present and always working in our midst. Only eternity will tell all your accomplishments for Him - the souls that got saved out of many different countries; those who were disciplined; those who continued on against all odds and those who gave so GENEROUSLY so that our ministries can perform exceptionally well and your Pastor can do many things unhindered and unhampered.

The Lord Jesus will greatly reward you as you serve Him with humility and integrity. As the song I wrote, the BYI Theme song says: *“Let us run the race with patience; let us bear the cross with grace;*

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK  
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD  
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE  
IN A YEAR**

## CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| JANUARY 08 | PSALM 136:1, 26  |
| JANUARY 09 | NEHEMIAH 8:1-12  |
| JANUARY 10 | EPHESIANS 1:3-12 |
| JANUARY 11 | MATTHEW 6:1-7    |
| JANUARY 12 | COL. 3:12-17     |
| JANUARY 13 | 2 PETER 1:5-11   |
| JANUARY 14 | ACTS 2:41-47     |

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

*let us live above the world by faith of Him that saves; let us point the way to heaven; let us tell the world condemned by sin, that ONLY JESUS SAVES!"*

COURAGEOUSLY WAITING ON THE LORD IN  
2017! MOVE ON! DIG DEEPER! FLY HIGH FOR THE  
GLORY OF GOD!!!

-YOUR BP

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

MOVE ON— "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." (Phil. 3:13).

DIG DEEPER— "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12).

FLY HIGH— "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).