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# **Sermon notes and outlines**

**Sponsored by the Evangelism & Renewal  
Committee of the Board of Mission NSW**

A resource for the Jesus Conversations project designed to assist people to become more excited about a real faith and experience of the Holy.

To accompany the Bible study booklet

## **‘Must have Experience!’**

by Chris Walker and Amelia Koh Butler

and the

## **Jesus Conversations DVD**

A compilation of brief interviews with everyday people sharing their stories and Jesus experiences.

**‘What is it about your experience of Jesus that this community cannot live without?’**



### **For further reading:**

The Uncommon Lectionary - Tom Bandy

Kicking Habits - Tom Bandy

Growing Spiritual Redwoods—Tom Bandy

### **Websites:**

[www.nsw.uca.org.au/bom](http://www.nsw.uca.org.au/bom)

[www.greatnews.org.au](http://www.greatnews.org.au)

## John 9: 1-31 A man born blind

### Sermon notes:

“The blind man might have said: ‘Well I don’t understand much about all of that, but I know when I see people getting helped, and I’ll run with that!’” *from ‘First Thoughts on Year A Gospel Passages from the Lectionary, Lent 4’*,

It seems that the ‘blind man’ now healed was not much interested in the how and why of his healing as much as the fact that he was. Added to his healing is the fact that he now ‘saw’ Jesus helping people in a way that the religious could not. He now saw that Jesus had moved away from observance of religion (not healing on the Sabbath) to its practice – showing compassion for those in need.

If we were to apply the same principle to the idea of having Jesus conversations we might be tempted to find all the rules of our institutions, including the church, and to work against them. Maybe not quite what Jesus had in mind. Maybe a more helpful understanding might be to see that compassion has become the driving force rather than protecting and thus perpetuating the rules.

In the man born blind’s case compassion had many aspects to it.

1. **Compassion saw that he had a disability** but did not associate that disability with any cultural or religious notions. Jesus did not see his blindness as a result of his or his parents misdemeanors.
2. **Compassion placed his needs above the needs of convention and protocols.** The Pharisees, the stereotype for organized religion in John’s Gospel, appear to be more interested in the how of his regained sight and Jesus’ lack of Sabbath protocols
3. **Compassion is clearly identified as the work of God** ... “this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.” NIV

John’s community on hearing this story would have been painfully aware of their differences with the Jewish religion. They may have witnessed and experienced a lack of compassion from people of faith who seemed to want to maintain the status quo rather than hear from the promised Messiah.

The Jesus Conversations project grew out of a time of rethinking by the Evangelism & Renewal Committee of the Board of Mission NSW. As a group of people committed to growing a stronger profile for matters pertaining to evangelism and renewal we were frustrated that the word evangelism often evokes more negative than positive responses in many places today. How do we bring a positive face to this vital part of our church?

During this time of consideration the profile of Tom Bandy, Church Consultant and future thinker became a fairly large blip on the Uniting Church in Australia radar screen! His question: ‘**What is it about your experience of Jesus that your community cannot live without?**’ began to stir many across our church and became the key thought in our desire that individually and corporately we might all be able to answer such a question.

In September 2005 the Board of Mission brought a proposal to the NSW synod that:

**That the NSW Synod encourage the Evangelism & Renewal Committee to work in a variety of ways with the Synod, Presbyteries, Faith communities and congregations to:**

- Empower ordinary people to know, see and understand how their faith experiences are critical in their life, their church and their community.
- Promote strategies that allow individuals and congregations to see the power of sharing, listening and affirming stories in each other that leads to growing strong vital communities.
- Encourage the collection of stories across perceived boundaries – theological, doctrinal and cultural – affirming these Christ life stories wherever they emerge.

This booklet is offered as one of the resources that we are making available to local congregations and faith communities as part of this project.

They would have identified their own journey of faith with the man born blind and in the end have been able to say, “Well I don’t understand much about all of that, but I know when I see people getting helped and I’ll run with that!” And so the community of faith in John’s time remained strong and offered compassion to those around them.

So to draw conclusions from this story and its connections to our Jesus conversations there seem to be some helpful hints.

- We are reminded that ultimately compassion has to be the core value in any conversations, whether they be about faith matters or otherwise
- Seeing the person as they are without placing any religious concepts on them is to be preferred above all else. e.g. If we see the person as a sinner needing to be saved we are in deep trouble already.

Conversations are the work of God. Doug Purnell in his book, ‘Conversation as Ministry’ says, “Whatever the situation, whatever the focus of the conversation, it will come to life and breathe and sing and dance in wonderful ways. You will be aware of the presence and image of God in the other person. You will be engaging deep and rich pastoral conversation. You will be giving body to God’s realm in the world.

Sermon Notes prepared by Rev Don Dowling,  
Leadership, Urban Mission and Evangelism Consultant.

### **‘What is your experience of Jesus?’**

Spend some time during your time together sharing your thoughts on the above question. Something caused you to put your faith in Christ; what was it? Something causes you to hang on to that faith, occasionally against all of the odds. What is it?

*d) Philip was able to help someone respond to the Word of Christ  
vv 38  
Philip was able to lead an enquirer to a place of response.*

### **2. Conclusion:**

Philip’s experience of Christ caused him to be obedient to God’s call and open to the sharing of this good news with anybody. Signs and wonders, good works and social justice may open doors, raise eyebrows, and cause people to ask questions; but they are no substitute for simply explaining the good news about Jesus and telling someone how they can experience Jesus for themselves.

Sermon notes prepared by Rev Ian Weeks - Coffs Harbour Uniting Church

### **‘What is your experience of Jesus?’**

- Has there been a moment for you when an experience of Jesus caused a rethink of what it means to be a follower of Christ?
- Consider the power of an obedient life:

*“If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching.  
My Father will love him , and we will come to him  
and make our home with him.”  
John 14:23*

- How do we go about building a greater openness to the call of God in our lives?
- When was a time that you took a God filled opportunity?

## Acts 8:26 – 38 Philip and the eunuch on the Gaza Road

### Letting Others Know

#### Sermon notes

#### 1. Introduction:

The disciples looked for the Kingdom of Israel (Acts 1:6) – Jesus pointed them to the Kingdom of God and gave them a mission:

“...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NIV);

a mission that would invite all people to experience Jesus.

The disciples’ witness brought many others into an experience of Jesus, including Philip:

\* appointed by the disciples to “wait on tables” – to care for the widowed and poor (Acts 6:1-7).

\* a servant, full of the Holy Spirit & wisdom (Acts 6:3), proclaimer of Christ & witness, by miracles, to the power of God (Acts 8:4 – 8).

#### 2. How Philip’s Experience of Jesus affected him

a) *Philip was obedient to the Word of Christ* vv 26,27,29

Philip was open to the leading of the Lord

Philip went where the Lord told him to go

b) *Philip was open to opportunities to share the Word of Christ* vv 30,31

Philip took opportunities to help even the most unlikely person understand who Jesus is.

Philip began where the Ethiopian was.

c) *Philip was able to tell someone the Word of Christ* v35

Philip was able to make the connection between the OT and Christ.

Philip was able to articulate the good news about Jesus

## John 4:5-42 The Samaritan Woman

### ‘In Spirit and in Truth.’

#### Sermon notes

By the well at Sychar we see Jesus battling for the future of one lonely and bitter women. As Jesus draws close to the most important and sensitive issues of her life she seeks to fend him off with a theological questions guaranteed to sidetrack any religious person, a question about the right sought of worship:

*Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.* (John 4:20)

What follows is the longest speech which Jesus will give in this story

*Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*

*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:21-24)

Note four things:

1. The context in which the question of worship arises is one of healing and wholeness in which the issue of worship is getting in the road of God healing this women.

2. Jesus explains that the problem is not worship itself but incorrect assumptions underlying worship.

3. It is probably safe to assume that the issue of worship placed at the critical moment in a story of spiritual healing and wholeness suggests a critical connection between these two things.

4. That the key to the whole puzzle will be the formula given twice for

special emphasis: *will worship the Father in spirit and truth.*

### **Worship in Spirit.**

The context of this story contrasts worship that is characterised by a place and a tradition (*on this mountain nor in Jerusalem*) and a type of worship that is **something else** (*the spirit*). Typically, the explanation of this **something else** is somewhat elusive. The reason for this is that the **something else** is God's way without any neat definitions and human controls. Everytime someone worships God's way it will be different because there are infinite ways in which God may choose to relate to us. Both John and Paul use the term **the Spirit** in this way to contrast the way of the world (or flesh) and the way of God (John 3:5,6, Romans 8:1-16). Therefore, to worship in the Spirit, is to depend entirely on God for how the worship will manifest itself.

### **Worship in truth.**

In John's gospel the truth is always one of two things, Jesus himself (John 14:6), or the revelatory words of Jesus (John 8:31, 32). Which means that right worship is both, **in The Spirit**, while at the same time firmly anchored by the presence (Matthew 18:20) and teaching of Christ.

The radical nature of Jesus teaching in this area doesn't really hit home until you face the incredible shift in the concept of worship between old and new covenants. In the old Covenant worship is a carefully choreographed ritual in which mistakes can lead to an overexposure to the presence of God and the death of the participants (i.e. Leviticus 10). In the new covenant worship is not as prominent ( 47 times in the NT as opposed to 111 in the old), while there is almost nothing on **how** you are to worship. All and all there is a transference from God's presence coming to the people at the tabernacle or temple to the presence of God being mediated through the cross of Jesus into the bodily life of the believer. *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* (1 Corinthians 3:16)

### **What does all this mean?**

The word worship comes from an old Anglo - Saxon word which means to give worth. However true New Covenant worship has a number of distinctive features.

of our Bibles the places where clearly Jesus smiled, or even laughed! I think that he smiled as the children returned with their stories.

### **Remembering**

In his sharing in the rejoicing of the disciples, Jesus reminded them of a powerful truth: Don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you... rejoice that your names are written in heaven!

A grateful heart, one that is constantly turning to God and remembering who we are and whose we are is one that will more easily be able to enter into a Jesus Conversation.

Sermon notes by Pastor John Thornton - NorthWest Uniting Church

### **‘What is your experience of Jesus?’**

- Where do you see yourself in this journey of discipleship?
- How active are you in finding opportunity to enter into other people's lives?
- How does the concept of being a source of healing through Christ sit with you?

In this passage from Luke, Jesus tells his agents to seek out the good guy – the man of peace. Again, we are encouraged to be strategic and discerning in our conversations.

## Entering

Christians are generally pretty good at giving hospitality, but we need to work on our ability to easily and gladly accept the hospitality of others.

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that Jesus enjoyed a party and here he encourages us to do the same. Enter in, eat and drink with a clear conscience and stay as long as it takes.

## Healing

It would seem that this idea of entering fully into the life of a town or household that welcomes you and offers you peace can become a place of healing and hope. You might well be the advance party; but someone was there before you!

This approach will call for us to perhaps be more vulnerable than we have been. Our staying a while may see a greater authenticity and transparency of character than we have been accustomed to. Being absorbed into the community will mean that our Jesus Conversations will not flow from a well rehearsed script, church history or doctrinal stance. Instead it will come from our heart which has been touched by the people in the place where you have chosen to be planted.

Jesus' words of warning in this passage are reminders that we are not about selling the latest you beaut household appliance or wonder cosmetic! We are on kingdom business and whether people accept our conversations or not, the fact still remains that the kingdom of God is near.

## Rejoicing

*“The seventy two returned with joy and said,  
“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.””*

When our kids or grand children come to us rejoicing in their latest winning exploits, we do not sit grim faced as they joyfully share the triumph. Everyone remembers that ‘Jesus wept.’ We should write into the margins

1. It is two way. While we give worth to God, God is giving worth to us through Jesus Christ.

2. It is a process of healing and wholeness. In giving worth to us God is combating the lies of the evil one who is continually condemning us (Zechariah 3:1, Revelations 12:10)

Sermon Notes prepared by Rev Steve Everist - Turramurra Uniting Church

## ‘What is your experience of Jesus?’

- How do you understand the concept of worshiping ‘in Spirit and in Truth?’
- In what way is worship resourced and fed out of your experience of Jesus?

## Luke 24:13-35 The two on the Emmaus road:

### “A Burning Heart”

#### Sermon notes

##### INTRODUCTION

Over the years I have heard so many “pastor jokes” and “pearly gates jokes” that I think I have heard nearly them all. I can quickly figure it out as soon as someone starts into another joke, “Oh yes, I know this one. Ho hum!” Somehow the story loses its charm the more it gets told.

The problem with stories such as the one from Luke 24:13-35 is that they too can become so familiar that we lose some of the wonder that they carry.

Much has been made from this beautiful text about 2 discouraged followers of Christ. Not Apostles – but certainly knowing, and known to, the Apostles to whom they ran at the story’s end: Analogies of journey, walking with Christ, Christ walking with us unbeknownst to us, the significance of the Eucharist and so on - all of them valid.

For now, let’s focus on that simple statement from the disciples: “*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*” (Luke 24:32).

##### Changes

What a change that statement reveals in the attitude of the disciples from the beginning of the tale! From being **doleful and glum** about the weekend’s events, they went to being **energised and enthused** so much that they did not want to rest until they had spread the news around.

From being a people of **no hope and of massive disappointment**, they went to being **people for whom a whole new world had opened up**.

From being a people with **inadequate understanding of the scriptures and how their lives meshed with scripture**, they went to being **enlightened and profuse witnesses to the fulfilment of all the prophets**.

## Luke 10:1-20 The Disciples Sent Out

### Sermon notes

It is worth noting in this passage that Jesus was a good strategic planner. The disciples were not sent out two by two just to knock on doors, ask people if they are saved and would they be interested in having one of their ‘Jesus’ magazines. The seventy two were the advance party for Jesus.

Having done a little evangelistic door knocking in my time, it adds a little pressure to the situation when you know that the boss is going to be coming in behind you!

#### Urgency

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.  
Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into his  
harvest field.”*

At harvest time there is a strong sense of urgency. There is a limited window of opportunity in which the whole crop needs to be harvested. It is not the time for sitting on the veranda and discussing ideas about harvesting – it is the time for harvest!

In our Jesus Conversations it is good to remember that the harvest is more plentiful than ever and we need to develop an eagerness to find ways of sharing our faith stories with others that truly connect for them.

We do not do this alone as through prayer we have access to the Lord of the harvest and as ‘lambs among wolves’ we need to continually be open for a word or a nudge from God.

#### Discerning

In the 1990’s movie ‘In the Line of Fire,’ we are given an insight into the life of Secret Service agents as they prepare a city hotel for a visit by the USA President. Clint Eastwood and Rene Russo are part of the advance team sent ahead to prepare the way and along with their colleagues they seem to spend a lot of time talking into their sleeves and zealously seeking out the bad guy.

from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22,23

## Some Questions

1. Is the Holy Spirit a permanent member of your household?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit has trouble hanging around with you all the time?
3. What scares you about the Holy Spirit?
4. Do you want your relationship with God's Spirit to change?
5. So what do you have to do about it?

Sermon notes prepared by Rev Steve Everist - Turramurra Uniting Church

## ‘What is your experience of Jesus?’

- In what ways have you experienced the touch of the Holy Spirit?
- What are some adjustments that might need to be made so that you can be in a better place to be 'waiting for power'?

Clearly the course of events for Cleopas and his companion was sufficient that enormous changes happened.

It reminds me of when Jesus was going about Judea and Galilee, stopping a funeral here to raise the dead, healing a leper there, restoring sight again and again, drawing crowds of people who had never seen anything like this in their lives before. Somehow wherever Jesus is, change attends the rest of us.

## Eyes to see

“He who has ears to hear...”; “He who has eyes to see...”; “...The blind leading the blind”; “...That seeing they might not perceive...” It should not be any cause for us to wonder that Cleopas and his companion did not recognise Jesus. Most of the time we don't either!

It doesn't mean he is not walking with us, however. Jesus is more present that we like to think about sometimes. “*He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him...*” the angel told them at the tomb. Galilee is where you and I come from – our familiar haunts, our work, our families. The risen Jesus has already gone into those familiar places, so look out for him!

But we don't, because we get so preoccupied by our *own* lives and events. We are so driven by the star in the movie that is our life – ourselves. So we even run the risk of the Rich Man in Luke 16:31 who was told that “*they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.*”

So Jesus travels with them unrecognised, and agrees to stop the night with them. Good Eastern hospitality working well.

Yet even in all of this, something was stirring in the hearts of the 2 disciples. But they were too caught up with their circumstances, their companion and the events of the day to really be still and to realise that anything was stirring at all.

## Recognition

The story reminds us of the Eucharist. This may be significant for many people. However, I want to focus on the events of the moment. As Jesus

breaks the break and blesses it, he is recognised: freeze the camera right there!

There had been no recognition on the road to Emmaus, no recognition entering the house. Only in that final moment was Jesus recognised – and it was *because* Jesus was recognised that it was the final moment! There was no more to be done. Let the camera roll on.

Recognition brought realization. Cleopas and his companion realized that something was happening on the road to their home: *“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

“Yes!” we reply to ourselves as we look on. But what is it that will make *your* heart burn my friend? So often we think it will be information: It was not information that the disciples learned from Jesus that was making their hearts burn – useful though that information eventually might have been.

Information is the way a boring ‘post-enlightenment’ world tries to change people. It doesn’t work. Psychologists used to believe that if you could help people know what their problem was, then they would get over it. Multi-billion dollar industries in education exist for similar reasons. Somehow, knowing that you’re broke doesn’t start to make you rich!

Is your Christian life based around information – yes, even information passed to you by Christ? Friends, it might not be enough! Information will not make your heart burn. Information will not lift you from your home and out into the streets to tell the world about Jesus.

As we have seen above, there was a change in the disciples – but it wasn’t based on the information that Jesus taught them!

*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

### **An experience of Jesus**

The key to the burning hearts was the person of Jesus himself. It was Jesus who made their hearts burn, not what he was sharing. As the disciples reflected in that moment after they recognised Jesus, they realised that

*whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

Acts 9:4-6

- The most important thing is to face our sin and failure and recognise our absolute need for God
- Waiting is for repentance  
*And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15*

### **2. Adjust your tuning**

*The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. Acts 9:11*

- Paul Adjusts his eyes to a bright light
  - If it’s not about God’s will – then it has to be about our will – and that’s always been a recipe for disaster.
- Waiting is for tuning into God’s will. - *Your will be done* Matthew 6:10.  
*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

### **3. Surrender time**

*“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:6*

- Paul adjusts to a new time keeper
- Whoever controls the clock controls the game (NBL winning coach) – giving God control of the clock
- Trusting the clock to God

Waiting is surrendering our agenda to God  
*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes*

*compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose* Philippians 2:1,2

**But why wait?** – If God’s Holy Spirit is soooooo good - why wait? Why did Paul wait three days before receiving the Holy Spirit?

- Waiting is not easy for instant gratification junkies like us – just think about sex.

The issue is that God is not so much interested in a place to visit as a place to live:

*And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.* Ephesians 2:22

However most peoples lives are not geared up to include the Holy Spirit as a permanent house guest:

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Ephesians 4:30- 32

So that’s what the waiting was about – getting the house ready for God:  
*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.* John 4:23 (See Ezekiel 36:24-27)

God is one of the few guests who will help you get your house ready. He will help us:

- Tinker with our temperament
- Adjust our tuning
- Surrender time

### **So while you wait:**

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* Isaiah 40:31 (RSV)

### **1. Tinker with your Temperament**

*He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus,*

they had had an experience of Jesus. They had experienced Jesus on the road, and in their home, and at table.

**That experience was so much in contrast to their earlier experience of having no Jesus that they were profoundly shaken.** There was no choice – they had to tell the others!

**The disciples had an experience of Jesus that they knew the others could not live without.** And it so gripped them, that all thought of personal convenience fled out the window as they dashed out the door!

**An experience of Jesus changes you.** Peter experienced Jesus and fell to his knees *“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”* (Luke 5:8).

**You cannot make an experience of Jesus happen.** You cannot invent one. You can only ask Jesus to reveal himself to you, and trust that this is precisely what he loves to do!

It may already have been that you have had an experience of Jesus in your life. It may well be that you have not. *Don’t go looking for an experience of Jesus.* Just ask him to reveal himself to you – nothing else. It is not the *experience* that you actually need or should seek! It is Jesus himself – and nobody or nothing else.

*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (Jn.14:6)

Once Jesus reveals himself to you, the second part is easy – you have something that others cannot live without – and you know that is so, because you, in your profound humanity, share the common yearnings of all people – to be loved, to belong, to be connected to the divine, to have hope, to be lifted above this world, to have a purpose.

We find that we are almost compelled to share our experience by the sheer power of encountering Jesus.

So often we try to mould God around our busy lives. But once that connection has been made, we are so changed that we would mould our lives around God – forever!

Not everyone was walking on the Emmaus Road – just 2 people. But they

went and told a whole company of people, and had their experience of Jesus validated.

As we touched on earlier – Jesus is more persistently present than we appreciate. Our prayer needs to be that *“the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”* (Eph.1:18) – that we can have the presence of the risen Christ revealed to us wherever we are, and that we can take that encounter to the ends of the earth.

Sermon Notes prepared by Rev Mick Brown - Menai Illawong Congregation & Menai Illawong Open House Faith Community

### **‘What is your experience of Jesus?’**

- Share a personal story of a change you have experienced
- Share a personal reflection of a significant encounter you have had with Christ
- Have you a heart-burning experience of the risen Christ? Briefly share it, otherwise relate someone else’s story
- Share one or two examples of radically changed lives, either from Scripture or biography

Our prayer needs to be that *“the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

## **Acts 9:1-22 Paul on the Damascus road**

### **Waiting for power**

#### **Sermon notes**

*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 9:7*

- What does this mean? – does it mean that the creator of the universe actually entered Paul’s body at this moment?

Because that’s what Paul believes.

*Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16*

### **What happens when the Holy Spirit enters your body?**

We experience:-

#### **1. The touch of eternal love**

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*  
Romans 8:16

#### **2. The transforming tenderness of eternal grace**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18*

#### **3. The teaching of eternal wisdom**

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26*

#### **4. The tug of eternal purpose**

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and*