

# Message Notes

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## **Surprised by Joy**

*Philippians 1:1, Acts 9:1-22*

*October 1, 2006*

# Message Outline

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## **Surprised by Joy**

*Philippians 1:1, Acts 9:1-22*

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### **I. Called by God**

- A. An encounter with the Risen Jesus (Acts 9:4)
- B. A bowing before the Risen Jesus (Acts 9:4-5)
- C. A filling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17)

### **II. Changed by Grace**

- A. A transformation of worldview (Acts 9:1-2, Phil. 3:4-11)
- B. A transformation of values & affections (Acts 9:19-20)
- C. A transformation of purpose (Acts 9:21-22)
- D. A transformation of character (Phil. 1)
- E. A transformation of action (Acts 9:20)

### **III. Charging with the Gospel**

- A. He was driven to proclaim Christ where He had not been named (Rom. 15:19-21)
- B. He was driven to proclaim Jesus in Rome (Rom. 15:23)
- C. He was willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus and the salvation of souls (2 Tim. 2:9-10)
- D. He lived for Jesus, because dying was gain (Phil. 1:21)

### **IV. Captivated by Joy**

- A. In the founding at the church at Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)
- B. In His letter to the church at Philippi

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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1. Read Acts 9:1-22 and Acts 16:11-40. What do these passages have to do with Philippians 1:1-2?
2. In Acts 9, describe the dimensions of Paul's calling by God. What must he realize in the process of his coming to faith in Christ? What is he called in 9:15?
3. In what ways was Paul changed by grace? What specific evidence is there in Acts 9 and in Philippians 3? Why should grace completely reorient our lives?
4. How did Paul charge with the Gospel? Based on Acts 9, when did this start to happen?
5. Read the book of Philippians and mark all the references to joy throughout the book? What are a couple of things that Paul says are causes for his rejoicing?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***Surprised by Joy***

*Philippians 1:1, Acts 9:1-22*

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Paul's encounter with the Risen Jesus was dramatic and radical. Is this the norm? How else do we encounter Jesus? Describe your own encounter with Jesus?
3. Why does the Gospel of God's grace sometimes not rearrange and reorient our entire lives like it did Paul's life? How has the Gospel changed your life? Is it changing your life now? Describe a couple of areas where the Gospel is currently impacting how you think, feel, or act?
4. In Acts 9, Paul was propelled into a warm and loving Christian community. Who came along side of him? Why is the Christian community so powerful in our lives as believers? What do you think are necessary ingredients in true Christian community? How do you go for it and together try and create that kind of community in your Growth Group?
5. Going back to our Fall Kick-Off message. What are the streams from which you draw your joy? How well do you let the streams draw you to the Spring? What evidence is there in the book of Philippians that the streams of joy drew Paul to the Spring of all joy?