



April 29, 2007

**Scripture-** *Acts 9:13-16*- "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

**Observations-** God spoke to Ananias, a Christ follower, about helping Paul, but Ananias was less than thrilled about the prospects of assisting one with Paul's credentials as a persecutor of the church. Ananias, however, was not a stranger to hearing from God, so he knew and trusted the voice. He didn't need to be blinded by a light for the Lord to get his attention. Ananias lived out the "if You say so, I will" principle as he trusted that God knew what He was up to as it related to Paul. When they meet for the first time, Ananias even calls Paul his "brother" as he prays for his healing, restoration, and future service.

**Application-** I want to be so familiar with God that it's easy to discern His voice from all the other voices in this world demanding that we pay attention to them. This Ananias shows up in the Bible this one time, and then he fades into the background never to be heard from again. He serves God by serving Paul, an incredibly unlikely candidate for God to use as a primary conduit for His grace, mercy, and love. Ananias is a wonderful example for us, since we never know the impact any one of us might have on someone else in need, who may influence many people for God's glory. I want to trust God like Ananias, an example of the church at her best, trusted God.

**Prayer-** Dear God, open my ears that I might listen to You more clearly. Help me to question less and respond more to Your Word that gives life, direction, and hope. Amen.  
God adores you,  
Pastor Jamie