



Series: Thriving in Grace
Passage: Galatians 1:11-22, Acts 9
Title: God Builds an Apostle
Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 1/02/2025

Discussion Starter – Who is the man or woman that God can use? What characteristics, skills, talents, education, or experience do you think are critical to be an effective servant of God? How can a person grow and be built in these areas?

Read Proverbs 17:3

1. Why do silver and gold need to be refined? Is gold or silver improved during this process? What is the process to accomplish this refinement?
2. What does this image communicate to us about the Lord's working with our heart?
 - a. What dross has been (or is being) burned off your heart since you have walked with Jesus?

Read Galatians 1:11-22

3. How did Paul say he came to understand the Gospel? Was his initial understanding full and complete?
4. What level of understanding did Paul have of the Hebrew Scriptures prior to his conversion? Had his OT knowledge lead to understanding the gospel? How did Paul's understanding of the bible change after his conversion? (Have you had a similar experience?)
5. How much time passed after Paul was converted on the road to Damascus until he conferred with the apostles? What was Paul doing during that time? Did he plant any churches or write any epistles?
 - b. What steps can you take to allow God to do His work in your life during a time of waiting?
 - c. How does God's word expose the dross in our hearts that obscures the image of God in our lives?

Read Acts 9:20-31, Acts 11:24-26

6. What was Paul's reputation amongst the apostles in Jerusalem? How was Barnabas used to bring consolation to Paul and unity with the church leadership?
 - d. Do you need a Barnabas during a time of change in your life? Can you be a Barnabas to someone during their difficult time?
 - e. Why was Paul sent to Tarsus? What do you imagine he did while in Tarsus?
7. What is God's greatest work and man's highest calling?
8. What quotations were given in the message from CH Spurgeon and CS Lewis?
 - f. Have you experienced God's most effective work in your life to be secrete, slow, painful, or personal? What fruit comes from this type of purging?