



## Part 3 • THE FAITH OF ANANIAS

### Faith is...

1. Real. Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the realization of things hoped for, the evidence (confidence) of things not seen.*
2. Relational, not necessarily a “power.” (Hebrews 11:6)
3. Active and alive. (James 2:14-26)
4. Convinced of God’s ability. (Romans 4:18-21)
5. “Digging ditches” in anticipation. (2 Kings 3:14-20)
6. Obedience against all odds. (Mark 2:1-12; Luke 8:41-48)

### About Ananias (Acts 9:1-22)

Ananias is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Hananiah and means “Yahweh Has Been Gracious.” God used a man with this name to open the eyes of one who fiercely persecuted the Christian Jews and whom He would later use to bring the Good News to the Gentile world!

Three days after Saul was struck blind on the road to Damascus, the Lord spoke to a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.

In the vision Ananias was told to pray for Saul. **But he was afraid.** Ananias was aware of Saul’s cruel persecution of believers in Jerusalem and his purpose in Damascus. God reassured Ananias, saying, *“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of*

*Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”* (Acts 9:15–16).

**Ananias obeyed God**, found Saul, laid his hands on him, and prayed, *“Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 9:17). Immediately, Saul was healed of his blindness and was baptized! This Saul later brought the gospel to the Gentiles under his Roman name, Paul, with the help of Barnabas.

### What can we learn from Ananias’ example?

1. Ananias was a *brave and obedient* disciple through whom God would bless the Gentiles through the apostle Paul. But it required Ananias to activate his faith. (James 2:14-16)
2. Ananias was devoted (fully committed) to God. (Acts 9:10)
  - Paul mentioned Ananias when he shared his testimony in Acts 22:12, *A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the Law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.*
3. God brought Ananias totally out of his “comfort zone.”
  - Before anything great is achieved, our comfort zone must be disturbed. (Ray Lewis)
  - To effectively serve God we must get comfortable about being uncomfortable! (John Maxwell)
4. Although Ananias came face-to-face with his fear, yet he obeyed afraid. (Acts 9:13, 17)
5. His obedience played an important part in reaching the Gentile world!
  - Acts 9:15–16 *“...for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel...”*