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**The Perspective of the Church**

Do you want to keep living in the same perspective that you have now?

Do you want your perspective to always be changing?

How do you feel when you realize that your perspective is incomplete, distorted or completely wrong?

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# Perspective

Our perspective is foundational to our lives

Our perspective will determine how we live

Our perspective is what guides us

Our perspective is formed and shaped by many things

Our perspective can be incomplete, distorted or even completely wrong

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**Isaiah 55:8** “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

**Proverbs 4:18** The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.

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Do you want to keep living in the same perspective that you have now?

Should your perspective always be changing?

How do you feel when you realize that your perspective is incomplete, distorted or completely wrong?

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**Acts 9:1-31** Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. <sup>2</sup> He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

<sup>3</sup> As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!"

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**Acts 9:1-31** <sup>6</sup> Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

<sup>7</sup> The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone’s voice but saw no one! <sup>8</sup> Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. <sup>9</sup> He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord!” he replied.

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**Acts 9:1-31** <sup>11</sup> The Lord said, “Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. <sup>12</sup> I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.”<sup>13</sup> “But Lord,” exclaimed Ananias, “I’ve heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! <sup>14</sup> And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.”

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**Acts 9:1-31** <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. <sup>19</sup> Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is indeed the Son of God!”

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# Finding God's Perspective

- God is teaching you to see as He does
- God's perspective can be very different yours
- Notice when your perspective is not reflecting or producing the fruit of the Spirit (*love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*)
- Humility opens your eyes to God's perspective but pride closes them
- God's perspective becomes our own by doing what God says

# Challenge

When you notice your perspective is not taking you to “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” Humble yourself and ask God to show you how He sees things.

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