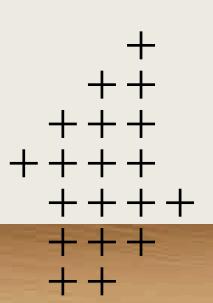
WEEK 14 - ACTS 9:1-19 - RODNEY HOLMSTROM

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM OUR DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.

POINT ONE

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

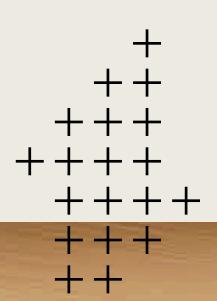
ACTS 9:1-2 NIV



POINT ONE

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

ACTS 9:3-4 NIV

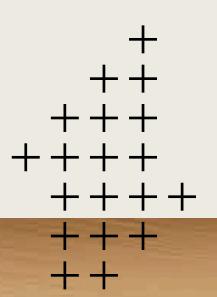


For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

EPHESIANS 5:23 NIV

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:15 NIV

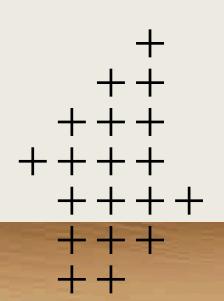


POINT ONE

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

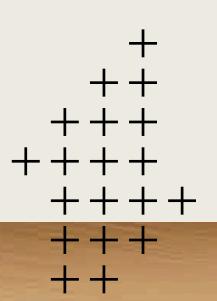
ACTS 9:5-6 NIV



POINT ONE

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

ACTS 9:7-9 NIV



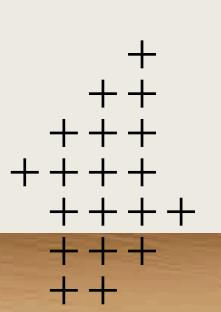
POINT ONE

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

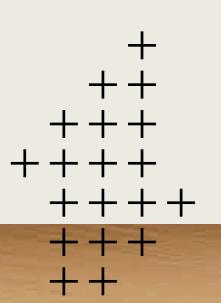
ACTS 9:10-12 NIV



POINT ONE

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

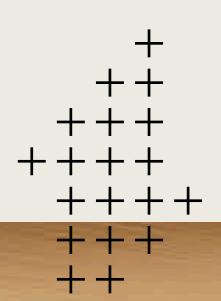
ACTS 9:13-14 NIV



POINT ONE

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

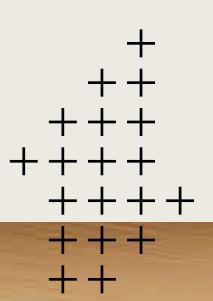
ACTS 9:15-16 NIV



CALLING POINT TWO

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

ACTS 9:17-19 NIV



JESUS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM OUR DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.

REFLECTION

What "scales" still blind me from seeing Christ clearly?

Who is the "Saul" in my world that God may be calling me to love and reach out to?

Am I willing to obey like Ananias—even when afraid?