Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!

Sunday, June 25, 2017

A uTurn with the World
Week 3 in the series
uTurn: A Look at a Converted Life
A Study of Acts 9:19-30

Describe a time you didn't notice something or someone until another person helped you see. (Examples: Whale watching on a cruise, a camoflauged owl, a celebrity)

How did you feel (check all that apply):

- ❑ Annoyed that you should have seen it without help
- ❑ Delighted that you didn't miss it
- ❑ Motivated to point out the same thing/animal/person to someone else
- ❑ Other: _____

Why do you think many Christians miss natural opportunities to say something or do something to communicate the good news of Christ to others?

Saul/Paul's story shows us that a real uTurn involves a new relation to *Jesus*, to *his church*, and to *the world.* In the last 2 weeks we've looked at Saul's new relation to Jesus and his new relation to the church. This week we'll look at how he related to nonbelievers once he became a Christian believer.

Which of these points is most likely to cause you to "overlook" an opportunity to witness?

- ❑ I don't want to come across as a pushy salesman type person.
- ❑ I think I may say something wrong and cause more damage than good.
- ❑ I don't think I know enough about the Bible or my beliefs to defend myself if they ask some hard questions.
- ❑ I'm naturally shy and don't want to stir anything up.

Communicating the good news of Jesus to those who need it is the natural and inevitable result of a real spiritual uTurn. We learn 3 critical evangelism steps from Saul/Paul's example.

Step One: Start

Read Acts 9:20-21

According to verse 20, how long after his conversion did Saul/Paul wait to start evangelizing?

List a few excuses Saul/Paul could have used to avoid sharing the gospel so early to his peers.

How many of these excuses do you depend on to avoid sharing your faith?

Read Ecclesiastes 11:4. Why is the farmer in that proverb a poor farmer? How might this apply to sharing our faith with others?

As a group, list at least 5 ways you could START to share your faith with friends, relatives, neighbors, and others.

Step Two: Grow

Read Acts 9:22

What does it mean that Saul/Paul "grew more and more powerful" in his ability to communicate the gospel? How do you think he grew in this ability?

When it comes to explaining your faith to others, in what topic do you still need to grow "more and more powerful" in talking about it (check all that apply):

- ❑ The resurrection of Jesus
- ❑ The reliability of the Bible
- ❑ Christ's claim that he is the only way to God among all the religions of the world
- ❑ How science is not in conflict with faith
- ❑ Other(s):_____

List at least 5 ways you can grow “more and more powerful” in these topics.

If you’re exploring Christianity, or if you want to better explain it to others, Pastor Tom has nine videos online that introduce the basics of Christianity. Go online to www.anchorcourse.org/watch-the-videos.

Step Three: Endure

Read Acts 9:23-25; 29-30

What depth of opposition did Paul face?

Did he quit? Why not? (There are several valid answers to the “why not” question.)

Why do we let minor opposition or setbacks stop us from sharing our faith?

Praise Reports and Prayer Requests