

Moravian Women's Association – Devotional Paper – June 2025

On The Journey Together

Read Acts 9:1-19

I have chosen this reading for June because Saul/Paul's conversion to Christianity is dramatic rather like the conversion of the crowd that occurred at Pentecost which this year we will celebrate on 8th June. Saul becomes Paul later in Acts when he begins his missionary work – in this paper I will refer to him as Paul as that is how most of us know him.

Some branches of Christianity would see Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus as the way that all people should come to Christ and of course there are some people whose Christian journey begins in this way. I suspect, however, that for most people this isn't how our faith journey started – it certainly isn't how mine began!

Perhaps God could only convert Paul dramatically – after all Paul was a vigorous persecutor of the early Christians. Other conversions described in Acts, such as the Ethiopian (Chapter 8), are much gentler. This reminds us that God works in different ways with different people – our journeys are as varied as we are.

The image of light is important in this story. Paul literally becomes blind and when his sight returns, he sees the world in a different way. I imagine that all of us have been on wrong paths from time to time and at some point, we started to see things in a different way. This may have happened in one sudden moment of clarity – like Paul - or it may have been a slow realisation. Sometimes, it is only after the event that we see the hand of God on our experience.

As we go through life, we will probably experience multiple conversions. By this I don't mean that we keep losing and returning to our faith – although that may have happened to some of you; I mean more that as we grow in faith, allowing God's Spirit to work within us, we will see things we once saw one way in another way and 'conversion' occurs. Sometimes God may call us into a different way of life – I'm sure many of our ministers who worked in one occupation and then transferred into ministry could tell this tale.

Despite everything that Paul was doing against Jesus' followers, God was still present in his life, awaiting an opportunity to break through. We can be assured that whatever we are doing, wherever we are, God is also present, waiting for us to listen and respond.

Discuss

1. Can you recall how you came to know Jesus? Was it a sudden moment of clarity or a more gradual process?
2. Are there any events in your life where in hindsight you can see how God was working?