

The Body Of Christ Discovering God

Paul's Confession

The Son was **active** encountering people in the Old Testament also.

- He appeared to **Abraham** and **Sarah**, and **blessed** them.
- He was the one talking with **Moses** in the burning bush.

Moses said, what is your name?

He answered, "**I AM**"

John 8:53-58

- He also **wrestled** with Jacob.

Jacob then said, "I have seen God **face to face**."

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego **danced** with Jesus in the fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:25 (NIV)

²⁵He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

- * Jesus has had **personal** encounters with mankind for **thousands** of years.

Reason I am excited about today's message:

- This encounter with Paul is after the **ascension** of Christ.

1. Jesus' encounter with Paul proves to us we still can have a **personal** encounter and or **relationship** with Jesus.

Paul had **several** encounters with Jesus

Acts 9:1-5

I am going to show you 3 things that happened in Saul's encounter.

A. Saul received a new **name**.

- He is called Saul in this passage and for the next 13 years, called **Saul**.
2. In Acts 13, Saul's name was changed to **Paul** when he is sent out to fulfill his **purpose** on this earth.

We don't know if God changed Saul's name, but we do know God has a **habit** of changing names.

Name changing had a **purpose**.

We do know, Saul is his **Hebrew** name

Paul is his **Gentile** name.

It's also possible the **disciples** changed his name.

Remember Barnabas, who was on Paul's team?
Disciples changed his name.

His name was changed from Jose to Barnabas
(means son of **encouragement**)

Barnabas' closest friends said, if **encouragement** has a **child**, it would be you, Jose, so we will call you Barnabas.

Question: If your friends changed your name based on your **character**, what would your name be?

- If you would like to be named something, what would that be?

Maybe today: start acting like a son or daughter of **encouragement**.

3. God has a **new** name for you because when you became **born again**, God **changed** your name.

Revelation 2:17

- Some of you might say I may not **overcome!**
4. You overcome not by **being good** but through **grace**.
 5. You have to stop thinking and living with a **works** mentality, but a **becoming** mentality. You overcome because you are in **Christ** and **Jesus Christ** has overcome the world.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Here is my question: What is the name that God has for you?

When you are born again, on that white stone will be written a new name that only the one who **received** it will **know** it.

Saul – means **demanding death**.

He was the guy that went around demanding death for **believers**.

Paul - means **little** or **small**

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

- He refers to himself as the **least** of the apostles.

By the way, that is a **kingdom** principle.

Matthew 23:11

Matthew 20:26-28

Why is Paul so amazing?

- **27** books in the New Testament – Paul wrote **13** for sure. I believe **14** (complete **Hebrews** with **Luke**)
- Most of the theology the church understands about Jesus came from **Paul**.

Theology:

- Saved by **grace**
 - The **Body** of Christ
 - And so **much more**
6. When Paul **took** and **understood** his name, he became the **least**, and God made him **great**.

* Scripture says

Romans 12:1-2

Knowing who **God** is, realizing then who **you** are, and then **pinpointing** your purpose with the **meaning** of your **new** name – you will **succeed**.