

## Acts 9 – SAUL’S CONVERSION

### 使徒行传 9 - 扫罗的悔改。

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During the COVID 19 experience so far, Evie (my wife) has gotten quite into **home conversion**. Since we’ve spent so much time cooped up in our cosy one bedder, we’ve moved the second desk out of the bedroom into our other room, shifted the main desk to have natural light coming from behind it...

在 COVID 19 的经验至今，伊维(我的妻子)非常投入**家庭改装**。自从我们要花很多时间被关在舒适的一房单位，我们把第二张桌子从卧室搬到了另一个房间，把主桌移到了后面，让自然光线从它后面进来...

Now, when I’m speaking about “conversion” here, operating under a trusty dictionary.com definition which says conversion is, “the process of changing or causing something to change from one form to another.”

现在，当我在这里谈论「改装」时，是根据一个值得信赖的 dictionary.com 的定义，该定义说改装是「改变或导致某样东西从一种形式更改为另一种形式的过程」。

When life feels stagnant; when we are stuck inside more than we used to...there is something appealing about that kind of *conversion*!

当生活感到停滞不前；当我们比过去要更多被困在室内时...这种改装有些吸引人。

But homes and ‘things’ aren’t the only things that can be “converted” ... **people can be converted.**

但家庭和“东西”并不是唯一可以「改装」的东西...人也可以被改。

But in our world and culture, the idea of people being converted makes most of us pretty uncomfortable!

但是在我们的世界和文化中，人被改的想法让我们大多数人很不舒服！

It is fair to say that many people, perhaps friends and family of ours, believe that the idea of conversion comes across rude and narrow-minded.

可以说，许多人，也许是我们的朋友和家人，相信要悔改的想法是粗鲁和狭隘。

For many Christians, it feels uncomfortable. Fear the potential rejection of others, the relational cost that may come when presenting the Good news of Jesus to others.

许多基督徒也感到不舒服。害怕可能被别人拒绝，在向别人介绍耶稣的好消息时可能要支付的关系代价。

**And yet conversion is the very heartbeat of the Christian faith. So why do we bother trying to convert people with the good news of Jesus?**

然而，悔改归主是基督教信仰的心跳。那么，为什么我们费心试图用耶稣的好消息来使人悔改呢？

As we come to our passage in Acts 9, we encounter the most famous conversion story in history. And as we walk through this narrative, want to point out three things that God teaches us about the nature of conversion:

当我们看《使徒行传》第9章的这段落时，我们遇到了历史上最著名的悔改故事。当我们看这个叙述时，想指出神教导我们悔改本质的三件事：

1) Conversion is *UNCOMFORTABLE* (V1-9)

2) Conversion is *PERSONAL* (V10-16)

3) Conversion is *ESSENTIAL* (V17-19)

1) 悔改是不舒服的(1-9节)

2) 悔改是为个人的(10-16节)

3) 悔改是至关重要的(17-19节)

### 1) Conversion is *UNCOMFORTABLE* 悔改是不舒服的

Saul is on his mission at the start of Acts 9. A mission *which he believes he is doing for God*, by going to Damascus to crush this rebellious uprising referred to as ‘the Way’ (those who followed Jesus). When suddenly (Verse 3&4) Saul was, *knocked to the ground by a light from heaven and heard a voice, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”*

扫罗在《使徒行传》第9章开始时，正在执行任务。一项他认为自己为上帝做的任务，去大马士革粉碎这场被称为「这道」(跟随耶稣的人)的叛逆起义。当突然(第3和4节)，扫罗被天上的光仆倒在地，听见有声音对他说：  
「扫罗！扫罗！你为甚么迫害我？」

CLEARLY, this is not the plan that Saul had set out for himself. He is going to Damascus to confront those following Jesus when suddenly, he is confronted by Jesus.

显然，这不是扫罗为自己制定的计划。他要去大马士革去找着那些跟随信奉耶稣的人时，突然，耶稣找着他。

And conversion is often uncomfortable **because it begins with God seeking us, not us seeking God.**

悔改往往是不舒服的，因为它开始于神寻求我们，而不是我们寻求神。

And it is no different with Saul. He is confident in his understanding of the truth, and he is a guy with a vast knowledge of the Old Testament. And he believes he is honouring God, and he will crush this rebellious Christian uprising by his own power.

扫罗也是没有什么不同。他对他自己对真理的理解很有信心，而且他是一个对《旧约》有丰富了解的人。他相信他是在尊敬上帝，他会以自己的力量粉碎这场叛逆的基督教起义。

And yet what is he met with in V 5 & 6?

然而，他在 5 和 6 节中遇到了什么？

**Saul's response, "Who are you, Lord?"** For all his knowledge and confidence, as Jesus radically intervened in Saul's life, it **revealed to Saul that he did not know who God was.**

**扫罗的回答：「主啊！你是谁？」**尽管他知道和有信心，当耶稣从根本上干预了扫罗的生活时，向扫罗显露了，他根本不知道上帝是谁。

Following this in V7-8, Saul is left blinded, relying on his travelling companions now to guide him to the city which God instructs him to go to.

在这之后，7-8 节，扫罗失明了，现在要依靠他的旅伴引导他到上帝指示他去的城市。

How disorientating and uncomfortable that must have felt for Saul! Confronted by the Lord Jesus who he believed was dead, and now left with a severe disability which made him reliant on his travelling companions.

扫罗一定觉得，多么迷失方向和不舒服！面对他相信已经死了的主耶稣，现在他带着严重的残疾离开了，使他依赖他的旅伴。

Saul's new reality (blinded and dependant on others) would have jolted him into THINKING: *How could he make sense of his reality?*

扫罗的新现实 (盲目和依赖他人) 会促使他思考：他该怎么理解自己的现实呢？

**And that can be an uncomfortable process.**

而这是一个可令人不安的过程。

\*I found it an uncomfortable process in my own life! \*

\*我在我自己的生命中发现这是一个不舒服的过程！\*

I became a Christian midway through high school, in January of 2010. Before that point, I was incredibly sure of myself, that I was right to dismiss God because the key to life was football and friends!

2010年1月，我在高中的中段成为了基督徒。在那之前，，我对自己非常肯定，我取消上帝是对的，因为生命的关键是足球和朋友！

Now my older brother is a Christian, and I did not understand him AT ALL and that frustrated me, so I took out that frustration on anyone *foolish* enough to call themselves a Christian.

我的哥哥是基督徒，我一点也不了解他，这让我很沮丧，所以我把这种沮丧发泄在那些愚蠢到称自己为基督徒的人身上。

\*To clarify – I taunted and made fun of, but there were no murderous threats...\*

\*澄清…我嘲弄和取笑，但没有威吓凶悍…\*

I was particularly rough to school chaplain. So much so that I managed to track him down as he was leaving the job, literally carrying a box of his stuff in his own hands. I got in one final taunt *Where are you going sir?* ...and in a weak and frustrating moment he blurted out: “I have better things to do than waste my time on kids like you.”

我对学校的牧师特别粗暴。我甚至在他离开工作时设法找到他，他的手中正携带着一盒属于他自己的东西。我作出最后的嘲讽，「你要去哪里，先生？」…在这个软弱和沮丧的时刻，他脱口而出：「我有更好的事要做，而不是把时间浪费在像你这样的孩子上。」

However, over the following six months, I was always sick, had to stop playing football and rarely saw my friends. It was disorientating how quickly the framework for my life had come unstuck...and (**very much against my wishes**) my parents sent me on a Christian camp with the same *annoyingly kind* older brother.

然而，在接下来的六个月里，我总是生病，不得不停止踢足球，很少看到我的朋友。使我迷惑不解的是我生命的框架可以那么快便解散…和(非常违背我的愿望)我的父母送我与同样恼人善良的哥哥一起去参加一个基督徒的营会。

I had one goal going on this camp: DO NOT LISTEN to the talks! Don't humour them by showing you're interested in this Jesus stuff. Yet over the week, there was one specific thought which I could not get out of my head no matter how hard I tried...

我去这个营会的唯一目标是：不聆听他们的讲座！不要通过展示你对耶稣的东西感兴趣来幽默他们。然而，在一周里，有一个具体的想法，无论我多么努力都不能摆脱我的脑海…

**“What if I am so stubborn that I needed to have something taken from me actually to hear this message about Jesus seriously?”**

「我是否因为太固执，而需要从我那里拿走一些东西，好让我认真地听到这个关于耶稣的信息呢？」

\*\*\*My conversion began with the uncomfortable realisation that I am incredibly proud and stubborn, and it was only through having football taken away from me that I realised *just how frail and little control I had over my life.*

\*\*\*我的悔改开始于不舒服地意识到，我是非常的骄傲和固执，只有通过把足球从我身上拿走，我才意识到我是多么虚弱和对我的生命没有很多的控制。

Similarly, Saul's conversion began with the uncomfortable reality that when God confronted him. He thought he knew and was serving and realised he did not know him at all.

同样，扫罗的悔改开始于当上帝面对他时一个令人不安的现实。他以为他认识，并献上服务，但意识到他一点也不认识祂。

*What discomfort has God brought up in your life? What have you been learning through the uncomfortable season of COVID-19? Could it be that today God is beginning the uncomfortable process of conversion, humbling you through the discomfort of this season to highlight the weakness and frailty of your own life, the limitation of our own goals and purposes?*

上帝在你的生活中带来了什么的不安？在 COVID-19 的不舒服的季节里，你学到了什么？今天会不会是上帝开始令人不快的悔改过程，通过这个季

节的不舒适来谦卑你，以突出你生命的弱点和虚弱，我们自身目标和目的  
的局限性？

**Conversion begins as an uncomfortable process. It is God breaking into our lives, challenging our assumptions and perspectives...breaking down the illusions of control and comfort which we create for ourselves**

悔改始于一个不舒服的过程。是上帝闯入我们的生活，挑战我们的假设和观点…打破我们为自己创造的控制和安慰的幻想。

But it is not just an UNCOMFORTABLE process...it's a *personal process*.  
但不仅仅是一个不舒服的过程…也是一个 人身的过程。

## 2) Conversion is PERSONAL 悔改是人身的

Have a look at the beginning of Jesus interaction with Ananias (from verse 10):  
看看耶稣与亚拿尼亚的互动的开始(第 10 节):

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come place his hands on him to restore his sight. "*

*那时，在大马士革有一个门徒，名叫亚拿尼亚。主在异象中对他说：「亚拿尼亚！」他说：「主啊，我在这里。」主对他说：「起来！往那叫直街的路去，在犹大的家里，去找一个大数人，名叫扫罗；他正在祷告，在异象中看见了一个人，名叫亚拿尼亚，进来为他接手，让他能再看得见。」*

Now, we don't know much about Ananias apart from what we've just read, that he was a Christian in Damascus, and from his response that he was acutely aware of who Saul was: one who had done great harm to the Lord's people, and he knew he was coming to arrest the Lord's people!

现在，除了我们刚才读到的，我们不太认识亚拿尼亚，他是大马士革的基督徒，以及从他的响应，他非常清楚扫罗是谁：一个对主的百姓造成了巨大伤害的人，他知道他来捉拿主的百姓！

**Perhaps a reasonable question to be asking at this point is: Why is Ananias involved at all?**

也许在这一点上要问一个合理的问题是：为什么要亚拿尼亚参与其中？

I mean, Jesus has already humbled Saul who we see here is now prayerfully seeking God in his discomfort and uncertainty...is it indispensable for God to bring Ananias into this? This action seems like an unnecessary obstacle toward God's plans and purposes here.

我的意思是，耶稣已经谦卑了扫罗，我们在这里看到他在祈祷，在他的不舒适和不确定的寻求上帝...上帝把亚拿尼亚带进来是必不可少的吗？这个行动似乎对于上帝在这里的计划和目的的是一个不必要的障碍。

**And yet God consistently shows us that conversion is PERSONAL. It is God's work expressed and witnessed through His people.**

然而，上帝一贯向我们表明，悔改是人身的。是神借着他的百姓表达和见证的工作。

God delights to work through the weakness and faithfulness of His people. You see, there is something profoundly beautiful and encouraging for the Christian here as we look at Ananias' witness.

上帝乐于借着他的百姓的弱点和忠诚来工作。你看，当我们看到亚拿尼亚的见证时，对基督徒来说，有一些极其美丽和鼓舞人心的东西。

The ONLY time he is mentioned in all of Scripture is about Saul's conversion. Firstly, he expresses his fear and uncertainty of going to meet someone who was going to (best case scenario) arrest him, before responding to God's command by going to Saul for the sake of the Lord Jesus.

在所有的圣经中，他唯一被提及的是关于扫罗的悔改时。首先，他表白了他对要去看一个(最好的情况下)会捉拿他的人的害怕和不确定，然后，为了主耶稣而响应神的命令去见扫罗。

And yet God chose to witness through this *ordinary, seemingly unimportant guy* to bring about one of the most significant moments in all history!

然而，上帝选择通过这个平凡的，看似不重要的家伙去作见证，带来所有历史上最重要的时刻之一！

This defining moment as God declares that this man, Saul, would be his mouthpiece to proclaim and speak of the good news of Jesus across the world... **yet all we know of Ananias was that he is noted briefly as a faithful witness to Jesus.**

这个决定性的时刻，上帝宣布这个人，扫罗，将是他的唇舌，去在世界各地宣布和谈论耶稣的好消息…但我们所认识到的亚拿尼亚是，他被简要地表明是耶稣的忠实见证人。

Do you remember the faithful witnesses who shared Jesus with you? Can you think of those God has given you the privilege of sharing Jesus with? It could well be that no one else knows of your witness like we know of Saul's witness to the nations. **But like Ananias, God sees your faithful witness. And he delights in using us for His namesake.**

你还记得那些与你们分享耶稣的忠实见证人吗？你能想到那些神赐给你特权去与他们分享耶稣的人吗？很可能没有人知道你的见证，不像我们知道扫罗向地极作的见证。但是像亚拿尼亚一样，上帝看到了你忠实的见证。他乐于为他的同名去使用我们。

\*It is a bit like a guy named **Mordecai Ham** (AMAZING name!) ... quick show of hands if you have heard of Mordecai Ham? (Not the Mordecai in the book of Esther).

\*这有点像一个叫末底改·哈姆 (惊人的名字!)的人…如果你有听过末底改·哈姆这名请举手。(不是《以斯帖记》中的末底改)。

To be honest, I had no idea who he was until last week either. He was an American evangelist born in Kentucky, who probably would have *laughed* at the thought he would play a role in God's plans and purposes for global Gospel impact.

老实说，直到上周我才知道他是谁。他是一位出生在美国肯塔基州的传道者，他可能会在意识到他会在神的计划和目的中扮演一个角色，以影响全球的福音，而一笑置之。

And yet he is the man who God worked through to convert Billy Graham, a man who became a global mouthpiece God used to bring many people to their knees that they might find their Lord and Saviour in Jesus Christ.

然而，他就是上帝用来带领葛培理去悔改，那位成为了上帝对全球的唇舌，曾经让许多人在耶稣基督面前跪下，找到了他们的主和救主的人。

So, St Paul's: Be encouraged in your witness!

所以，圣保罗堂：在你的见证中受到鼓励！

God does not demand a global audience from each of us, and he desires faithfulness by witnessing to the hope that we have in Jesus.

上帝不是要求我们每个人向全球见证，他渴望我们忠诚的见证在耶稣中的盼望。

**Because God's primary method of conversion is PERSONAL, he uses weak, fearful and uncertain people like Ananias, and Christians like you and me...to proclaim the Good news of Jesus so that others would be converted and welcomed into God's family.**

因为上帝的主要悔改方法是人身的，他使用如亚拿尼亚，虚弱，恐惧和不确定的人，像你我的基督徒…去宣布耶稣的好消息，使其他人悔改和被欢迎到神的家庭。

\*Now, I just want to take a step back for a moment. If what you have heard today is that conversion can be uncomfortable, and that conversion is personal. That God works through His people to proclaim...then, it is POSSIBLE that you've heard a story of Saul's transformation, and maybe some insight into how other people may have become Christians.

\*现在，我只想退后一步。如果你今天听到的是悔改可能是不舒服的，悔改是人身的。上帝借着他的百姓来宣布…然后，你有可能听到扫罗转变的故事，也许还有一些关于其他人如何成为基督徒的见解。

**But you need to hear the MOST OFFENSIVE, most uncomfortable truth which we see in Saul's conversion:**

但你需要听到最冒犯的，最不舒服的真相，我们在扫罗的悔改中看到：

### 3) Conversion is ESSENTIAL 悔改至关重要的

...that conversion is ESSENTIAL for everyone!

…悔改对每个人都是必不可少(至关重要)的！

You see, as we read more about Saul's journey as the mouthpiece to proclaim Jesus, he reflects on the **meaning and purpose** of his radical conversion experience that has occurred here in Acts 9.

你看，当我们读到更多关于扫罗作为宣布耶稣的唇舌的旅程时，他反思了在《使徒行传》第9章中发生的激进的悔改经历的意义和目的。

In 1 Timothy 1:15-16, where he says: *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

在《提摩太书》1:15-16中，他说：这话可信，值得完全接受：「基督耶稣到世上来是要拯救罪人」，而在罪人中我是个罪魁。16然而，我蒙了怜悯，好让基督耶稣在我这罪魁身上显明他完全的忍耐，给后来信他得永生的人作榜样。

Saul's story shows us what was both *personally* true in how God had rescued him as "the worst of sinners"...**but it also describes an all of the humanities universal story: Sinners who need to be saved, sinners who Jesus came to save.**

扫罗的故事向我们展示了上帝如何个人地拯救了他这个「罪魁」的真实情况...但也描述了一个所有人文的普遍故事：都是需要拯救的罪人，都是耶稣来拯救的罪人。

**If Jesus is LORD and Saviour**, it means he has a greater call on our lives than we might like or be comfortable with.

如果耶稣是主和救主，那就意味着他对我们的生命有比我们想象到或认为舒适的有更大的呼召。

**In fact**, he may reveal things about *yourself that you do not like*. He may even reveal things about *himself* that you do not like. And this is the central call of his message:

事实上，他可能会透露一些有关你而你不喜欢的事情。他甚至可能透露一些有关他而你不喜欢的事情。这是他的信息的中心要求：

Saul's conversion story IS our story. It is your story, and it is my story.

扫罗的悔改故事是我们的故事。是你的故事，也是我的故事。

What Saul's story IS NOT SAYING: "If I'm as *bad* as Saul, then I need Jesus' forgiveness.

扫罗的故事不是说：「如果我和扫罗一样坏，那么我需要耶稣的宽恕赦免。」

What Saul's story IS SAYING: **Even those who would actively seek to destroy and ridicule God are being offered the gift of forgiveness through Jesus,**

**should then turn and believe in Him.**

扫罗的故事是说：即使是那些积极寻求毁灭和嘲笑神的人，若转身相信他，也可借着耶稣得到宽恕的礼物。

If you are already a follower of Jesus – **is this what your heart desperately desires for others?**

如果你已经是耶稣的追随者…这是否是你的心对其他人迫切渴望的吗？

That God would use all his people, including you, to welcome sinners, outcasts and enemy into His family. **Because the conversion from death to life, from enemy to family, is what God's heart beats for.**

上帝会使用他所有的人，包括你，来欢迎罪人、弃儿和敌人进入他的家。因为出死入生，化敌为家人，是神的心跳。

If you are not a follower of Jesus – **Is today your moment?**

如果你不是耶稣的追随者…今天是你的时刻吗？

Perhaps you've turned up today, or you're watching online and have been confronted with that uncomfortable reality: **That like Saul, you are an enemy of God who needs to be saved from your sin and welcomed into God's family.**

也许你今天出席了，或者你在网上看，面对这个不舒服的现实：就像扫罗一样，你是上帝的敌人，需要从你的罪中拯救出来，并欢迎进入上帝的家庭。

Like Saul, you are an enemy of God who needs to be rescued from sin and judgement. **If that is you – then know that conversion is ESSENTIAL, but it is AVAILABLE. God REJOICES when the sinner turns to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.**

和扫罗一样，你是上帝的敌人，需要从罪和审判中拯救出来。如果这是你…要知道悔改是必不可少的，但也是可达成的。当罪人转向耶稣作为他们的主和救主时，神会欢欣鼓舞。

We are about to sing a song, and then Adrian is going to lead us in a prayer of repentance and faith – to receive God's good gift of conversion.

我们即将唱一首歌，然后 Adrian 将带领我们进行悔改和信仰的祈祷…去接受上帝的悔改好礼物。

God brought Saul to his knees, and having spent several days prayerfully seeking God...yet in a moment, he was welcomed in as **BROTHER** by Ananias,

**having become a forgiven child of the living God.**

上帝把扫罗带到他的膝上，去花了几天时间去祈祷寻求上帝…然而，在一瞬间，他被亚拿尼亚欢迎作为弟兄，成为一个已被原谅，永生神的孩子。

God, in His kindness, may have impressed the uncomfortable need you have for a saviour this morning.

上帝，在他的美善中，今天早上可能给你对拯救者的需求留下了不舒适的深刻印象。

**But this is the Gospel. You may have entered the gathering today only to realise you are an enemy of God, separated from him.**

但这是福音。你今天可能来到聚会，才意识到你是上帝的敌人，与他分离。

**But you can leave here as FAMILY at St Paul's and a forgiven child of the living God.**

但你可以，作为圣保罗堂大家庭的一份子和被原谅的永生神的孩子，离开这里。