举目仰望 - 1 LOOKING UP - 1

- Hello, listening friends.
 亲爱的朋友,你好!
- What a delight and joy for us to broadcast to you this program; 很高兴你能收听这个节目。
- and, today, we're going to start a new series of messages entitled, "Looking Up;" 今天,我们将开始一个新的系列资讯,题目 是《举目仰望》,
- and it is taken from the life of the Apostle Paul. 这也是来自于使徒保罗的生命经历。
- He always looked up when life knocked him down; 当他的生命走入低谷时,他总是举目仰望。
- and I want to begin by telling you that there are two types of surprises in life. 首先让我告诉你,人生有两种惊讶,
- There are good surprises and there are bad surprises; 有好的惊讶,也有不好的惊讶。
- but, when you walk closely with God and delight yourself in Him, 当你与神的关系很近,并且因祂而喜乐的 话,
- you will always get good surprises. 你将不断获得美好的惊喜。
- If you look at biblical history, 当你查考圣经的历史,
- you will find so many good surprises of the grace of God, 你将会发现,神的恩典带来许多美好的惊 喜;
- and there are countless modern day examples of changed lives by God's grace. 在今天这个时代里,也有无数个生命,因着 神的恩典得以改变。
- In the fourth century, there was a college professor named, "Aurelius." 西元四世纪,有一位大学教授叫"奥勒 留",

- 14. He was confronted by the grace of God and became the great Saint Augustine. 神的恩典临到他,他就成为伟大的圣奥古斯 丁。
- Through God's grace a slave trader by the name of John Newton 因着神的恩典,一个奴隶贩子名叫约翰牛 顿,
- 16. became a great pastor and a songwriter; 成为一个了不起的牧师和诗歌作家。
- but, perhaps there is no greater surprising story of the grace of God than the story of Saul of Tarsus.
 但是,也许没有一个关于神恩典的故事,能 超过大数人扫罗的传奇了;
- No transformation had greater impact upon world history than Saul of Tarsus.
 也没有人能比得上大数人扫罗的转变,对世 界历史所产生的影响。
- 19. I want to share with you four surprises that God's grace reveals to us;
 今天我想和你分享,神的恩典向我们显示出 的四个惊喜。
- and, if you do have a Bible with you, I want to go through the Book of Acts, Chapter 9. 如果你手上有圣经,我们一起来看使徒行传 第九章。
- 21. Here are the four things: 我们一起来看以下四点:
- 22. first, 第一,
- God's grace surprises a man, 神的恩典出人意料之外。
- 24. and you find that in verses 1 to 3. 你可以在一到三节看到这一点。
- 25. Secondly, 第二,
- 26. God's grace has a surprising method, 神的恩典借着令人惊讶的方式表达。

- 27. verses 4 to 9. 在四到九节。
- 28. Thirdly, 第三,
- God's grace is delivered through a surprising mentor, 神的恩典由一个惊奇的导师来传递。
- 30. verses 10 to 25; 在十到二十五节。
- and, finally, God's grace delivers surprising friends, 最后,神的恩典传递给那些惊奇的朋友们。
- verses 26 to 31. 在二十六到三十一节。
- Let's first look at God's grace surprises a man.
 首先我们来看,神的恩典出人意料之外。
- 34. Saul of Tarsus was taught in the pharisaic school;
 大数人扫罗曾在法利赛人的学校里接受教育;
- so were Jesus and His disciples;
 耶稣和祂的门徒也是如此;
- but this is where all the commonalities end. 他们相同的地方也仅止于此。
- Saul of Tarsus was a Roman citizen and was educated in Greek; 然而,大数人扫罗是罗马公民,并在希腊接 受教育;
- but far more important than any of this is that Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of Christians. 更重要的是,大数人扫罗是一个迫害基督徒 的人。
- **39.** He was a persecutor of Jesus Christ. 他是一个逼迫耶稣基督的人。
- 40. Saul of Tarsus thought he could stamp out Christianity. 大数人扫罗以为,他可以毁灭基督教。
- Luke tells us that Saul wanted to devastate and ravage the church;
 路加告诉我们,扫罗曾想破坏,并毁灭教会。
- 42. and Saul had received permission from the high priest in Jerusalem to stamp out Christians in Damascus.

而且,扫罗己经拿到了耶路撒冷大祭司的许可,准备去迫害大马士革的基督徒。

- 43. It was a long journey from Jerusalem to Damascus;耶路撒冷到大马士革需要走很远的路;
- 44. but this reveals the incredible commitment that Saul of Tarsus had in his desire to destroy the believers.
 由此我们可以看出,他是多么坚决地想要毁 灭基督徒。
- 45. Had anyone suggested to Saul that, by the time he got to Damascus, he would become a Christian, he would have killed them on the spot;
 如果有人告诉扫罗,当他到了大马士革之后,他将成为一个基督徒,扫罗大概会当场杀了那人。
- 46. and that is why he was not only a surprising man,因此,扫罗不单单是一个让人惊奇的人,
- 47. he was a surprised man. 他自己也惊讶不已。
- Not only was he so thoroughly converted to Christ, 他不仅仅是完全地归向基督,
- 49. but he became the greatest preacher in the New Testament.他也成为新约时代最伟大的布道家。
- 50. He was a surprising man; 他的确是一个让人惊奇的人。
- 51. but, secondly, there was a surprising method. 其次,这当中也有一个令人惊讶的方式。
- 52. Look at verses 4 to 9 of Acts, Chapter 9. 请看圣经使徒行传第九章, 四到九节。
- 53. God knew that Saul of Tarsus was not the kind of man who would respond to the gentle voice. 神知道,大数人扫罗不会对轻柔的呼召有所 回应。
- 54. God knew that because of Saul's stubbornness, only a surprising confrontation would get his attention;
 神也知道,扫罗很倔强,只有出其不意地对质,他才会注意;
- 55. and it is only after Saul is freed from his pride that Jesus speaks to him.
 也只有当扫罗放下自己的骄傲之后,耶稣才 对他说话。
- 56. My listening friend, let me ask you this: 亲爱的朋友,让我来问你:

- 57. do you know what that's like? 你知道这意味着什么吗?
- There are times, when we are so full of our pride and arrogance, that God has a hard time reaching us.
 很多的时候,当我们充满了骄傲和狂妄,神很难打动我们;
- 59. There are times, when we are so adamant about our point of view, that God has to knock us down to get our attention;
 也有很多的时候,我们非常执着于自己的观点,神不得不先击倒我们来引起我们的注意;
- 60. and Jesus said to Saul of Tarsus, 当时耶稣对大数人扫罗说:
- 61. "Why are you persecuting Me?" 你为什么要逼迫我?
- 62. My listening friends, I want to tell you something that's very important.
 亲爱的朋友,我要告诉你们一件非常重要的事。
- 63. If you are persecuted because of your righteousness, 如果你因为正直公义而受逼迫,
- 64. if you are persecuted because of your godly life,
 如果你因为愿意过敬虔的生活而受逼迫,
- let me tell you that those who are harassing you, 那么我要告诉你,那些折磨你的人,
- 66. they are not harassing and persecuting you. They are persecuting Jesus Christ. 他们不是在折磨和逼迫你,他们是在迫害耶 稣基督。
- 67. In fact, when Saul was confronted by the risen Christ, 事实上,当扫罗面对复活的基督时,
- 68. all he could say was, "Who are you, Lord?" 他所能说的只是: "主啊,你是谁?"
- 69. Now, this is very important. 其实这是非常重要的。
- 70. The reason so many Christians live defeated lives 为什么许多基督徒生活在挫败里?
- 71. is because they never ask, "Who are you, Lord?"
 因为他们从来不问"主啊,你是谁?"

- 72. When you get to the point of knowing who God is,
 当你确实知道了神是谁,
- 73. and the privilege of His calling you to a relationship with Him,
 并且祂呼召你就是要给你一个特权:让你与 神建立关系,
- 74. you would never again walk in your own strength.你从此就不会再靠自己的力量打拼。
- 75. In fact, later on, in Acts 26:14,
 事实上, 在使徒行传后面的 26 章 14 节那
 里,
- 76. Paul said that, when Jesus appeared to him, 保罗提到了, 当耶稣向他显现的时候,
- 77. Jesus said, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads."耶稣说: "你用脚踢刺是难的。"
- 78. Do you know what a "goad" is? 你知道什么是刺吗?
- 79. A goad is a sharp object and it is used to break in a bull.
 就是一种刺棒,用来驯服公牛的。
- 80. It is not designed for human beings. 它不是用在人类身上的,
- It is designed for stubborn animal;
 它是用来对付野性难驯的动物的。
- 82. so what is Jesus saying? 那么,耶稣的意思是什么呢?
- 83. He is saying that refusing to surrender to the voice of God is like being prodded and pricked with a sharp object.
 祂是说,拒绝神的呼召就像被刺棒对付一样。
- Jesus is not doing this;
 事实上,耶稣并没有这样做,
- 85. instead, you are doing it by refusing to listen to His voice.
 相反的,是你拒绝听神的话,就落在这光景下。
- 86. What were these goads that Saul was kicking against? 那么,保罗所踢的刺又指的是什么呢?
- 87. First, there was doubt. 首先,就是怀疑。

- Paul knew deep down that Jesus was the Messiah, but he would not admit it. 保罗在心底里知道耶稣是弥赛亚,只是他不 愿意承认。
- 89. He kept blocking God's voice; 他掩耳不听神的声音;
- 90. then, a second goad was Stephen. 然后,第二个刺就是司提反。
- When Saul heard Stephen testifying to the resurrected Jesus Christ, 当扫罗听到司提反为耶稣基督的复活作见证 的时候,
- deep down, Saul knew that Stephen was speaking the truth; 在内心深处,扫罗知道司提反讲的是事实;
- 93. but he refused to believe it and chose to be stubborn.但是他拒绝相信,并且决定要顽强对抗。
- 94. Paul actually guarded the clothes of those who stoned Stephen to death.
 事实上,保罗还帮那些用石头打死司提反的 人看管衣服。
- 95. Listen to me, my listening friend, 请你留意,亲爱的朋友,
- 96. when you are fighting against the conviction of the Holy Spirit, you are hurting yourself.
 当你与圣灵的责备相对抗的时候,你就是在伤害自己。
- 97. When you are fighting against God's conviction of sin in your life, deep down, you are hurting.
 当你拒绝接受神宣告你有罪的时候,在心灵 深处,你在受伤。
- 98. Give it up. 赶快降服吧。
- 99. Thirdly, the grace of God produces a surprising teacher.

第三,神的恩典造就了一位惊奇的老师。

- 100. The Lord tells Saul to go to the house of Judas in Damascus; 主耶稣吩咐扫罗去大马士革的犹大家里;
- 101. and, then, God speaks to one of the leaders of the church of Damascus by the name of Ananias;

而后,神告诉大马士革的一位教会领袖亚拿 尼亚;

- 102. and God said, "Ananias, I want you to go and meet Saul of Tarsus."
 神说: "亚拿尼亚,我要你去见大数人扫罗。"
- 103. Ananias did not want to question the Lord; 亚拿尼亚不想责问上帝;
- 104. but he said, "Do you know what this man has done, Lord?"
 但还是说了: "主啊,你知道这个人干了些 什么吗?"
- 105. Saul's reputation had already spread into Damascus.
 扫罗的名声已经传到大马士革来了。
- 106. Saul was coming to imprison and to kill the Christians.
 扫罗就是要来逮捕,并杀害基督徒的。
- 107. Ananias was scared to death; 亚拿尼亚怕得要死;
- 108. but we so often fail to believe in God's power. 我们也是一样,常常忘记神的大能。
- 109. Someone said that Ananias is the forgotten hero of the Christian church. 有人说,亚拿尼亚是一位被基督教会忽略的 英雄。
- 110. He was called to mentor a notorious murderer. 他被神呼召,去感化一个声名狼籍的凶手。
- 111. I want to ask you something important. 我想问你一个很重要的问题,
- 112. Has God ever called you to do something that seems to be insurmountable? 神有没有叫你作过一件看起来是你所不能胜 任的事呢?
- 113. I want you to remember this: 我要你记住这一点:
- 114. when He does ask you, it is because He has already gone ahead of you and prepared the way;
 当祂真的让你去做的时候,其实是祂早已经 在前面为你开路;
- 115. and, in this case, God had already taken care of Saul. 而且,在这里,神已经对付过扫罗了。
- 116. He already converted his heart. 神改变了扫罗的心。
- 117. Whatever is frightening you, 无论你惧怕什么,

- 118. the Lord has already tamed it. 主耶稣已经解决了。
- 119. The truth of the matter is that Saul had not been able to stop talking about Jesus.事实是,扫罗已经不能停止传扬主耶稣了。
- 120. Look at verses 20, 21 and 22. 让我们来看 20, 21 和 22 节。
- Immediately, he began proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God. 他立刻开始宣扬耶稣是神的儿子。
- 122. What a transformation! 这是多大的转变啊!
- 123. Then, we are told that Paul went to Arabia because the exits in the city of Damascus were sealed.
 后来,圣经告诉我们,保罗去了阿拉伯,因为大马士革的城门被封锁了。
- 124. People were looking out for him and they wanted to kill him.人们寻找保罗,并想杀害他。
- 125. Isn't that amazing, my listening friend? 亲爱的朋友,这岂不是很奇妙吗?
- 126. The one who was going after the fugitives has become a fugitive himself.
 这个曾经追捕逃犯的人,如今自己也变成了逃犯。
- 127. In verse 23, Luke said, "After many days..." 在 23 节,路加说: "过了好些日子……"
- 128. We know those many days actually were three years.
 我们知道这里所说的好些日子,其实是三年。
- 129. Paul said so in Galatians, Chapter 1, verses 17 and 18. 保罗在加拉太书一章 17, 18节也确认了这 件事。
- 130. When the Bible says he went to Arabia, at that time, it was in the modern day city of Petra in Jordan.
 当圣经上说,他往阿拉伯去,实际上,是指现在的约旦城市佩特拉。
- 131. There were Greeks, Romans and Egyptians there.那里居住着希腊人,罗马人和埃及人。
- 132. The Apostle Paul spent three years in this area. 使徒保罗在这个地区呆了三年。

- 133. Why did God lead him there? 为什么神领他到那儿去呢?
- 134. God took him there to meditate, to pray, and to hide;
 神让他在那里黙想,祷告和隐藏;
- 135. so we not only have a surprising man, 所以,不仅有一个充满惊奇的人,
- 136. not only do we have a surprising method, 也不仅仅有一个令人惊奇的方法,
- 137. not only do we have a surprising teacher, 还不仅有一个惊奇的老师,
- 138. but, fourthly, there are surprising friends. 而且,第四,还有一些惊讶的朋友们。
- 139. To say that Paul's fellowship with the apostles is a surprise is an understatement. 如果说,保罗和使徒的关系是令人讶异的, 这种说法还不足以表达事实真相呢!
- 140. In verse 26 of Chapter 9 of the Book of Acts, 在使徒行传第九章 26 节,
- 141. it says that Saul came to Jerusalem and tried to associate with the disciples, but they were scared of him.
 那里说,保罗尝试着和其他的门徒交往,但是他们都怕他。
- 142. His reputation was not forgotten in those three years;他的名声在这三年中不曾被忘记;
- 143. but thank God for the Barnabases of this world-但是感谢主,在世上还有像巴拿巴这类的 人……
- 144. those people who understand the grace of God, 他们理解神的恩典,
- 145. those who understand that God specializes in saving sinners, 他们明白神专门拯救罪人,
- 146. those who understand that God delights in the repentant sinner; 他们知道神悦纳悔改的罪人;
- 147. and, so, Barnabas takes Paul by the hand and he becomes accepted to the apostles;
 于是,通过巴拿巴的推荐,最终,使徒接纳 了保罗;
- 148. but let me tell you this, as I conclude. 让我在结束的时候告诉你,
- 149. After three years in Arabia, 在阿拉伯三年以后,

- 150. Saul went to his home of Tarsus for approximately seven years; 扫罗回到他的故乡大数,在那里大约呆了七 年;
- 151. so, if you are counting, this would be roughly about ten years -屈指算算, 差不多有十年的时间……
- 152. ten years from the time that he confronted the resurrected Christ on the road to Damascus. 这是他在大马士革的路上,遇到复活的基督以后的十年。
- 153. Some of you have been waiting for the Lord to answer your prayers for many years, 有些朋友等待主应许你的祷告已经好多年 了,
- 154. and some of you have given up praying. 有些人已经放弃,不再祷告了。
- 155. Ten years pass from the time Paul encounters the risen Christ; 保罗遇见复活的基督,已经过去十年了;
- 156. and, so, Barnabas takes him by the hand to the apostles and says, "This is God's man."
 巴拿巴拉着保罗的手到使徒面前说: "这是 神的仆人。"
- 157. A forgotten man for ten years 一个被遗忘了十年的人,
- 158. becomes the most influential man in the entire New Testament, period. 成为了整个新约时代最具有影响力的人。
- 159. What is God doing? 神的作为是什么呢?
- 160. He was training him, teaching him, and preparing him.祂训练,教导,装备保罗。
- 161. When you are waiting for God to answer your prayers, 当你等待神回应你的祷告时,
- 162. the devil wants you to give up. 魔鬼想叫你放弃。
- 163. Do you think Paul wondered about the encounter with the risen Christ during those ten years? 你认为保罗在那十年中,有没有对遇见复活 的基督产生疑惑呢?
- 164. Do you think he questioned what happened? 你认为他有没有质疑所发生的一切呢?

- 165. From all of his writings, we know he did; 从他所写的书信中,我们知道他也曾怀疑 过;
- 166. but I want to tell you this: 但是让我告诉你:
- 167. God's ways are not our ways and His timing is not our timing.
 神的道路不同于我们的道路,神的时间也不同于我们的时间。
- 168. You may be praying for somebody to be saved. 你也许在为某人的得救祷告。
- 169. The worst thing you can do is give up praying for that person,
 如果你停止了为那个人祷告,这真是最糟糕 的事了,
- 170. because you do not know what God is doing behind the scenes.因为你不知道神在背后做了些什么。
- 171. Be patient when you pray. 祷告要有耐心。
- 172. Don't ever give up being surprised by the grace of God.
 神的恩典会带给你惊喜,不要放弃这样的机会。
- 173. Until next time, I wish you God's richest blessing. 愿神大大地赐福给你,下次再会。