

## Stronger Together - The Power to Change -

Acts 8:1-3; Acts 9:1-2; Acts 9:3-9

**1. Power to change comes from a real encounter with Christ, when the eyes of my heart are opened to see my real rebellion and resistance to Christ and recognize the real condition of my heart.** *Jeremiah 17:9; Hebrews 4:12-13*

“We change our behavior when the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the pain of changing. Consequences give us the pain that motivates us to change.” - **Dr. Henry Cloud, *Boundaries***.

**2. Power to change comes when I receive God’s view of my condition, repent of my old thinking, destructive patterns and selfish ways, and fully respond to the will of God for me in Christ Jesus.** *Romans 12:2;*

*2 Corinthians 7:10-11*

**3. Power to change is motivated and revealed through restoring and deepening my relationships. Loving others better is the most obvious result of the Holy Spirit’s power at work, changing my heart.** *2 Corinthians 3:16-18;*

*Colossians 3:12-17*

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**3 Ways to Encounter Christ**  
**Pursue Him in Prayer**  
**Wait on Him in Worship**  
**Receive Him in Reflection**

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### Next Week’s Reading Guide:

Acts 9:10-31  
Psalm 84:1-12; Ephesians 1:1-14  
Romans 5:1-21  
Ephesians 4:17-32  
1 John 3:11-24  
Ephesians 2:1-18  
Romans 6:1-18

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you had an encounter with Christ? (A memorable time when you feel He convicted you, or spoke to you, or exposed a need to change?) Share.
2. What has God changed about how you think about yourself? What has God changed about how you see and accept others? How much shame do you think Saul had to deal with in the weeks following his conversion? Discuss.
3. Share how you have seen God’s power at work in your relationships.
4. Share about where you are with prayer, worship and reflection. How important have these been to your change process?