

## We Are God's People

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
born of his Spirit, established by his Word;  
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:  
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
2. We are God's loved one, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv'n:  
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.
3. We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
called to obey him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,  
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
we die alone, for on its own each member loses fire:  
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light  
and to inspire.

# Taking Gathered Worship

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## Family and Individual Devotions

### Meditations in Acts

Week of February 18, 2007

## *The Essence of the Church*

## Daily Devotionals

**W**hat joy should fill your heart when you read scripture such as **I Peter 2:9-10** and **Ephesians 2:19**. Here a Christian is described as a “chosen People...belonging to God”, part of a “holy nation” and “fellow citizens with God’s people”. In the opening verses of **Acts 9** we see the conversion of Saul. The same Saul who participated in the stoning of Stephen, the same Saul who was “breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples”. On the way to Damascus, Saul met Jesus. What a transformation! From Christian persecutor to a servant of Christ in His heavenly kingdom.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

*Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, “We are God’s People” found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.*

**Sunday, 2/18** **Read:** Have you ever thought of someone as too vile for God to save? If so, does the conversion of Saul change that opinion? Think about what affect this should have on our call in **Acts 1:8** to be witnesses to “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.”

**Pray** for a fuller understanding of the truth that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” That this understanding would affect your witnessing.

**Monday, 2/19** **Read:** **Acts 9:15** calls Saul a chosen instrument. An instrument is a means by which something is done. Read **Ephesians 2:8-10**. Many of us have memorized **Ephesians 2:8,9** and correctly understand that these verses reveal we are saved by God’s grace. Have you ever paid close attention to **Ephesians 2:10**? What similarities exist between “good works prepared beforehand” and being a “chosen instrument”?

**Pray** that you will recognize that your salvation is a call into God’s kingdom as an instrument to fulfill His purposes.

**Tuesday, 2/20** **Read:** In **John 6:38** Jesus declares that He came not to do His will, but the will of the One who sent Him. As an instrument chosen by God, are you called to do the will of the One who sent you?

**Pray** that your life will be committed to the service of Christ, the one who sent you

**Wednesday, 2/21**

**Read:** Even when we have a sincere desire to do the will of the One who sent us, we often loose focus. We allow circumstances to dictate what we do. Look at **II Corinthians 4:18**. How can this verse help you maintain a proper perspective?

**Pray** for an ability to stay focused on the eternal work God has given you.

**Thursday, 2/22**

**Read:** Eternal work! What a wonderful ring that has. Have you ever stopped to think about how your ministry through Christ is not something that is here today and gone tomorrow? It is for eternity. Think about eternity when you witness to others Think about eternity when you fellowship with believers.

**Pray** that your heart would be overwhelmed by the eternal nature of the work God has laid out before you.

**Friday, 2/23**

**Read:** The essence of our new creation in Christ is we live for Him, live for others. We no longer live for ourselves. This truth is clearly set forth in **Romans 14:7, 8**. As stated in **Romans 12:1**, we offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice to do His will.

**Pray** specifically about what God would want you to do as His chosen instrument. How you might offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him.

**Saturday, 2/24**

**Read:** The conversion of Saul is dear evidence that the Holy Spirit works in the life of all of God’s chosen people. Scripture is also clear that God’s chosen people come from all nations. These truths should help us follow God’s command to “make disciples of all nations” and to be God’s witnesses to everyone, everywhere.

**Pray** that you will be God’s witness to all without making ungodly judgments about those whom you encounter.