**The Way to God**

Transforming Dead Souls into Living Witnesses for Christ

(Acts 9:1-31)

**Exodus 17:6**

Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

**Luke 19:38-40**

38saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

***Understand God’s Intention***

 **Samaria Judea end of the earth**

 Simon Ethiopian eunuch Saul

Insincere seeking Sincere seeking Persecuting

**Genesis 12:1-3**

1Now the Lord saidto Abram, “Go from your countryand your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Luke 24:45-47**

45Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

***Observe the pattern of transformation***

*Resistance* (9:1-2)

*Illumination* (9:3-9)

*Connection* (9:10-19)

*Ministry & Witness* (9:20-22, 26-28)

*Suffering* (9:23-25, 29-31)

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

7So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*CIC 28-03-2021*