**God’s Interventions**

 *Saul, still breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,****2****and requested letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any there of the Way, either men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.****3****As he went he drew near Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.****4****He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?”*

***5****He said, “Who are You, Lord?”*

*The Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”****6****Trembling and astonished, he said, “Lord, what will You have me do?” The Lord said to him, “Rise up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

***7****The men traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one.****8****Saul rose up from the ground. And when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.****9****For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (Acts 9:1-9, MEV)*

 Only the interventions of God can truly bring us closer to Him. Greetings in the Lord as we talk today about God’s interventions. God shows in His Word that His interventions are what create genuine, lasting changes in the lives of His people. My prayer is that today’s message will grab our attention, specifically that it will cause us to focus on Apostle’s initial response to the Lord while on the ground, in the middle of the road. Again, only the interventions of God can change us and bring us closer to Him in a lasting and permanent way. Let’s go into a bit more detail…

 When the Lord calls you and causes your life to come to a full stop, that is the time to accept His direction and to allow Him to change your life. Jesus’ followers were in a serious problem, and the Pharisee named Saul (who was after them) was making life very complicated. In those very difficult days, as a powerful enemy was pursuing them, God all of a sudden intervened. How? By a visitation and His word. Saul both saw the light and heard the Voice. He was thinking in one direction, and the Lord stopped him in his tracks in the middle of the road.

 We all know what was going to happen to Saul. His attention would be drawn, and when he wanted to know the Lord, he got the revelation he needed. He showed a readiness to obey thereafter. Through one visitation, the persecutor of Christ turned into His greatest preacher and teacher. With one question, we see that Saul became a new person. He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” And then, “What do you want me to do?”

 The famous preacher Simpson has said the following about the Gospel: that it "Tells rebellious men that God is reconciled, that justice is satisfied, that sin has been atoned for, that the judgment of the guilty may be revoked, the condemnation of the sinner cancelled, the curse of the Law blotted out, the gates of hell closed, the portals of heaven opened wide, the power of sin subdued, the guilty conscience healed, the broken heart comforted, the sorrow and misery of the Fall undone.”

 When Jesus intervenes, our lives are changed too, nowadays. When we came to the Lord, we accepted Him into our lives. What is important is what we did after we came to know Him. Did we follow His directions, or did we stay in that initial stage “on the ground” (using the imagery of the episode on the Damascus road)? It is true that coming to faith happens through an intervention of God in general – but afterwards, it is necessary for us to be led by the Lord, to fulfill the purposes of our lives. Our lifegoal is to glorify the Lord. It is to spread the Good News of the Lord everywhere.

 God changed our lives by intervening in each of them. However, that is a start to the road of faith, and not an end-goal. If the Lord has intervened in hour life today, pray and work in a manner that is led by Him, so that you can invite others to faith as well. Then, when you do the latter, you would become God’s co-worker, and an instrument of God’s intervention.

 May God not only intervene for our conversion, but also for every step of faith we take.

 God’s interventions change people – come and ask Him to do so for the conversion of those around you, and also that God would come in soon for His next visitation with you.

 When the Lord calls you and causes your life to come to a full stop, that is the time to accept His direction and to allow Him to change your life. Only the interventions of God can truly bring us closer to Him. The Lord bless you all. Amen.