

# Acts 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

## Analysis

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**To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me**—Christ's Damascus road commission to Paul defines conversion's nature and gospel ministry's goal. **Open their eyes** (ἀνοίξαι ὁφθαλμούς) pictures spiritual blindness needing divine cure. **Turn from darkness to light and from power of Satan unto God** emphasizes conversion as transfer between kingdoms (Colossians 1:13). **Forgiveness of sins** provides negative cleansing; **inheritance among them which are sanctified** gives positive standing. **By faith that is in me** makes Christ both message content and salvation's object.

## Historical Context

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Paul's defense before King Agrippa (circa 59 AD), recounting his conversion and commission. This is Acts' third telling of Paul's Damascus road experience (also 9:1-19, 22:6-16), each emphasizing different elements for different audiences. Paul quotes Christ's commission, defining his three-decade ministry summarized in Romans 1:5: 'obedience to the faith among all nations.'

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does spiritual blindness manifest in people you know, and how can you help 'open their eyes'?
2. What does transfer 'from the power of Satan unto God' reveal about salvation's cosmic dimensions?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀνοίξαι ὁφθαλμοὺς αὐτοὺς τοῦ ἐπιστρέψαι ἀπὸ<sup>τοῦ</sup>  
To open eyes that they and to turn them from  
G455 G3788 G846 G3588 G1994 G575

σκότους εἰς φῶς καὶ τῆς ἐξουσίας τοῦ Σατανᾶ  
darkness that is in light and from the power of Satan  
G4655 G1519 G5457 G2532 G3588 G1849 G3588 G4567

ἐπὶ τὸν θεόν τοῦ λαβεῖν αὐτοὺς ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν  
unto God may receive that they forgiveness of sins  
G1909 G2316 G3588 G2983 G846 G859 G266

καὶ κλῆρον ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πίστει τῇ  
and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith G3588  
G2532 G2819 G1722 G37 G4102

εἰς ἐμέ  
that is in me  
G1519 G1691

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 2:9** (Holy): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Ephesians 1:18** (Holy): The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

**Acts 20:32** (Holy): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**Ephesians 5:8** (Light): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

**Isaiah 42:7** (Darkness): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

**2 Corinthians 4:6** (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**John 8:12** (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**Luke 1:79** (Light): To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Ephesians 4:18** (Darkness): Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

**Isaiah 35:5** (Parallel theme): Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.