

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

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** (ἀνοῖξαι ὀφθαλμούς) 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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

ἀνοῖξαι	ὀφθαλμοὺς	αὐτοὺς	τοῦ	ἐπιστρέψαι	ἀπὸ		
To open	eyes	that they	G3588	and to turn	them from		
G455	G3788	G846		G1994	G575		
σκότους	εἰς	φῶς	καὶ	τῆς	ἐξουσίας	τοῦ	Σατανᾶ
darkness	that is in	light	and	G3588	from the power	G3588	of Satan
G4655	G1519	G5457	G2532		G1849		G4567
ἐπὶ	τὸν	θεόν	τοῦ	λαβεῖν	αὐτοὺς	ἄφεσιν	ἁμαρτιῶν
unto	G3588	God	G3588	may receive	that they	forgiveness	of sins
G1909		G2316		G2983	G846	G859	G266
καὶ	κληρὸν	ἐν	τοῖς	ἡγιασμένοις	πίστει	τῇ	
and	inheritance	among	G3588	them which are sanctified	by faith	G3588	
G2532	G2819	G1722		G37	G4102		
εἰς	ἐμέ						
that is in	me						
G1519	G1691						

Additional Cross-References

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.