

Acts 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Analysis

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

—Saul's question marks complete surrender: the persecutor becomes disciple, submitting his will to Christ's direction. The Greek 'tremōn' (trembling) indicates physical fear and awe before divine majesty. **What wilt thou have me to do?** (τί με θέλεις ποιῆσαι;) shows immediate readiness to obey, abandoning his Damascus mission for Christ's alternative plan. **And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do**—Christ provides only initial instructions, requiring Saul to walk by faith. God often reveals his will incrementally, testing obedience at each step.

Historical Context

Christ directed Saul into Damascus where Ananias, warned by vision (vv.10-16), would baptize him and restore his sight. This required Saul to trust the very Christians he came to arrest. The three-day gap between encounter and Ananias' visit allowed time for prayer and reflection. Note: some manuscripts omit the verse 6 questions, placing them at verse 5.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What question has God left unanswered in your life, requiring you to obey the last instruction before receiving the next?
2. How does Saul's immediate submission ('what wilt thou have me to do?') model conversion's proper response?

Interlinear Text

Τρέμων	τε	καὶ	θαμβῶν	εἶπεν	κύριος	τί	μέ	
he trembling	And	And	astonished	said	Lord	what	me	
G5141	G5037	G2532	G2284	G2036	G2962	G5101	G3165	
θέλεις	ποιεῖν	καὶ	ὃ	κύριος	πρός	αὐτόν	ἀνάστηθι	
wilt thou have	do	And	G3588	Lord	said unto	him	Arise	
G2309	G4160	G2532		G2962	G4314	G846	G450	
καὶ	εἷσελθε	εἰς	τὴν	πόλιν	καὶ	λαληθήσεται	σοι	τί
And	go	into	G3588	the city	And	it shall be told	thee	what
G2532	G1525	G1519		G4172	G2532	G2980	G4671	G5101
σε	δεῖ	ποιεῖν						
thou	must	do						
G4571	G1163	G4160						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:10 (Resurrection): And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Acts 10:32 (Parallel theme): Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

Acts 10:22 (Parallel theme): And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Acts 26:16 (Resurrection): But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Romans 10:3 (Parallel theme): For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Romans 5:20 (Parallel theme): Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Romans 10:20 (Parallel theme): But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

Romans 7:9 (Parallel theme): For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Philippians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.