

## “Priceless Gifts”

### Be the Gift.

Acts 9:26-31

*We lose our value to others by overvaluing:*

#### I. **Insulation** – (Verses 26)

*We must evaluate our understanding of:*

##### A. **Fellowship** – “he assayed to join himself”

... he attempted to pierce or get inside.

\*\* Illustration = sitcom where someone trying to get by the overzealous secretary.

Fellowship to many of us simply means eating. Not bad but not complete. It means to share something in common. After a few years, we get lazy and enjoy our fellowship on our terms.

>>> To be a sponsor we must see others trying to get in and we must respond.

**B. Focus** – “all afraid of him” They were more concerned with what he would do than what they should do. They were not confident in the Lord and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Their focus was inward and not outward.

##### C. **Faith** – “believed not that he was a disciple”

>> They were prejudging him. They were not willing to be led by the Lord in a new situation. Their faith was not placed firmly on the power of God to change any life.

\*\* Illustration of Steve Floyd.

#### II. **Inaction** – (Verses 27-30)

*We must be ready to :*

**A. Attached One** – “took him” = lay hold or seize for help

or harm. “brought him” = you can not lead someone that you are not willing to attach to. It is all about lives touching lives

**B. Assist** – “declared unto them” = related fully his stand. He told them of God’s working in his life and what good God was doing through him. Attempted to clear the air.

“brought him down” = to moor a vessel or to find him a ship for safe passage. This is caregiving and shepherding.

**C. Associate** – “he was with them coming in and out at Jerusalem” = With Barnabus’s help the disciples were willing to be seen with Saul. Are we willing to be seen with those who are awkward and still in the growing process. We all are you know?!

#### III. **Independence** - (Verse 31)

*We must depend on each other to be:*

**A. Rested = Peace, set at one again**

**B. Repaired** – “were edified” = built up, emboldened, strengthened.

**C. Refocused** – “in fear of the Lord” “comfort of the Holy Ghost” = began again to no longer focus on the adversary but on the Savior. Stop taking comfort in situations and circumstances and finding comfort from the inner strength that the Spirit give with joy.

**D. Reproduced**– “were multiplied” \*\* Exponential growth can happen with sponsorship.