

A spiritual catalyst: a moment or season in our lives marked by transformation where the Spirit of Jesus speaks to us primarily through Scripture, using people, experiences, prophecies, prayers or other means. These are often recognized in the moment, are always more clear in retrospect and will never lead us contrary to the Scriptures.

1. "I am Jesus." Acts 22:6-8
2. "Rise and be baptized." Acts 22:12-16
3. "Make haste." Acts 22:17-21

"God created us to live with a single passion: to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. God calls us to pray and think and dream and plan and work, not to be made much of, but to make much of him in every part of our lives." – John Piper, "Don't Waste Your Life"

4. "Take Courage." (Acts 22:22 23:10-11)

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Acts 26:14.

"I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man." Acts 24:16

["askeo" = "take pains" = to strive with continuity and effort]

Small Group Questions

1. Read Acts 21-26 to familiarize yourself with this 2 year period in the life of Paul. What impresses you most about his spiritual maturity in this season of life?
2. Of the 4 spiritual catalysts, can you identify the presence of one in your life in the past? Can you identify one that you are in the midst of right now?
3. We talked about kicking against the goads as a way of explaining our resistance to the change God wants to bring in our lives. Where are you currently trying to resist change?
4. How are you doing at testifying to people about the facts of your story and the story of God? Do you have any recent examples of it either going well or not going well?