

## The Power of Encounters

Then the churches had peace and were edified. And walking in fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied. *Acts 9:31*

God allows ordinary people to encounter the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to orchestrate His plan to get results.

Encounters are unexpected experiences!

Encounters can be intentional, occasional, or unusual.

### I

Unexpected Encounter – *Acts 9:1-9*

- Saul is on assignment to persecute the church.
- Unexpected Encounter, a light surrounded him from heaven, fell to the ground, and he heard a voice.
- Saul's response was Who are You, Lord, and What do You want me to do?
- Saul received instructions from the Lord, arose without sight, and his team took him to Damascus.

### II

Unusual Encounter – *Acts 9:10-19*

- In a vision, Ananias gets an assignment from God to go to Saul.
- Don't let the threats of what we heard about a person keep us from doing our assignment.
- Laying hands brought immediate results; Saul received his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit, baptized, and started preaching.
- Our obedience to our assignment brings about immediate results.

### III

Encounters can be Intentional – *Acts 9:26-31*

- Saul tried to connect with the disciples in Jerusalem; however, they didn't believe that he was a disciple of Jesus and were afraid.
- But Barnabas! The Son of Encouragement modeled integrity and character.
- Barnabas believed in Paul before anyone else did. He endorsed him.

- Empowered leaders are willing to take a risk on people because they see the potential in others.
- Barnabas helped Saul make a connection on the strength of his credibility.

### Conclusion

- The power of encounter brought repentance, reversal of an agenda, and a renewed life.
- The power of encounter for Ananias, obedience over the threats, and involvement in Paul's life writing, two thirds of the New Testament.
- The power of encounter from Barnabas is you never know who is mentioning your name before others.
- Encounters allow the church to experience peace and be edified.
- Encounters allow the church to walk in fear of the Lord.
- Encounters allow the church to be in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.
- Encounters allow the church to multiply.

*Rhema Christian Center  
Anita Dawson, Apostle  
Sunday, October 2 @ 9:30 am*