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# **Mission Impossible**



# C.S. Lewis on Grace

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"...the Christian is in a different position from other people who are trying to be good. They hope, by being good, to please God if there is one; or ... at least they hope to deserve the approval from good men. But the Christian thinks any good he does comes **from the Christ-life inside him**. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that ***God will make us good because He loves us;*** just as the roof of a greenhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it."

(*Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis, Macmillan Publishing Company, 1943, book II, chapter 5)



# Divine Throwdown

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- <sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup> and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, <sup>6</sup> but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”



# Divine Darkness

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- The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the [c]voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, **and though his eyes were open, he [d]could see nothing;** and **leading him by the hand,** they brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> **And he was three days without sight,** and neither ate nor drank.



# Your Mission, If You Choose To Accept It

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<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, **"Here I am, Lord."** <sup>11</sup> And the Lord *said* to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the **house of Judas** for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and *he has seen [e] in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.*" <sup>13</sup> **But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your [f]saints at Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."**



# In Him, It IS Possible!

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<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for **he is a chosen [g]instrument of Mine, to bear My name** before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; <sup>16</sup> for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, **the Lord Jesus**, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, **has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” <sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and he took food and was strengthened.



# They Heard From God, But ...

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- Moses
- Gideon
- Jonah
- Peter at the house of Cornelius
- When was the last time you sensed the voice of God, but ...?
- How did that turn out?



# God is Always Faithful

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# Where are you struggling right now?

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY