

## ANANIAS, THE MIDWIFE

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. <sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." <sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." <sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9:10-19

- I. It is a season for Midwives!
  - A. Ananias was a midwife who changed the world for one man, who in turn changed the entire world!
  - B. Ananias was a willing nobody sent to reach an unwilling somebody.
  - C. Ananias, like a steam tug boat, carried a massive ship out then returned unnoticed into port.
- II. Midwives are not wives.
  - A. Are you good at appearing, then disappearing?
  - B. Midwives appear for vital moments, then they disappear. If you assume they're going to stay in your life forever, you will be disappointed.
  - C. Midwives aren't Moses, but they can facilitate a Moses.
  - D. You don't need to change the entire world, but you will be asked to change the entire world for one person.
  - E. Midwives are only there for the delivery, then they leave.

- F. Ananias' role in the drama is small yet significant.
  - G. Ananias was a link in the chain that helped transform the history of the world.
  - H. Ananias left his comfort zone and did the simple things Jesus asked. He laid hands on Saul, baptized him, gave him his life word, then left.
  - I. For the rest of Saul/Paul's life he remembered Ananias.
- III. 17 facts about the midwife spirit
- A. Most midwives have no children; they just bring them into the world and protect them.
  - B. Midwives are not the carrier of the vision themselves; they assist in the birthing of greatness.
  - C. Midwives have deep respect and reverence for life that is not their own.
  - D. Midwives understand pain and suffering, and have great empathy and compassion.
  - E. Midwives withhold their own projections so as not to disturb the process of labor and birth.
  - F. When a midwife is afraid, her own fear will influence the labor and birth.
  - G. The midwife sees the uniqueness of every birthing experience and lets it be unique.
  - H. The midwife loves waiting for babies and listening to mothers
  - I. Most people who facilitate a Moses will never have a Moses.
  - J. Midwives help new life into being and initially protect it more than the mother herself.
  - K. Isn't it strange when you are more a mother or father than a father or mother?
  - L. Midwives are present to another in the time of utmost vulnerability.
  - M. Midwives work in areas that are deep and intimate.
  - N. Midwives see what the birth giver cannot see.
  - O. Midwives know when to confront or encourage.
  - P. Can you see someone else get every blessing and leave satisfied?

Q. Work first on other people's dreams, and God will make sure that your dreams come true.



