

Abstract for IAMS Conference, Seoul, Korea, Aug 2016

Biblical Studies and Mission, BISAM

Leadership Development and Transformation in Acts of the Apostles

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This paper explores the different ways transformation happens through supernatural encounters in the Book of Acts. Paul's transformation starts with his passion to serve God and keep the Jewish worship and tradition pure, which led him to be a persecutor of the early believers. The transformation process included the forgiveness by Stephen when he was stoned, followed by the encounter with Jesus on the Road to Damascus, including the period of blindness and the prophetic words from Ananias. But this is only the beginning of the transformation process that can be seen through his early attempts at preaching the Gospel in Damascus and Jerusalem that led to a time of isolation and later being raised up in Antioch and set apart for the mission to the Greco-Roman world. Likewise Acts also provides clues for Peter's transformation from an ethnocentric Jewish leader of the early Christian community to one who embraced and supported the mission to the Gentiles. This paper uses biblical studies and leadership development theory to examine the variety of ways God uses to develop these leaders, as illustrated in the Book of Acts, to uniquely shape them for a variety of mission opportunities.