

THE OVERMASTERING DIRECTION

Tony O'Brien – Preaching Team

The overmastering direction is an old English term meaning “overpower by superior force”.

I enjoy reading the daily devotional “My utmost for His Highest” by Oswald Chambers. He was a Scottish minister who passed away in 1917 at the ripe old age of 43. I find a spiritual depth there that is not found in many other writings. It eludes to very close relationship with God. The title says it all about his life, “MY UTMOST” for “HIS HIGHEST”.

In other words, not MY life or MY will, but HIS!

Today I'd like to begin my message with an interview of someone very special. This person is well respected and loved by all of us, and I would like for all of us to hear “HER SIDE” of the story. Please join me in welcoming....

Interview Tammy Krist

Now, we hear Pastors side of many of your families life situations, today we want to give you an opportunity to set the record straight!

Please complete this question...“my life is...”
“unpredictable”. ??? “Adventurous”

2nd question...this may be difficult...“We have heard Pastor comment on you giving your life to Christ at age 16, what were the proceeding years like?”

3rd...“When you enrolled in college, what was your vision of God's plan for your life?”

4th...“Now that you've been a Pastor's wife for many years, how has that vision changed?”
The Life of Saul/Paul

Acts 7:59-60 (N.I.V.)

Acts 8:1

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Acts9:1-2 (N.I.V.)

Job Change

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

Acts9:4-8

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"
"Yes, Lord," he answered.

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. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

Acts 9:13-16

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." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Heart Change

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9:20-22

After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Giving witness before kings

Speaking to king Agrippa in Acts 26 Paul says "We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic,^[a] 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' " "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied.

Acts 26:16-18

"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Name Change

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit...

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was no passing emotion, but a vision that had very clear and emphatic directions for him, and he says, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Our Lord said, in effect, to Paul - Your whole life is to be overmastered by Me; you are to have no end, no aim, and no purpose but Mine. *"I have chosen him."*

Gal.1:13-16

He clung to the "overmastering direction" of God!