



The Church in Acts

Week 8: Acts 9 - Saul's Transformation

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, February 23, 2025

The background consists of horizontal wooden planks. The top portion of the image is illuminated with a warm, orange-gold light, which fades into a darker, blue-black color towards the bottom. The planks are arranged in a staggered pattern, creating a textured, layered appearance.

The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community

Acts 9 - Saul's Transformation

“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 ESV



The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community

1. Saul's Mission to Destroy the Church

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, **he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**

Acts 9:1-2 ESV

B10 Israel During the Time of Jesus



- Ruled by Herod Archelaus, later by Roman Governor Pontius Pilate
- Ruled by Herod Antipas
- Ruled by Philip
- Cities of the Decapolis



2. Saul Meets Jesus

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And **falling to the ground**, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, **why are you persecuting me?**” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

Acts 9:3-6 ESV

Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was **without sight, and neither ate nor drank.**

Acts 9:8-9 ESV

3. God Uses Ananias

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests **to bind all who call on your name.**”

Acts 9:13-14 ESV

So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may **regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

Acts 9:17-19 ESV

4. Saul's Calling

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a **chosen instrument** of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much **he must suffer** for the sake of my name.”

Acts 9:15-16 ESV

...far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the **forty lashes less one**. Three times I was **beaten with rods**. Once I was **stoned**. Three times I was **shipwrecked**; a night and a day I was adrift at sea...

2 Corinthians 11:23-25 ESV

5. Saul as a New Believer

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately **he proclaimed Jesus** in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Acts 9:19-20 ESV

Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by **proving that Jesus was the Christ.**

Acts 9:22 ESV

And when he had come to Jerusalem....

Acts 9:26 ESV

For I did not receive it (the Gospel) from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through **a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 1:12 ESV

And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And **they were all afraid of him**, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had **preached boldly in the name of Jesus**. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:26-28 ESV

So the **church** throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria **had peace** and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it **multiplied**.

Acts 9:31 ESV

- **Saul's Mission to Destroy the Church**
- **Saul Meets Jesus**
- **God Uses Ananias**
- **Saul's Calling**
- **Saul as a New Believer**

• God Can Save, Transform & Use the Most Unlikely

• God Uses People – Including You



- **God Can Save, Transform & Use the Most Unlikely**
- **God Uses People – Including You**
- **God's Calling Often Includes Hardship**

**It is doubtful God can use any man
greatly until He has hurt him deeply.**

A W Tozer

- **God Can Save, Transform & Use the Most Unlikely**
- **God Uses People – Including You**
- **God's Calling Often Includes Hardship**
- **Invest in Your Own Maturity**

Sometimes when we read the words of those who have been more than conquerors, we feel almost despondent. I feel that I shall never be like that. But they won through step by step by little bits of wills, little denials of self, little inward victories by faithfulness in very little things...

No one sees these little hidden steps. They only see the accomplishment, but even so, those small steps were taken. There is no sudden triumph to spiritual maturity. That is the work of the moment.

Amy Carmichael

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