

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts**  
**"Amazing Conversion"**  
**Acts 9:1-19**  
**Study-16**

**The Church Rests On Two Pillars: The Resurrection of Jesus, and The Conversion of Saul.**

**Saul is the man who went from Persecutor to Preacher.** There are three passages in **Acts** that speak of Paul's conversion. **Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18**

**Philippians 3:5-8**

Apostle to the Gentiles, but would write over 13 books of the New Testament. Peter recognized Paul as God's spokesman to the Church! **2 Peter 3:15-16**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Paul Models That Some Of The Most Antagonistic Persons To The Gospel Are Under The Conviction Of God."

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| <b>1. Verses 1-2</b>   | <b>Saul Without The Light</b>   |
| <b>2. Verses 3-9</b>   | <b>Saul Under The Light</b>     |
| <b>3. Verses 10-19</b> | <b>Saul Living In The Light</b> |

**1. Verses 1-2 Saul Without The Light:**

**Acts 9:1 Now - Context** - We left off with **Philip**, who was one of the "**Magnificent 7**" helpers of the Apostles in Jerusalem, who brought about a revival in Samaria, then led a Treasurer Ethiopian Eunuch to Jesus.

**Now Saul**, The date is about **(34-37 AD)**. Jew by birth but was a Gentile by citizenship, a Roman. We were introduced to Saul in **Acts 7:58**

**still breathing threats and murder** - The idea of "*threats and slaughter.*" This was the persecution that he was instigating back in **Acts 8:1-3** Stephen.

The term **breathing** - "*breathing in*" or "*a horse panting and snorting.*" What made Saul so animalistic and fierce? It was conviction over the Witness and Sermon of Stephen! **Acts 7**

**Saul Without The Light - Saul's Conviction: Conviction** - "*is the sense of one's need, a need that one recognizes that he cannot supply for himself. Conviction is the sense of one being utterly and helplessly lost.*"

**against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,**  
Here is a man who is zealous and wants to eradicate Christianity.

**Acts 9:2 and asked for letters from him** (Extradition rights, Orders with the force of civil law)

**to synagogues at Damascus** (Syria, outside of Saul's Jurisdiction, 150 miles Northeast of Jerusalem)

**he found any belonging to the Way**, - That is the very first term used for believers called "**The Way.**" **John 14:6**

**both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**  
Back to Jerusalem. Extradition Rights

## **2. Verses 3-9 Saul Under The Light:**

**Acts 9:3 approaching Damascus**, - Saul thinks that he is serving God.  
**Romans 10:2-3**

**Jesus Initiated The Relationship With Saul: and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;** Saul was in the dark, in religion.

**Saul Under The Light – Saw The Light: and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;** The suggestion is light flashing like lightning. **Acts 26:13**

This light was so bright it blinded Saul for three days. **Acts 9:9**

The glory of Jesus that Saul saw.  
**Acts 22:13-14; 26:16; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8**

There are three encounters of Jesus after Pentecost:  
*Stephen – Acts 7:55-56, Paul – Acts 9, and John – Revelation 1:13-20*

**Acts 9:4 and he fell to the ground, (Physical Shock, earth-shattering experience that altered Saul's life.)**

**Saul Under The Light – Heard God's Voice: and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, There is no true conversion without the voice of God.**  
**John 10:2-3**

**why are you persecuting Me?"** *I am not persecuting God but Christians! The followers of Jesus!*

**Acts 9:5 "Lord" Psalm 110:1** *Title for the Messiah, applied to God Himself.*

**And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,** Saul's face at this point!

Later, Paul would tell others to do what he did! **Romans 10:9**

**Acts 9:5 (KJV) it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

*An object to prod a beast. It is hard to repeatedly kick against God's prodding. Reference to the conviction of the Holy Spirit in Saul's conscience!*

**Conversion Took Place At This Point. Acts 9:6** God now gives instruction to Saul.

*Acts 9:6 (KJV) And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. **Acts 22:10***

**Acts 9:7 hearing the voice, but seeing no one. Acts 22:9**

**Saul Under The Light – Obedience To Jesus Christ: Acts 9:8 Saul got up from the ground, Luke 6:46**

**There is No Conversion, or Evidence, Without Obedience. (Repent)**

**and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.**

Here is a man who has been humbled by God.

**Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.** Here is a man seeking the spiritual.

### **3. Verses 10-19 Saul Living In The Light:**

**Acts 9:10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias;**

*"Yahweh has dealt graciously."* He comes in quickly and leaves quickly.

**Acts 22:12**

**and the Lord said to him in a vision, (dream)** awake and you see as if the literal sense of perception with the physical organs of sight is the intended.

**"Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."** This disciple responded when God spoke to him.

**Acts 9:11**

**Living In The Light – Saul's Communion With Jesus Christ –**

**for behold, he is praying,** - Speaking to God, dependence upon God, seeking of God.

**Acts 9:12** God reveals that Saul has had a vision of Ananias

**Acts 9:13-14 But Ananias answered, "Lord,** Ananias says 'Lord', then starts to argue.

**Acts 9:15 "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine,** - God has some great things in store for Saul. Trained in OT as well as Roman law and Greek philosophy.

**to bear My name before the Gentiles** - Paul's ministry was to the Gentiles.

**and kings** - King Herod Agrippa II and his sister Bernice in Caesarea, **Acts 25-26**

**and the sons of Israel;** His own people would reject Saul like Jesus.

**Acts 9:16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."**

**Acts 9:17 after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul,** This is the most tender and miraculous work of God.

**has sent me** - The Lord has chosen to use me to minister to others.

**and be filled with the Holy Spirit."** At salvation, one receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. After salvation, one needs to be filled again and again.

**Acts 9:18 like scales, and he regained his sight,** What is described is spiritual cataracts on his eyes.

**Living In The Light – Saul's Confession: and he got up and was baptized;**

**Living In The Light – Saul Now Is Identified With Believers:**  
**Acts 9:19**

**he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,** - He was with other believers.

### **Application:**

- 1.** Without The Light – God Uses Conviction: Often, The Most Antagonistic Person to The Gospel Is Under The Conviction of God.
- 2.** Under The Light – God Initiates The Relationship: Revealing Who The True and Living God Is.
- 3.** Under The Light – One Places His Faith And Obedience In Jesus Christ:
- 4.** Under The Light – One Can Experience Communion With Jesus Christ:
- 5.** Living In The Light - Involves Confession And Identification With Jesus Christ: