

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Basket Case"
Acts 9:20-32
Study-17**

Acts 9 Is The Account of The Conversion and Infancy of the Apostle Paul. At Saul's encounter with Jesus Christ, Saul asked 2 questions:

1st Question: Acts 9:5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

2nd Question: Acts 22:10 "And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?'"

We must begin with who Jesus Christ is – The deity of Jesus Christ is the foundation for everything that follows.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Paul Models The New Believer In His Witness, Rejection, His Fellowship, And In His Waiting Upon The Lord."

- 1. Verses 20-22 Paul's Witness**
- 2. Verses 23-25 Paul's Rejection**
- 3. Verses 26-29 Paul's Fellowship**
- 4. Verses 30-31 Paul's Waiting**

1. Verses 20-22 Paul's Witness:

**Acts 9:20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, Context - This is the result of Saul's conversion.
Acts 9:17-19**

The most Important Conversion recorded in the NT.

In Saul's Conversion, He Saw The Light: Acts 9:3

Acts 26:13; Acts 9:4; Acts 22:9

**Jesus described A Relationship with Himself in these words:
Matthew 11:28-29**

YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. God's rest is promise (2 times).

Rest Through Salvation: Matthew 11:28

Rest Through Learning to Follow Jesus: Matthew 11:29

**The Behavior of Belief - Rest Through Learning to Follow Jesus:
and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues,
A Spiritual Birth results in sharing, Natural birth results in a baby crying.**

to proclaim Jesus (Humanity A Real Person)

in the synagogues, this was the local meeting place of the Jews.

"He is the Son of God." (Jesus Is Deity) *This is the only place in Acts that you find this title, but Paul used it in his epistles at least **15 times**.*
John 20:31

Acts 9:21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed,
Literally "ecstatic," "to stagger."

Acts 9:22 But Saul kept increasing in strength *"to get stronger, to increase and become enabled." Spiritual growth, growing disciple of Jesus Christ!*

and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus - this term means *"to throw (an assembly) into disorder, to perplex (the mind), confuse, stir up, be in an uproar."*

proving that this Jesus is the Christ. The word **prove** - means *"to put together."* *Harmonizing the Scriptures.*

Jesus is the Christ – Jesus "Son of Man/Son of God" Term **Christ** – *"Messiah, Anointed, The Anointed One." The One promised by God to redeem His people.*

2. Verses 23-25 Paul's Rejection:

Acts 9:23 When many days had elapsed, how much time is Luke referring to? At this point between **Acts 9:22-23**, Paul goes away to Arabia for three years. **Galatians 1:17-18**

Why did Saul go to Arabia? 1 Timothy 3:6 and not a new convert,

The important thing about this Arabian sojourn is the fact that Saul did not "consult with flesh and blood" Galatians 1:16

the Jews plotted together to do away with him, Paul's witness in Damascus after three years in Arabia was even more powerful. Paul has been a believer for over three years.

Acts 9:24 but their plot became known to Saul. This is called the providence of God.

Acts 20:17-21

Acts 9:25 and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket. There were homes built right on the wall.

Paul, years after this event, mentions it as an event that he would ever brag about, it was a humbling event that ever changed his life.
2 Corinthians 11:30

So what is a Christian to boast about? Paul says, "our weakness."

The Bible teaches that out of weakness comes great strength.

Genesis 32 when Jacob had to be weakened by God.

2 Corinthians 11:31-33

2 Corinthians 11 Paul wrote these 20 years after the event.

3. Verses 26-29 Paul's Fellowship:

Acts 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, this was three years after his conversion. **Galatians 1:18-19**

he was trying to associate with the disciples; *"kept trying," (literal Greek) to get into their fellowship, but they would not accept him.*

Note Paul wanted to fellowship with other believer's, he actually worked at trying to make it happen.

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles *"took hold"* of Saul, brought him to the church leaders, and convinced them. **Barnabas** - means *"Son of encouragement"*

Acts 4:36-37

and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, testimony and the encounter of Saul and Jesus was common knowledge.

and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. Our witness matters, our sharing demonstrates the new life.

Acts 9:28-29 And he was talking - *"to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit and demeanor."*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; - "to investigate jointly, discuss, dispute (with), enquire, question (with), reason (together)."

Hellenistic Jews These were Greek speaking Jews.

4. Verses 30-31 Paul's Waiting:

Acts 9:30 But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea - "They had his back!"

and sent him away to Tarsus. Capital of the Roman province of Cilicia. There Paul would remain for about 7-10 years.

Silent years – Moses Age 40-80; Jesus Ages 4-12; 12-30 Paul 1-3 years; 7-10 years.

Saul, the promising Rabbinical student that was under Gamaliel. He was one of the top and came back a despised believer.

Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria This makes up the area of Israel. It is broken into three areas.

enjoyed peace, - It was a time of "peace" for the churches, but not a time of complacency, for they grew both spiritually and numerically.

being built up; This was the teaching the Word.

and, going on in the fear of the Lord
These folks had a healthy fear of the Lord.

and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.
Notice the comfort of the Holy Spirit was upon the church. **Acts 1:8**

Application:

1. Sharing Jesus Is The Evidence Of Spiritual Life.
2. Sharing Jesus Will Result In Rejection.
3. God Is As Concerned With Our Availability, As Our Abilities.
4. Time Waiting On God Is As Essential To The Time Serving God.