

God's Power Transforms (Acts 9:1-22)

God's Power Continues – Part 8
Life Church St. Louis – May 24, 2015
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

1. _____ Jesus Christ

Acts 9:3 (NIV) As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

1A. _____ to Jesus

Acts 9:4-5 (NIV) He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

1B. _____ Jesus' commands

Acts 9:6-7 (NIV) "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

1C. Put your _____ in Jesus

Acts 9:8-9 (NIV) Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

2. Be an _____ of transformation

Acts 9:10 (NIV) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

2A. _____ to Jesus

Acts 9:11-12 (NIV) 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."

2B. Overcome your _____

Acts 9:13-16 (NIV) "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

2C. _____ Jesus' commands

Acts 9:17-18 (NIV) 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,

2D. _____ in the transformation

Acts 9:20-22 (NIV) At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

God's Power Transforms (Acts 9:1-22) Study Guide

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Intro. What are the factors responsible for the exponential growth of the church in the book of Acts?

Explain how putting the principles of Acts and 2 Timothy 2:2 into practice leads to exponential growth of the church.

What are the three experiences that lead to life transformation (Acts 2:38)?

Why did Saul persecute the church (Acts 9:1-2)? Why did it seem impossible to reach Saul for Jesus?

1A. Why did God use the method of Acts 9:3 to reach Saul?

1B. What do you think went through Saul's mind when the voice answered "I am Jesus" (Acts 9:4-5)?

1C. What choice did Saul have to make when faced with Jesus' commands (Acts 9:6-7)?

1D. Why do you think God made Saul blind for three days? Why do Saul fast during that time?

1E. How does every salvation involve an encounter with Jesus?

2A. Why do you think God used a little-known disciple named Ananias to be an instrument of transformation for Saul (Acts 9:10)?

2B. Why did God give Saul another vision and tell him about Ananias (Acts 9:11-12)?

2C. What was going through the mind of Ananias when God commanded him to minister to Saul (Acts 9:13-16)?

2D. What three things were Ananias to minister to Saul (Acts 9:17-18)? Which two of these three confirm the pattern seen throughout Acts?

2E. Why can we infer that Saul spoke in tongues when he was filled with the Spirit through the laying on of Ananias' hands (1 Corinthians 14:18)?

2F. In what ways was Saul's life dramatically transformed after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:20-22)?

2G. In what ways can we be instruments of transformation, as Ananias was?