

God Changes People



MEMORY VERSE: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun."
2 Corinthians 5:17



ACTS 9:1-9 A Light from Heaven

1. Saul hated Christians and even held the coats of the men that killed Stephen. What was Saul eager to do? What did he hope to achieve in Damascus? vv. 1-2
2. What happened to Saul as he headed to Damascus on his mission? vv. 3-6
3. How did Saul's friends react? What happened to Saul when he got up off the ground? vv. 7-9



ACTS 9:10-16 God's Plan for Saul

4. Who was Ananais? What did God tell him to do? vv. 10-12
5. Why did Ananais not want to go? vv. 13-14
6. The Lord revealed to Ananias that Saul is His "chosen _____ to take My message to the _____." v. 15
How does this encourage you that God can use you too?



7. Describe what happened to Saul. vv. 17-19

8. When did Saul begin to preach? What did he preach? v. 20

9. How did the people react to Saul's preaching? How did the change in Saul affect all who heard him? vv. 21-22

10. Saul's preaching became more and more powerful. What does this tell you about:
Saul

God

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

God helped Saul to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and Savior of the world. Saul did not waste time feeling bad about his past. Saul submitted to God, and God changed him permanently. He will do this with you too if you ask Him. God saves us so we can tell people the Good News: Jesus came to forgive our sins so we can have a new and forever relationship with God.


PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Almighty God, nothing is impossible with You. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Help me to remember that you can change anyone, including me. Help me show all people Your love in my words and in my actions. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



How has God changed you? How would you like Him to change you?



Acts 9:1-22 (NLT)

Acts 9:1-9 Saul's Conversion

1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them — both men and women — back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" 5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! 8 Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. 9 He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

Acts 9:10-16

10 Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. 11 The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. 12 I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." 13 "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! 14 And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." 15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 9:17-22 Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. 19 Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. 20 And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" 21 All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?" 22 Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

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