

## Paul on the Road to Damascus

### *God shields our vision in areas where misperceptions could produce wrong actions*

**Acts 9: 1-2** Now Saul, still breathing **in** threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

**3** As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him

**Acts 26:13** At midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.

**4** and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

**5** And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

**Acts 7:56...59** and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."... They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

**5b** And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting

**6** but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

**7** The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the ~~voice~~ **sound** but seeing no one.

**8-9** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

**10-12** Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."

**13-14** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

**15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

**17-19** So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with ~~the~~ Holy Spirit." And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened.

**John 20:22** He breathed on them and said to them, ~~"Receive the~~ **"Breathe in Holy Spirit"**

**19b - 20** Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

**21** All those hearing him continued to be ~~amazed~~ **out of their minds**, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

**22** But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

**23-25** When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

**Galatians 1:15-17** When God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

**26-27** When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

**Galatians 1:18-19** Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

**Galatians 2:6** But from those who were of high reputation ... those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

**9** ... James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be {i.e., allegedly} pillars ...

**28-29** And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death.

**30** But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

**31** So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of ~~the~~ Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

**1 Timothy 1:13** I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.

**15** Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

**Galatians 1:13** For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it

**1 Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:5** For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.