

Acts 9:1-31 Saul Is Saved Mar 22, 2009

Intro: Movie released in Syria, “Damascus”

Over ½ of book of Acts deals with the work of the Holy Spirit through Saul/
Paul

Almost ½ of the books in the NT have Paul as their author.

How were you saved?

1. How religious and self-righteous can you be and still be lost?

Billy Graham – “The most desperately lost people in America are those who are members of Churches.”

Acts 9:1-2 (HCSB) ¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and requested letters from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, either men or women, he might bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 22:3-5 (HCSB) ³ He continued, “I am a Jewish man, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and educated according to the strict view of our patriarchal law. Being zealous for God, just as all of you are today,

⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women in jail,

⁵ as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. Having received letters from them to the brothers, I was traveling to Damascus to bring those who were prisoners there to be punished in Jerusalem.

Acts 7:57-58 (HCSB) ⁵⁷ Then they screamed at the top of their voices, stopped their ears, and rushed together against him.

⁵⁸ They threw him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 8:1-3 (HCSB) ¹ Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.

² But devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him.

³ Saul, however, was ravaging the church, and he would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

Galatians 1:13-14 (HCSB) ¹³ For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I persecuted God's church to an extreme degree and tried to destroy it;

¹⁴ and I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

1 Timothy 1:15 (HCSB) ¹⁵ This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them.

"God can save the chief of sinners!"

2. How Can The Chief of Sinners Be Saved?

2a. Salvation requires a personal encounter.

Acts 9:3 (HCSB) ³ As he traveled and was nearing Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him.

Luke 19:10 (KJV) ¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

"It took a blinding light to get Saul's attention, what will it take to get yours?"

2b. Salvation requires personal conviction.

Acts 9:4 (HCSB) ⁴ Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

"We are called by name to be aware of our sin and our need of a savior. How do you think Saul considered himself before this encounter? After?"

"We have to know that we are lost before we are willing to be saved."

Acts 20:20-21 (HCSB)

²⁰ and that I did not shrink back from proclaiming to you anything that was profitable, or from teaching it to you in public and from house to house.

²¹ I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

2c. Salvation requires personal acceptance.

Acts 9:5-6 (HCSB) ⁵“Who are You, Lord?” he said. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” He replied.

⁶“But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

3. How can you help a new believer?

3a. Guidance

Acts 9:6-9 (HCSB) ⁶“But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one.

⁸Then Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus.

⁹He was unable to see for three days, and did not eat or drink.

3b. Mentoring.

Acts 22:12 (HCSB) ¹²Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good reputation with all the Jews residing there,

Acts 9:10-14 (HCSB) ¹⁰Now in Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. And the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Here I am, Lord!” he said.

¹¹“Get up and go to the street called Straight,” the Lord said to him, “to the house of Judas, and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, since he is praying there.

¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and placing his hands on him so he may regain his sight.”

¹³“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard from many people about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

¹⁴And he has authority here from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name.”

3c. Purpose.

Acts 9:15-16 (HCSB) ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go! For this man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before Gentiles, kings, and the sons of Israel.

¹⁶I will certainly show him how much he must suffer for My name!”

Ephesians 2:10 (HCSB) ¹⁰ For we are His creation—created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

3d. Prayer, and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:11 (HCSB) ¹¹ “Get up and go to the street called Straight,” the Lord said to him, “to the house of Judas, and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, since he is praying there.

Acts 9:17-18 (HCSB) ¹⁷ So Ananias left and entered the house. Then he placed his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road you were traveling, has sent me so you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸ At once something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

Acts 22:13-16 (HCSB) ¹³ came to me, stood by me, and said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up and saw him.

¹⁴ Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of His voice.

¹⁵ For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen and heard.

¹⁶ And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.’

Galatians 1:17-18 (HCSB) ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days.

3e. Food and Fellowship.

Acts 9:19 (HCSB)

¹⁹ And after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul Proclaiming the Messiah Saul was with the disciples in Damascus for some days.

Acts 9:26-28 (HCSB) ²⁶ When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to associate with the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple.

²⁷ Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and

explained to them how, on the road, Saul had seen the Lord, and that He had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

²⁸ Saul was coming and going with them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

3f. Witnessing.

Acts 9:20-22 (HCSB)

²⁰ Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: “He is the Son of God.”

²¹ But all who heard him were astounded and said, “Isn’t this the man who, in Jerusalem, was destroying those who called on this name, and then came here for the purpose of taking them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

²² But Saul grew more capable, and kept confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that this One is the Messiah.

3g. Protection.

Acts 9:23-25 (HCSB)

²³ After many days had passed, the Jews conspired to kill him,

²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. So they were watching the gates day and night intending to kill him,

²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and lowered him in a large basket through [an opening in] the wall.

Acts 9:29-30 (HCSB)

²⁹ He conversed and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they attempted to kill him.

³⁰ When the brothers found out, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Invitation: Helping a new believer and encouraging the body.
Becoming a new believer.