



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL – PART 2

ACTS 9:19-43

We can draw some practical lessons from Saul's conversion and the ministry of Ananias that we all ought to learn.

- First, God can use even the most obscure saint.
- Second, Ananias reminds us that we should not be afraid to follow God's will.
- Third, God's works are always perfectly balanced.
- Fourth, we must never underestimate the value of even one person being brought to faith in Christ.

SAUL MET THE OPPOSITION **ACTS 9:20-25**

After his time with Ananias, Saul immediately began to proclaim the same Christ that he had persecuted, declaring boldly that *Jesus is the Son of God*.

- **Lesson: Don't be shy in telling your own story!**
- Although we should not rush into a ministry unprepared, we do not need to wait before telling others the story of our encounter with Christ.
- It is likely that Saul's visit to Arabia (**GAL. 1:17**) took place about this time.
- Had Dr. Luke included it in his account, he would have placed it between **ACTS 9:21 and 22**.

SATAN ALMOST ALWAYS TRIES TO GET TO NEW BELIEVERS

Saul was no sooner saved than his own troubles began!

- This was but the beginning of the “*great things*” he would suffer for the name of Christ. **ACTS 9:16**
- Throughout his life, the great apostle was hated, hunted, and plotted against by both Jews and Gentiles.
- As you read the book of Acts, you see how the opposition and persecution increase.
- But Saul, soon-to-be Paul, counted it a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ, and so should we. And it may even come from friends and family!

SAUL RETURNS TO JERUSALEM **ACTS 9:25-31**

There were two stages in Saul's experience with the church in Jerusalem.

1. Guess what? At first, the former scourge of the Christians—Saul—was rejected (**v. 26**); the believers in the Jerusalem church were afraid of him.
2. Finally, Saul was accepted (**v. 27-31**). Barnabas “took hold” of Saul, brought him to the church leaders, and convinced them that Saul was both a believer and a chosen apostle.

Saul had a majorly revamped reputation.

SAUL GETS A NEW START

Saul's return to Tarsus:

- At least three years elapsed between **ACTS 9:22** and **9:26**.
- After time alone in Arabia (see **GALATIANS 1:16-18**)
- Saul/Paul returned to Damascus and then to Jerusalem.
- The apostles were reluctant to believe Saul was saved so he escaped to Caesarea, where he caught a ship and returned to Tarsus.

Now the Church is poised for real growth!

THROUGH FIERY TRIALS!

WHAT IS THE GREATEST MIRACLE THAT GOD CAN DO FOR US?

- Some would call the healing of the body God's greatest miracle, while others would vote for the raising of the dead.
- However, I think that the greatest miracle of all is the salvation of a lost sinner.
- Why? Because salvation costs the greatest price, it produces the greatest results, and it brings the greatest glory to God.

PETER'S MINISTRY OF MIRACLES

ACTS 9:32-43

1. A GREAT MIRACLE: Healing the body
ACTS 9:32-35
2. A GREATER MIRACLE: Raising the dead
ACTS 9:36-43
3. THE GREATEST MIRACLE: is next in ACTS 10-
Salvation in the life of Cornelius