



- ❖ Look up the term for “took/carried [Philip] away” (8:39). What does it mean?
<https://biblehub.com/greek/726.htm> <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/acts/8-39.htm>
- There are different opinions on what happened to Philip in 8:39. Some commentators are hesitant to assume a miraculous teleportation, while others claim Philip was in fact transported by the Spirit of the Lord to a new location. Either way, the primary point of the text is that he continued his evangelistic ministry and preached all the way to Caesarea.
- Regardless of how exactly Philip left the scene, the Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Luke doesn't tell us what happened next in the man's life. Perhaps he went back to Ethiopia and shared the gospel with those in the Ethiopian court and palace. Or maybe God used him in a different way. One thing is certain: He was filled with joy. God met him on a desert road, and he would never be the same.
- ❖ Why do you think Luke emphasizes that the Ethiopian eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” instead of telling us what he did next? What does this teach us about the evidence of encountering Christ?
- ❖ How does the possibility that the Ethiopian eunuch carried the gospel back to Ethiopia challenge our understanding of how God uses ordinary believers after encountering Christ?

Acts 9:1-9-Saul's Conversion

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² 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. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. **6** "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. **8** 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. **9** For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

- Review 9:1-9.
- Chapter 9 starts out with a stark shift in tone: “But Saul, still breathing threats...” Even though the gospel was preached to the Samaritans, Luke reminds us there was still a man adamant to stop this good news. Saul wanted to find and punish anyone associated with the Way, a name used to describe believers before they were called Christians.
- ❖ Reread 8:3 and 9:1. What actions did Saul take in each of these verses?
- Damascus was about 130 miles from Jerusalem. This was not a quick day trip. Consumed by his mission, Saul was determined to go to any length to confront what he saw as a threat to Judaism. God in His sovereignty, had other plans. He stopped Saul in his tracks on the road to Damascus.
- ❖ What did Saul **see, hear, touch, and taste**? (include verse references)
- Jesus made two things clear to Saul in this encounter. First, He directly associated Himself with the people Saul was persecuting. What was done to a follower of the Way was done to Jesus.
- ❖ How does this statement change the way we view actions toward others in the body of Christ?
- Second, He had another plan for Saul’s life. And it started with a simple command “Now get up and go into the city.” Saul obeyed and spent the next three days fasting and waiting.

Discussion Questions and Personal Applications – Acts 9:1-9

- ❖ Why is Saul's transformation such a powerful example for Christians?
- ❖ How does this inspire hope for people who feel far from God?
- ❖ What “blind spots” in your own life might God be asking you to see?
- ❖ How can you respond if God confronts you about actions or attitudes that hurt others?
- ❖ Saul had to be led by others because he couldn't see. Are there times when you need to trust God's guidance or the help of others because you can't see the whole path?