

ACTS



Acts 9:20-22

20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Review 9:20-22.

- Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus was miraculous and life changing. He had been deeply steeped in Jewish religion and traditions, zealous for the law, and a persecutor of Christians. Yet, in a single moment, God's power radically transformed his mind, heart, and mission.
- Immediately after regaining his sight and being filled with the Spirit, Saul begins preaching boldly that Jesus is the Son of God, astonishing those who knew his past.
- This transformation demonstrates that an encounter with Christ can overcome lifelong conditioning, cultural background, and personal bias, and can turn a former enemy into a powerful witness for God. Saul's life is now fully redirected by divine power, showing that no one is beyond the reach of God's redeeming work.
- ❖ If God were to confront you like He did Saul, what changes might He ask you to make in your life?

Acts 9:23-25

²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Review 9:23-25.

- Even after his conversion, Saul faced immediate danger because of his bold faith. This shows that following Christ can bring real challenges.
- Saul's escape demonstrates how God works through people and creative solutions to preserve His plans.
- The believers risked their own safety to help Saul, highlighting the importance of courage, love, and support within the Christian community.
- ❖ Why do you think Saul faced such immediate danger after his conversion?

Acts 9:26-31

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Review 9:26-31.

- Saul returned to Jerusalem as a fugitive fleeing persecution, and he wanted to join the believers in the city. But they were afraid.
- ❖ Why were the believers afraid?
- Up to this point, God had used Ananias and the disciples in Damascus to help Saul. Here, God brought *Barnabas*, who assured the believers in Jerusalem that Saul's story was true. Despite being persecuted for his preaching in Damascus, Saul preached boldly in the synagogues in Jerusalem. Once again, opposition arose and Saul had to flee, this time to Tarsus.
- ❖ Why did the believers listen to Barnabas about Saul?
- ❖ Fill in the blanks to complete 9:31. What stands out to you in this summary verse?

“Then the church throughout _____, _____ and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was _____. Living in the _____ and encouraged _____, it _____.”

Acts 9:32-35

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Review 9:32-35.

- Peter makes it clear that the healing comes from Jesus, not himself.
- The miracle demonstrates Christ's continued work through His apostles.
- Aeneas responds right away, showing faith and trust. One healing leads many people to believe in the Lord. God uses miracles to confirm the message of the gospel.
- ❖ Why did Peter clearly point to Jesus as the healer?
- ❖ What stands out to you about Aeneas' immediate healing and response?
- ❖ How can God use visible change in a person's life to influence others toward faith?
- ❖ Who else in Acts received immediate healing similar to Aeneas?
- ❖ Who in the gospels received immediate healings?