

## “Saul’s Transformed Life”

Acts 9:19-31

August 24, 2025

Saul provides more detail of this account in Galatians 1:18—2:1.

Two themes concerning Saul’s life transformation in this passage: (1) Saul inherits the family of God; and (2) Saul displays the fruit of repentance by boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God and the Christ.

Acts 9:19-22

[19b] For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. [20] And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” [21] And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” [22] But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Whether we are a new or seasoned believer, we need to lean into community

Saul *immediately* proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God; Saul confounded the Jews by proving that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 9:20, 22).

Acts 9:23-25

[23] When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, [24] but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, [25] but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Saul already has disciples.

1 Corinthians 11:1: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

Saul is intentional with discipleship. Do we have the same disposition?

Acts 9:26-28

[26] And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. [28] So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

Hard to see restoration in moments like these, but it is possible through the power of Jesus.

Acts 9:29-30

[29] And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. [30] And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Saul is faithful no matter the circumstance.

### Philippians 4:11-13

[11] Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. [12] I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13] I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### Acts 9:31

[31] So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Saul is not the main character in Acts 9—he's part of a supporting cast to Jesus and the Holy Spirit in this chapter.

### Application Points

- May our lives be and continue to be transformed by the work of Jesus.
- May we be empowered by the Spirit and boldly proclaiming Jesus as God and Christ in all circumstances.
- May we lean into community and not away from it.
- May we trust in the calling and timing of God for our lives.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- How do you see the fruit of Saul's repentance in this passage? Do you have any experiences that help you relate to Saul?
- What do you think it was like for Saul to go from persecuting Christians to now being persecuted himself?
- What are some excuses Saul might have had to not pursue community with the disciples? What are some excuses we might have today and how might we respond to those?
- The church experiences restoration and unity even in the midst of difficult situations. What impacts you with the unity found between Saul and the disciples? How do we practically work through difficult restoration moments today.
- Why is it shocking that Saul had disciples so quickly? Do you believe that everyone is called to and capable of making disciples? What would that look like in your life?
- Read Philippians 4:11-13. How do we see the application of this passage in the life of Saul in the passage this week? What would it look like for us to display the same faithfulness, contentment, and strengthening in our daily lives?
- What does it mean for the church to experience peace and be built up? What would that look like in our church? How might we be a part of that growth?
- Why does the church need both "the fear of the Lord" and "the comfort of the Holy Spirit" (v. 31)? Which of these do you think we walk in more as a church? How can we grow in the other?
- How can your Life Group help you apply this section of Scripture to your life this week?