



24 April 2024
12:00 Noon



Zoom Link: <https://beulahbaptist-org.zoom.us/j/87983849463?pwd=K0VpazFiakF1U2RDRW9WNzc5T0w4dz09>
Meeting ID: 879 8384 9463 Password: 462964
One tap mobile +1(470) 250-9358,, 87983849463# US (Atlanta)

Lesson #12 The Holy Spirit shows the Power of Conversion

Scripture: Acts 9:1 – 31

Emphasis: Acts 9:3 – 5

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.:”

Subject: And the Lord said, I am Jesus

Introduction: In Acts Chapter 4, Peter declared that Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Saul the Persecutor had an encounter with Jesus on the Road to Damascus that not only change his life personally, but also helped change the landscape of Witnessing to the Uttermost Parts of the World. Christ Jesus not only Saved Saul, but also Called him to a life of Preaching and Teaching the Gospel to the Jews, Gentiles and Kings. Jesus Converted Saul from Persecutor to Preacher and from an Enemy to a Slave of the Gospel. The Gospel is very clear, Jesus was Crucified, Died for our sins, was Buried, has Risen from the Dead, and is Seated on the Right Hand of the Father in Heaven.

Our Lesson today has Facts, Realities, and Truths

Background: In this Twelveth Lesson of Galatians, we will continue our study in the Book of Acts of the Apostles in Chapter 9. Saul was Enemy #1 to the Church and its Believers. Saul was one to be feared because of his vicious pursuit to destroy anyone associated with the followers of Christ Jesus. Saul not only had permission to lockup any follower, but he also had the determination to destroy the Church at any cost.

Lesson Topic #1 Acts 9:1 – 9

“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.”

- The Importance of Conversion of the Enemy
 - Fact #1 Permission and Passion could be Serious
 - Saul was a very Serious Threat to the Believers, but not to God
 - Saul had Passion and was Zealous for what he believed was right
 - Passion directed with the Wrong set Facts is Dangerous
 - Fact #2 Jesus met Saul on his Road to Damascus (what was your road?)
 - Saul could not ignore or argue with Light or the Voice
 - At some point and time, Every Knee Shall Bow and Confess Jesus
 - The Best Encounter with Jesus will always start with Recognition
 - Fact #3 The Surrender from Enemy to Slave
 - You should stop when Jesus tells you are only hurting Yourself
 - Surrendering to Jesus is a Relief from your will to His Will
 - Saul became Blind when he actually started Seeing for first Time

Lesson Topic #2 Acts 9:10 – 17

“And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to

bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”

- Obeying Jesus will certainly take you out of your Comfort Zone
 - Realities #1 Saul and People like him are not a Threat to Jesus
 - Strict Obedience to Jesus is certainly Scary Sometimes
 - The Lord’s Assignments given to us are for His Kingdom
 - We may not get as much information as Ananias did, but the Assignment is just as important
 - Jesus called Ananias to this Assignment, but Ananias made himself available when he said “behold, I am here Lord”
 - If you want to be used by Jesus, you must make yourself Available
 - Realities #2 The Lord already knows who the Enemy is
 - Ananias, just like us, tried to explain to Jesus who Saul really is
 - Ananias fears were Justified, but baseless to an all Powerful Jesus
 - Saul was not a Threat because he was Blind, but he was Harmless because he can now See through the Power of the Holy Spirit
 - Realities #3 Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel for Jesus
 - Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel to Preach to the Gentiles
 - Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel to Preach to the Jews
 - Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel to Preach to the Kings
 - Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel who will be full of Faith and filled with the Holy Spirit to do Great things in Jesus name
 - Do it because he is a Chosen Vessel who will Write the majority of the New Testament and to help record Doctrine for the new Church

Lesson Topic #3 Acts 9:18 – 31

“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. 20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul

increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. 23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. 25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.”

- When your Eyes are Opened
 - Truths #1 When One Door Closes, then God will Open a New Door
 - Saul was no longer a Blind Persecutor, but a Seeing Preacher
 - Saul will no longer be welcome in Jerusalem, but his Father in Heaven will have Mansion waiting for him to Possess
 - Saul was vigorously working hard to impress the Sanhedrin Council for high Position, but now he was a Slave of the Gospel
 - Truths #2 Saul Preached Jesus
 - Saul reversed his intentions in the Synagogues from trying to catch and destroy the Jews who followed Christ to leading them to Christ
 - Even when we make a Drastic Change for the Better, people will remember you for your worst, but Jesus is still able to use us
 - People questioned Saul’s past, but they believe what he Preached
 - Truths #3 Reaping and Sowing is in Effect
 - The same Saul who intended to destroy the new Believers was now the Hunted instead of being the Hunter
 - Saul was Qualified to know to what extent that his life would be in Danger for Preaching Jesus, but he Accepted the Risk for Jesus
 - Hate is a strong Motivator to do wrong, but Christ is Love and right

“And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”

Conclusion: Do you have a Barnabas to Vouch for you and your Character?

Exercise our **Faith** and **Act** on our **Faith** accordingly. The Bible says that we are to be **Doers** of God’s **Word** and not just **Hearers** only.

Let us Pray
Acknowledgements