

Apprehended by Grace

Acts 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.

Who Paul/Saul was

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Born AD 4 -Died AD 66

- Saul =Desired
- Paul= Roman name Little
- Born - an Israelite—in Tarsus of Cilicia
- Roman citizen by birth but by money 22:28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was *free* born.
- At the school of Gamaliel, Jerusalem
- Pharisee
- He will write 13-14 books in NT AD 49-AD 65

1. Breathing out- threatenings and slaughter were so to speak the element from which he drew his breath
2. Threatening- To charge or enjoin with menace, or with implied rebuke; or to charge strictly. To menace by action; to present the appearance of coming evil; as, rolling billows *threaten* to overwhelm us.

Act 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: **G547** and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word

3- slaughter against the disciples of the Lord- Every Other place when interpreted in the scriptures it is always murder.

1 Tim 1: 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Who he Meet

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light from heaven -In Acts 22:6 Paul revealed that this happened at mid-day, when the sun shines at its brightest. Yet Paul said that this light was brighter than the sun (Acts 26:13).

Called Twice

Examples of when God calls a person's name twice:

- **Abraham**: \"Abraham, Abraham!\" (Genesis 22:11). Isaac Binding
- **Jacob**: \"Jacob, Jacob!\" (Genesis 46:2). To go to Egypt
- **Moses**: \"Moses, Moses!\" (Exodus 3:4). From the Bush
- **Samuel**: \"Samuel, Samuel!\" (1 Samuel 3:10). Discerning the voice of God

- **Martha**: \"Martha, Martha!\" (Luke 10:41). Martha is worried about the wrong thing
- **Simon Peter**: \"Simon, Simon!\" (Luke 22:31) Jesus tells Peter that even he will deny the Lord, but that after he repents, he will strengthen the other believers.
- **Saul (Paul)**: \"Saul, Saul!\" (Acts 9:4).

As you can see, when God called the name of these people twice, He was about to do something dramatic in their lives and in the story of redemption. God is relational, speaking to get our attention and address our hearts. *Are you listening for God to call your name? If He called it twice, what do you think He would be about to do in your life?*

why persecutest thou me- Saul thought that he was doing the work of God. But really he was persecuting God.

The Bible tells us all who live godly will suffer persecution. This means to the believer that we do not suffer alone but Jesus is there with us enduring the suffering.

Who art thou, Lord?

The greatest question we could ask who are you you Lord?

Jesus asked his disciples

Matt 16: ¹³⁻¹⁹ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Lord

Philp 2:5-11 ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

You are fighting the wrong battle

And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks

Acts 5:38-39 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: [39] but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

What he became

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.

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.

Most everyone has questions they would like to ask God. A Gallup Survey from the 1990s asked people to choose three questions they would most like to ask God. The top five responses were:

- “Will there ever be lasting world peace?”
- “How can I be a better person?”
- “What does the future hold for my family and me?”
- “Will there ever be a cure for all diseases?”
- “Why is there suffering in the world?”

Who are You, Lord? We must ask this question with a humble heart, and ask it to God. Jesus showed us exactly who God is, and He can answer this question. Paul spent the rest of his life wanting to know more completely the answer to this question

Are you asking that same question Lord what will you have me to do?

What do You want me to do? Few dare to really ask God this question, but when we ask it, we must ask it with submission and determined obedience.

Reaction to glory

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- Speechless
- hearing but not understanding
- knocked down but not knocked out
- eyes open but saw no man
- had to be LED by the hand

Why did the Lord Jesus save Saul/ Paul?

Ge 6: 8But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

1 Cor 15 : Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ **But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

Grace is the ability to keep walking with God until we get it.

(Philippians 3: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, **if that I may apprehend that for which also I am**

apprehended of Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.