

## From Persecutor to Apostle

- ✧ Saul Stays in Damascus: v.19b – He spent some days with the disciples.
- ✧ Saul Preaches Christ: vv.20-22 – That Jesus is the Son of God!
  - ✧ The verb rendered 'proved' (Gk. οὐβιβάζω) means literally 'placing together' — here placing the OT promises alongside their fulfillment and hence 'proving' that Jesus was the one to whom they pointed. (cf. 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23)."<sup>1</sup>
- ✧ Saul The Persecutor Is Now An Apostle: See 1 Timothy 1:12-17

## God Is Calling – Are You Answering?

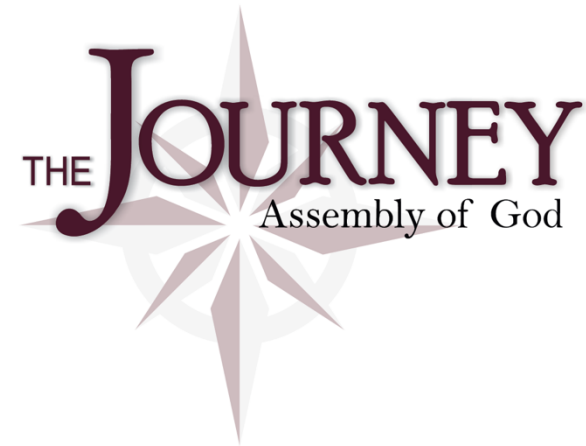


### ✧ MY NEXT STEPS TODAY...

- ☐ Respond to this Encounter With Jesus Today ~ He is confronting you, convicting you, inviting you into a relationship with Him – Answer the knock on your heart's door!
- ☐ Make a Faith Decision ~ Prayerfully place my faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, by recognizing Him as my personal Lord and Savior and by asking and receiving the forgiveness of my sins.
- ☐ Be Baptized In Water & In The Holy Spirit ~ This command and gift from God is for every believer!
- ☐ Commit to the Great Commission of Christ ~ To be a witness for the Lord in every place and to everyone the Lord sends you!

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Bruce, F.F., *The Book of Acts (The New International Commentary on the New Testament)*, (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI, 1988) p.191 and Footnote #50.



## MESSAGE GUIDE

*Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer*  
*Sunday: October 26, 2025*



# Message Guide

Date: October 26, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

Today's Message:

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

*"The Damascus Road Experience – The Persecutor Encounters Jesus"*

Text: Acts 9:1-22



## ***"The Damascus Road Experience"***

### **A Persecutor Encounters Jesus!**

- ✧ A dramatic life-changing story that is one-of-a-kind!
- ✧ It is recorded by Luke three times in the Book of Acts (Acts 9:1-19; 22:3-21; 26:4-23).

### **The Context of Acts 9 – Persecution, Threats & Murder!**

- ✧ Acts 8:1-4 – The Early Setting of the Persecution.
- ✧ Acts 9:1-2 – Saul is Still Breathing Threats and Murder!
  - ↳ Note Acts 26:10-11 – Saul cast his vote for Christians' executions!
  - ↳ He acquired letters of authority to arrest those who were of the Way (See John 14:6; Acts 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22; 18:25-26).

### **The Damascus Road Experience**

- ✧ Acts 9:3-4 – Saul encounters a blinding light from heaven and a voice speaking to him.
  - ↳ v.4b – **"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"**



✧ Saul Responds: v.5 – "Who are You, Lord?"

✧ Jesus Replies: v.6a – "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

✧ The Lord Instructs Saul: v.6b – "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

↳ Acts 26:16-18 – Contains a fuller account of what Jesus said.

↳ This was a divine commission by Jesus Christ Himself (Gal. 1:1, 11-12, 16).

✧ Saul's Companions: v.7 – Scared speechless! (See also Acts 22:9)

✧ Saul is Blinded: vv.8-9 – "Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one... and was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank."

↳ See also Acts 26:11 and Acts 9:18!



### **The Divine Assignment of Ananias**

✧ Divine Assignments: God often works on two people simultaneously!

✧ God's Messenger: vv.10-11 – God calls to Ananias in a vision.

<sup>11</sup> "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. <sup>12</sup> And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

✧ Ananias is Apprehensive: vv.13-14 – He had heard of Saul's persecution!

✧ God's Divine Assurance: vv.15-16 – Saul is a chosen vessel of God.

✧ Ananias Visits Saul: vv.17-19 – "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may **receive your sight** and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**"

↳ v.18 – Saul is immediately healed!

↳ v.19a – Saul is baptized in water & the Spirit!





# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*For The Week of Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2025*

## SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

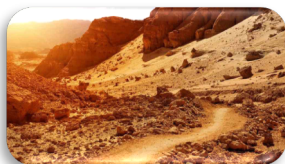
*"The Damascus Road Experience – The Persecutor Encounters Jesus"*

Acts 9:1-22

### ***"The Damascus Road Experience"***

#### **A Persecutor Encounters Jesus!**

- 1) Describe the worst sinner you've ever met... what were they like?
- 2) Do you think this person compared to Saul in Acts 9 in any way?



#### **The Context of Acts 9 – Persecution, Threats & Murder!**

- 1) Describe the worse sinner you ever met who became a believer and had their life completely turned around... how did that happen?
- 2) Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 for more details about what Saul was like, as well as Acts 9:1-2 and 26:10-11. Does it seem implausible that Saul would become a believer in Jesus Christ?

#### **The Damascus Road Experience**

- 1) Read these three passages recorded by Luke in the Book of Acts regarding the account of Paul's conversion experience (Acts 9:1-19; 22:3-21; 26:4-23). Jot down any details you find important as you compare the various accounts.
- 2) Describe what you think was going through Saul's mind after this experience?



## **The Divine Assignment of Ananias**

- 1) How would you have felt if you had been Ananias and required to go to Saul and speak to him about Jesus? (Acts 9:10-16)
- 2) What has been your "most difficult assignment" given to you by the Lord in terms of sharing your faith with someone?
- 3) Why is our obedience to God's sending so critical to the plan of God?
- 4) What kind of relationship do you think Saul and Ananias had after this encounter with one another?



## **From Persecutor to Apostle**

- 1) Have you ever had an experience where someone claimed to be a Christian, but you just didn't trust them, and you questioned their motives and sincerity? Share some details of that experience? Were you right in your suspicions? How did it turn out?
- 2) What was the evidence that Saul's conversion was legitimate and that he truly was dedicated to the Lord and to The Way? (Read Acts 9:20-22)

## **God Is Calling – Are You Answering?**

