

Changed Forever

How did the Apostle Paul go from a killer of Christians to a convert to Christ? The amazing story of Paul's conversion gives us hope that no matter where we stand in life, God can change us and use us powerfully to change the lives of others as well.

I. Wake Up Call (Acts 9.1-9)

- A. v.1-2 Paul is on a mission and he is absolutely dedicated to it.
 - 1. v.1 Breathing _____ and _____.
- B. v.3-5 "Who are you, Lord?"
 - 1. v.5 Encountering the real Jesus. "...whom _____ are persecuting."
 - 2. v.6 "You will be told what to do..." His trajectory is about to change.
- C. v.7-9 Paul is shaken and humbled.
 - 1. The powerful persecutor was shown who he really was.
 - 2. v.9 He was fasting. Seeking. "He neither ate nor drank."

II. "You Want Me to Do What?" Switch perspectives to Ananias. (Acts 9.10-16)

- A. Careful What You Wish For
 - 1. v.10 "_____ I am." Reminiscent of Isaiah.
 - 2. v.13-14 "But not for that..."
- B. Obey Anyway
 - 1. v.15 "He is my _____ instrument."
 - 2. v.16 "He will suffer for my sake."
 - 3. v.17 Ananias recognized that he was being _____ by Jesus.

III. From a Killer to a Convert Acts 9.18-22

- A. Paul was totally restored. This is what God does.
 - 1. v.18a He regained his _____. A new perspective.
 - 2. v.18b He was _____.
 - a) Acts 22.16 this was the moment that his sins were washed away.
 - 3. v.19 He broke his fast. He found the answer he was looking for.
- B. v.20 Paul immediately began preaching _____.

IV. Finding Healing the Way Paul Did

- A. Don't blame your circumstances. "What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel" (Philippians 1.12).
- B. Let your mistakes fuel your faith. "I _____ convinced that I ought to do many things opposing the name of Jesus" (Acts 26.9).
- C. Trust in the power of the gospel. Be unashamed in it. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation" (Romans 1.16).

Paul was very religious—but without Jesus, he was dead. He learned that on the road to Damascus and his life changed forever. Have you had that life-change? Are you ready to do what Paul did and use the hand you've been dealt to glorify him?