# Acts 9:19-31

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## The Pressure To Accept

- **1. Accept The Christ**
  - **Acts 9:20&22b**, "Immediately [Paul] began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, '**He is the Son of God**'…and proving that this Jesus **is the Christ**."
  - **Matthew 26:63-64**, The high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are **the Christ, the Son of God**." Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter **you will see the Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- **2. Accept The Change**
  - **Acts 9:21**, "All those hearing him continued to be amazed, saying, 'Is this not he who in Jerusalem **destroyed those** who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of **bringing them bound** before the chief priests?'"
  - **2 Corinthians 5:16**, "Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet **now we know Him in this way no longer**."
- **3. Accept The Challenges**
  - **Acts 9:23-25**, "[The Jews] were also watching the gates day and night so that they might **put him to death**; but **his disciples took him** by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket."
  - **1 Peter 4:12&16,** "Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you…but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God **in this name**."
  - **Acts 9:26**, "When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were **all afraid of him**, not believing that he was a disciple."
  - **Psalm 27:10**, "If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord **will take me up**."
- **4. Accept The Charity**

- **Acts 9:27**, “But Barnabas **took hold of him and brought him** to the apostles and **described to them** how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and **how at Damascus** he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.”
- **Matthew 25:40**, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these **brothers of Mine**, even the least of them, **you did it to Me**.”

- **5. Accept The Church**
  - **Acts 9:31**, “So the church **enjoyed peace**, being **built up**; and going on **in the fear of the Lord** and **in the comfort** of the Holy Spirit, it **continued to increase**.”
  - **Ephesians 5:25-26**, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself up for her**, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water **with the word**, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be **holy and blameless**.”
  - **Who or what do I need to accept this week?**