

ACTS 9

Main Point: Transformation

“Who are you, Lord...”
Acts 9:5

Digging Deeper

Who Are You, Lord!?

Saul was a “Hebrew of Hebrews” (Philippians 3:4–6) Proud of his Jewish heritage. He was also a respected pharisee having done his training under Gamaliel, a famous teacher of Israel. So he was a very well-educated Jew. He knew the scriptures well but allowed his own interpretation of scripture to taint his view of who the Messiah would be, look like, act like, and even teach like. He did not yet have the spirit to guide his understanding of scripture. He had heard the Gospel, yet he counted it as total blasphemy. To the point of leading the charge to eradicate the way. But on the road to Damascus, his eyes were opened! While physically blind, (temporarily) he was spiritually blind no more! He encountered Jesus Face to face and now had a clear understanding of all of the old testament prophesy that points to Christ, as evidenced by his writings in the new testament. His rock bottom moment may have looked different than yours, but nonetheless, imagine the Lord of Heaven's Armies, whom you say you love and follow coming to you and asking ‘Why are you making Him your enemy?’ Imagine the heartache! Although he didn't hit rock bottom with a relationship, money, or a job, he hit a spiritual rock bottom that caused him to totally transform his life!

Read through Acts 9:1-19 and point out where we see each of these points in Saul's conversion. Discuss why they are important

1. **Faith Comes By Hearing**
2. **Right Relationship with Christ**
3. **Obedience**
4. **Dependence on God**

Discussion Questions

1. Who were you before Christ? What did you put your identity in? (Hobbies, work, clothing, fitness, team identity?)
2. Faith comes by hearing. Where or when did you first hear the Gospel? Did you understand or believe it?
3. Saul encountered Christ in a surprising way. As the Light shone around him, he hit his knees in surrender. In what way did Christ surprise you? What was your rock bottom or surrender event like?
4. Saul entered a “Proper Relationship” with Jesus, Submitting to His Lordship on the road to Damascus. What does the Lordship of Christ mean to you? B. How can we become more dependent on God?
5. Ananias was hesitant to trust that Saul had changed. Why do we often hold the “Pauls” in our lives accountable for their “Saul” or ‘old man’? Who can we forgive today for this?