



# Acts

Amplifying Hope | October 8, 2023

**Sermon:** Journey to the Light

**Scripture:** Acts 9:1-22, 31

**Summary:** Jesus ascended into heaven as the disciples watched (Acts 1:9-10). Saul at the same time was being trained at the feet of Gamaliel. He was becoming a Pharisee among Pharisees. We are not told where he was during the crucifixion. We are not told how Saul responded to the resurrection news. We do know how he responded to the expansion of the way. He was the lead persecutor of the church. He was arresting and imprisoning and even having followers of Jesus beaten and in at least one instance killed! He was a bad dude in the eyes of anyone connected to the young church (Acts 22:3-5). Everyone but the Apostles fled Jerusalem because of the persecution (Acts 8:1). Saul obtained official documents and headed to Damascus in search of those who had fled Jerusalem. On the way, he encountered the very one he was persecuting. The living Christ appeared to him in a bright light. He was physically made blind and only he heard the voice of Jesus! There are now and always have been those who rejected God and even persecute those who believe in Him. How are we to respond to those who persecute?

## 1. There will always be those who reject God's authority and persecute those who serve Him.

### Acts 9:1-2

[1] But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest [2] and asked him for letters to the synagogues at

Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

## **2. Jesus came to Saul one on one!**

### **Acts 9:3-9**

[3] Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. [4] And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" [5] And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [6] But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [7] The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. [8] Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. [9] And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

## **3. The prompting of the Holy Spirit takes precedent over our concerns.**

### **Acts 9:10-16**

[10] Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." [11] And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. [14] And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." [15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. [16] For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

## **4. Who's your one?**

### **Acts 9:17-19**

[17] So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [18] And immediately something like scales fell from his

eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; [19] and taking food, he was strengthened.

## 5. When the church is witnessing to Jesus there is peace and growth.

### Acts 9:31

[31] So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

## Life Application Questions

1. READ Acts 9:1-9
2. What stands out about Saul and his encounter with Jesus?
3. READ Acts 9:10-22
4. What stands out about Ananias and his encounter with Jesus?
5. Which one do you identify with more? In what ways?
6. Who is your one? Visit [www.whosyourone.com](http://www.whosyourone.com) and/or You Version's 40 Day Who's Your One Devotional
7. **PRAY:** Ask the Lord to prompt you to witness to at least one person in 40 days!