

Paul: A Radically Changed Servant of Christ

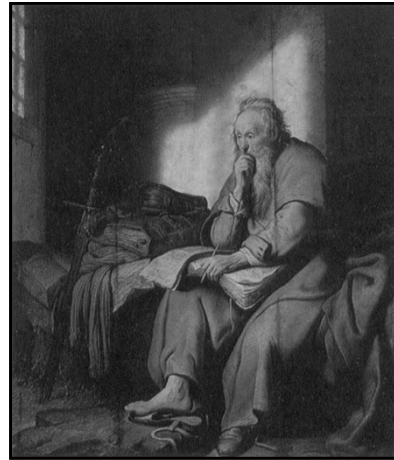
Acts 9:19-31

Interview with an Apostle.

Paul, tell us about life as a servant to God (2Co 11:23f).

But how did this all start, how did you begin your great missionary career? (Acts 9).

Why did you stick it out? (Acts 9:20, 22).



Main Idea: Knowing Jesus as savior, gives us strength to serve him; so, seek to know Jesus better and serve him boldly.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,
²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching
the gates day and night in order to kill him, ²⁵ but his disciples
took him by night and let him down through an opening in
the wall, lowering him in a basket. ²⁶ And when he had come
to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they
were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a
disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the
apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen
the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had
preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 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.

Main Idea: Knowing Jesus as savior, gives us strength to serve him; so, seek to know Jesus better and serve him boldly.

Radically Changed Servant of Christ

1. Know Jesus as the son of God (vv. 19-21).
2. Proclaim Jesus as the son of God (vv. 22-25).
3. Get a little help from your friends (vv. 26-30).
4. Fear God, trust the Spirit, expect growth (v. 31).

1. Know Jesus as the son of God (vv. 19-22).

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

The Jews searched for Messiah.
Paul proclaims: Jesus is *that* guy.

Jesus. Son of God. Messiah.

- i. Son of God (Ex 4:22-23; 2 Sam 7:12-14; Psalm 2; 72; 89).
- ii. The Son died for us (Isa 53; cf. Rom 8:32).
- iii. The anointed King represents his people (Rom 8:33-34).

2. Proclaim Jesus as the son of God (vv. 20-25).

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4 Attributes of Paul's Proclamation.

- i. Tell people about Jesus (v. 20).
- ii. Depend on Spiritual Strength (v. 22a).
- iii. Confound the Jews (v. 22b).
- iv. Focus on Christ (v. 22c).

You can witness like Paul.

- i. Begin witnessing immediately (v. 20).
- ii. Focus on God's glory (not my comfort).
- iii. Running away *is* an option (v. 25).

3. Get a little help from your friends (vv. 26-30).

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Bold Gospel Proclamation
(vv. 20, 22, 28).

Church Family
(vv. 25, 26, 30).

Encouragement
(v. 27; Acts 4:36)

3 Ways to Foster Gospel Proclamation

- i. Step out of your comfort zone (v. 27).
- ii. Join the fellowship of believers (vv. 26, 30).
- iii. Stand by your (church) family (v. 30).

4. Fear God, trust the Spirit, expect growth (v. 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.

What can you do to know Jesus better
or serve him more boldly?