



Evidence of a Transformed Life
Acts 9:10-30
September 4, 2016

Introduction:

Today, I pose an age-old question; can people really change? If you are a jerk as a young person, will you remain a jerk as an old person? On the other hand, can a person really change?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Elbert Hubbard:

"If your religion does not change you, then you should change your religion."

I. The Establishment of Saul's Conversion.

A. Ananias Received an Assignment from God.

Acts 9:10-12 (NKJV) Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹²And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

B. Ananias's Recognizable Anxiety from the Assignment.

1. His anxiety is expressed.

Acts 9:13-14 (NKJV) Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

2. His anxiety is explained.

a. Saul was a chosen vessel to serve Jesus.

Acts 9:15 (NKJV) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel."

b. Saul was a chosen vessel to suffer for Jesus.

Acts 9:16 (NKJV) For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.

II. The Effects of Saul's Conversion.

A. Saul Discovered a New Friend.

Acts 9:17 (NKJV) And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

B. Saul Discovered a New Family.

Acts 9:18 (NKJV) Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

C. Saul Discovered a New Fellowship.

Acts 9:19 (NKJV) So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

D. Saul Discovered a New Faith.

Acts 9:20-22 (NKJV) Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. ²¹Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

E. Saul Discovered a New Fight.

Acts 9:23-25 (NKJV) Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. ²⁴But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. ²⁵Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

F. Saul Discovered Another New Friend.

Acts 9:26-27 (NKJV) And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

G. Saul Discovered A New Foe.

Acts 9:28-30 (NKJV) So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. ²⁹And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. ³⁰When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.