

## Acts 26:12-18 “The Power of the Spirit in Receiving Christ” 3.15.15

Intro.

**Subject: Paul’s Conversion Experience**

**Object: Receive Christ and share your conversion experience**

**Context:** Paul’s trial before King Agrippa and Governor Festus. Every testimony has 3 key elements: what it used to be like (last week), how you received Christ (today), and how your life and mission has been changed in Christ (next week)

### **A. The Living Christ [12-15] The reality of the resurrection**

12“While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*’ 15So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

**1. Hear God’s call [12-14]** Paul going to Damascus to continue his persecution of the church [12]. Light brighter than the sun: glory of God [13]. Voice spoke to Paul in Hebrew (understood by Paul) [14]

#### **2. Discover that Jesus truly is alive [14-15]**

**v.14 Why are you persecuting Me?** Jesus associates the church with himself

**v.15 Who are You, Lord?** Arguably the most important question any of us will consider. Is Jesus merely an enlightened person, a sage, a philosopher, a wise teacher, a prophet of God, or is He something more?

#### **a. The resurrection proves that Jesus is the Christ [The Messiah]**

**v.15 And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**

**b.** The significance of the resurrection will be considered below

**? How did you come to believe that Jesus is truly alive (resurrected)?**

### **B. The Leading of Christ’s Spirit [14] *It is hard for you to kick against the goads:***

**note: goads:** pointed sticks used to direct & motivate ox pulling a plow;

**note:** conviction of the HS re Stephen’s words, witness, and martyrdom [Ac.7]

#### **1. The Spirit brings conviction of man’s sin, God’s righteousness and Judgment**

**John 16:8-11**And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**a. The only unforgiveable sin is rejecting the work of the Spirit in leading you to Christ [Matt. 12:31] [i.e. Rejecting Christ as Savior and Lord]**

**? How did the Holy Spirit lead you to Jesus?**

## C. The Lordship of Christ [16-18]

**1. Promise to make you something different [16]** But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you: a **minister** (servant), and a **witness** (testify) to what he saw & what would be revealed. God enables us to become what He has called us to be.

a. **Purpose:** called to bear witness of our experiences with Jesus leading to a transformed life [Ac.1:8, 9:15]

17 I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you:

b. **Promise to protect [17]** God will deliver *from* and *to*

2. **Perception [18]** to open their eyes *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light

3. **Power [18]** and *from* the power of Satan to God,

4. **Peace/Purity [18]** that they may receive forgiveness of sins

5. **Possession/Provision** and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

3x in Acts we read the account of Paul's conversion story (testimony). Cf. limited space in scrolls vs. impact of sharing your story as a tool for evangelism.

1Tim. 1:12-16

v.16-18

cf.

2. **Promise to Protect 17**

3. **Promised Purpose: 16,18**

4. **Promised Benefits 18**

a. know they are true because of the truth of the resurrection

b. rec'd by grace through faith by submitting to Christ as Lord

i. recognizes Jesus as Lord [15, 9:6]

ii. v.19 obeyed

iii. v.20 call to repent, turn to God and do works befitting repentance [NLT "prove they have changes by the good things they do"]

## Discussion Qs

1. How did you come to believe that Jesus is truly alive (resurrected)?

2. How did the Holy Spirit lead you to Jesus?