

# Conversions in Acts



## Lesson 3 – The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

### Reading Assignment: Acts 9:1-19; 22:3-16; 26:4-18; Galatians 1:13-17

<sup>1</sup>Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, <sup>2</sup>and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup>and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” <sup>5</sup>And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, <sup>6</sup>but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” <sup>7</sup>The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup>And the Lord *said* to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; <sup>16</sup>for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately there fell from his eyes some-thing like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and he took food and was strengthened. – Acts 9:1-19

<sup>3</sup>“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup>as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>“But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, <sup>7</sup>and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ <sup>8</sup>And I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’ <sup>9</sup>And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.’ <sup>11</sup>But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>“A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, *and* well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time I looked up at him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. <sup>15</sup>For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’ – Acts 22:3-16

### I. Saul’s Bio

- What do you know of Saul prior to his conversion?
- How did Saul view his rejection of Christ?  
I Timothy 1:13
- What actions did Saul take against Christians?


## II. The Road to Damascus

- Where was Saul going and for what purpose?
- What time of day did the events take place?
- What elements are included in this encounter? (Bright light, voice/sound, blindness)
- Who appeared to Saul?
- Why is this appearance important? qualified him to be an Apostle
- In Acts 26:14 Saul hears the Lord say to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”
  - What does “kicking against the goads” mean?
  - How is Saul “kicking against the goads”?
- Where was Saul instructed to go?
- What did Saul do there and for how long?

## III. Ananias

- What do we know of Ananias
- What is Ananias instructed to do and what is his reaction?
- How did Jesus describe the ministry of Saul to Ananias?

## IV. The Meeting

- What did Ananias do when he met Saul?
- What did Ananias reveal to Saul?
- What did Ananias instruct Saul to do?
- What did Saul do after he was baptized?