



EVIDENCE OF A CHANGED LIFE – ACTS 9:19B-31

GETTING STARTED

Can you remember when you first became a Christian? When you first put your faith in Jesus? Did it change the way that you look at the world? The way that you acted or talked to other people? Was there a time in your life when you learned something for the first time and it transformed you? When Saul encounters Jesus his life transformed radically and immediately. It was most likely a shock to many people who knew him beforehand, as a man who was trying to hurt the church is now proclaiming Jesus! And as we look at what his reaction is to encountering Jesus we see what it looks like to transform and grow in faith. Saul had a boldness to go and proclaim Jesus, even where it would be difficult and he relied on the support of others to help him as he continued to grow in the knowledge of who Jesus was and what he has done. Our calling and transformation might look different, but follows the same steps as we grow and transform more into the likeness of Jesus!

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 9:19B-31

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.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Read Galatians 1:15-19 as Paul tells of his own conversion story. How does Paul's account and Luke's fit together? How much time passed between vs 22 and 23? What was Paul doing during that time?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 11:30-33 and compare with this passage, how do they fit together? How did Paul view this moment in his life?

APPLY THE TEXT

3. Where have you seen the greatest evidence in your life that you have been transformed by Jesus? (If you don't remember a time before you were a Christian, share how you have seen God continue to transform your life.)
4. When God calls you to do something, how long does it usually take you to respond? What are the barriers that exist to your radical obedience to God's word?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.



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2. In light of Acts 9:19-31, pray that God would continue to transform your life and conform you more to the example of Jesus, willing to preach boldly and even suffer rebuke for the name of Christ.

