

Series: Refined  
Passage: Acts 9:1-22  
Sunday: February 11, 2024

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## Acts 9:1-22 (ESV)

### The Conversion of Saul

**9** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he 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 rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”** <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. 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, **“Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, 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 evil he has done 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 carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.** <sup>16</sup> **For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”** <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

### Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” <sup>21</sup> 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?” <sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

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1. Who was the most unlikely person you knew who became a Christian?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. Given what you know about Saul of Tarsus (before he followed Jesus) what do you think is his intention in going to Damascus? What emotions might be stirring inside him?

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3. In verses 8-9, we find out that Paul was blind after encountering Jesus. What might have been going through his mind while he sat in darkness for three days?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why was Ananias' assignment so daunting (verses 11-12)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Describe the change you see in Paul as described in verses 20-22. How would you like to see God's transforming power leave a lasting mark on your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Based on this passage, what was God's purpose in this refining moment for Paul? In what ways have you seen the good results of God's refinement in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How has this passage helped "REFINE" your faith?