



Acts Book Study Chapters 9-10
Sunday June 30, 2024

ACTS CHAPTER NINE

Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-9; Acts 22:6-16)

Saul was a Pharisee, schooled under Gamaliel. He was part of the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin. Saul was the one who stood over as witness to Stephen's death (Acts 7:58, Acts 8:1). Saul came from the city of Tarsus in the districts of Cilicia, which today would be in the southeastern side of modern-day Turkey.

At that time believers in Jesus were referred to as "the disciples" and people of "the Way" (Acts 9:1,2; Acts 19:23; Acts 24:14).

As Saul was making his journey from Jerusalem to Damascus, the Lord Jesus encounters him powerfully. He is blinded by the brightness of the light and stays this way for 3 days. He was led into the city of Damascus.

Even though he is physically blind, Saul has seen a vision that a man named Ananias would be coming to him and causing him to recover his sight (Acts 9:12).

A Disciple named Ananias (Acts 9:10-19)

It is amazing to consider that the Lord Jesus would speak to another disciple name Ananias and give him specific instructions to go to Saul and minister to him. He did not call an apostle to minister to Saul and declare God's call on Saul's life.

The Lord Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision. The Lord Jesus still speaks to us through visions – what we see with the eyes of our spirit.

Just as a point of interest, we have what is believed to be Ananias house in Damascus.

See pic: Ananias house

https://www.lifeintheholylnd.com/paul_in_damascus/

The Lord sent him to the place where Paul is on Straight street.

See pic: Street called Straight

https://www.lifeintheholylnd.com/paul_in_damascus/

Ananias referred to him as "brother Saul". Saul had been a believer now for three days.



Ananias, when he lays hands and prays for Saul, declares God's call on Saul's life. The call of God on Saul, that Ananias was declaring, was greater than what Ananias personally had. An important point here. God can use you to anoint and declare God's purposes over someone else, even greater than what you have personally experienced.

Consider carefully what Ananias declared and what happened:

- Receive your sight – Saul received his sight.
- Be filled with the Spirit – Saul was baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- Then he was baptized in water.

We once again see what we have earlier referred to as 'standard practice' in the life of the Early Church. When someone was saved, they were also prayed for to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and they were also baptized in water. Although the text does not state that Saul prayed in tongues – it is safe to suppose that he did based on other records in Acts. Also, later the apostle Paul himself stated "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Saul Preaches Christ At Damascus (Acts 9:20-22)

It is very possible that during the three days of physical blindness in Damascus, Saul would have gone through all of the Old Testament Scriptures (as we know it), and seen Jesus the Christ, as the fulfillment of whom the prophets had spoken of. He may have recounted Peter and John's testimony before the Jewish Council. He would have recollected Stephen's sermon. All of these things would have gone through his mind. And he was fully convinced, both by his own personal encounter with Jesus, through the "processing" that took place over these three days, and now through the experience when Ananias prayed for him – that Jesus is the Christ. He immediately started preaching Jesus at Damascus.

Saul given his knowledge and command of the Old Testament Scriptures could prove from the Scriptures to the Jews at Damascus that this Jesus is the Christ (Acts 9:19-22).

To Arabia, Damascus, And Jerusalem (Acts 9:23-25; Galatians 1:11-2:3)

The former persecutor had now become the persecuted. The Jews wanted to kill Saul. So, the disciples sent him out of the city, secretly lowering him over the city wall at night.

See pic: The Damascus city wall

https://www.lifeintheholyland.com/paul_in_damascus/



Between Acts 9:25 and Acts 9:26, there is a gap of about 3 years. Paul details this in Galatians 1:11-18.

Galatians 1:11-19

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

The three years that Paul mentions in Galatians 1:18 could have been spent in entirety or in part in Arabia. Bible scholars tell us that the region called Arabia in Galatians 1:17 should be associated with Arabia Petrea, or the kingdom of Nabatea. Paul mentions in **2 Corinthians 11:32–33**, that King Aretas tried to arrest him in Damascus. This refers to King Aretas IV, who ruled Nabatea from 9 B.C. to 40 A.D. With its capital at Petra, Nabatea (located in modern-day Jordan) flourished for several centuries and remained independent from Roman control during Paul's lifetime. Hence it is safe to conclude that Paul spent some time in Nabatea and must have continued preaching Jesus Christ there. This must have prompted king Aretas to arrest him.



<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Nabatea-map.jpg>

The Silent Years of Paul (Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21-24)

After about three years following his encounter with Jesus, Saul went to Jerusalem. Barnabas tried to introduce him to the disciples. He spent 15 days there, preaching boldly in the name of Jesus. Yet, no one except Peter and James met with him. The others were perhaps still suspicious of him and his story. The Jews at Jerusalem wanted to kill Saul. Recognizing this, the disciples at Jerusalem brought Saul safely to Caesarea, a sea-port town, so he could sail from there back to Tarsus, his hometown in the district of Cilicia.

Saul then spent the next perhaps 10 years in this area of Cilicia and Syria. Nothing much is known other than what Paul wrote in Galatians.

Galatians 1:20-24

20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God in me.

What we know is that Barnabas when he came to Antioch (in Syria) as mentioned in Acts 11:21-30, went and found Saul in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch. They stayed at



Antioch for about a year teaching the new believers. After this Barnabas and Saul went to Jerusalem, with aid to help the believers there. This is what Paul possibly refers to in Galatians 2:1 (or he could be referring to his subsequent trip to Jerusalem in Acts 15:1-2).

Galatians 2:1

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.



<https://www.biblestudy.org/maps/apostle-paul-travels-before-first-missionary-journey-large-map.html>

These 10 to 14 years are often referred to as the silent years of Paul.

An important lesson for us to learn. Paul had a powerful encounter with the Lord. The Lord had announced the great call on his life and great things he would do. Paul had the experience and understanding to start preaching right away – which he did. And yet for some reason, God did not get him going with his powerful apostolic ministry until 14



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years later. Why did God wait 14 years? Even for the great apostle Paul, God took time to prepare him for the call He had for him.

Churches Were Multiplied (Acts 9:31)

While Saul (Paul) was away in Tarsus the churches in the districts of Judea, Samaria and Galilee

- (a) had peace,
- (b) were built up spiritually,
- (c) walked in the fear of the Lord,
- (d) in the comfort (strength) of the Holy Spirit and multiplied.

Map showing the districts of Judea, Samaria and Galilee:



https://visualunit.me/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/gospel_map2.jpg

The apostle Peter now goes on an itinerant trip preaching in different parts of that region.



Aeneas (Acts 9:32-35)

The amazing healing of Aeneas who had been paralyzed and bed ridden for 8 years. Many at Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord.

Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)

Dorcas (also called Tabitha) is resurrected and many at Joppa believed in the Lord.

ACTS CHAPTER TEN

Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8)

North of Joppa, along the Mediterranean coastline, was the sea-port town of Caesarea. The Lord speaks to Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, directing him to send men to Joppa and bring Peter to come and speak to them.

This is amazing, because this would be the first time the Gospel would be preached to the non-Jewish world.

Peter on the Housetop (Acts 10:9-23)

God also prepares Peter for this amazing moment in the history of the Church.

God speaks to Peter in a way he can understand.

Three times the Lord repeated “What God has cleansed you must not call common”.

In addition to the vision, the Holy Spirit clearly instructs Peter: *“Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”* (Acts 10:19-20).

The Door of the Gospel Swings Open to the Gentiles (Acts 10:24-48)

Cornelius has called together his relatives and close friends (Acts 10:24).

An example for us. What God has done and is doing in our lives, we can share with our relatives and close friends.

Peter, an Apostle to the Jews, Paul an Apostle to the Gentiles (Galatians 1:8)

An interesting observation. Paul wrote later in Galatians that he was an apostle called to the Gentiles (non-Jewish world), while Peter was an apostle to the Jews. We understand this, as Paul explained, the Jews look for signs (the supernatural) while the Greeks seek after wisdom.

However, in Acts 10, God sends Peter to open the door to the Gentiles. A lesson to learn – God will do as He pleases and we just follow.

Peter’s Sermon (Acts 10:34-43)

Here are the key points from Peter’s sermon:



- God welcomes everyone
- The life and ministry of Jesus
- The death and resurrection of Jesus
- Forgiveness in Jesus

Believed, Baptized in the Spirit, Baptized in Water (Acts 10:44-48)

While Peter was still speaking, Cornelius, his family, relatives and close friends, believe the Gospel. God pours out His Spirit on them and they are baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues.

Peter mentions later in chapter 11:

Acts 11:15,17

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?

So the baptism in the Holy Spirit that took place on the Day of Pentecost, is a repeatable, ongoing experience. The same gift of the Holy Spirit was not given to these new believers. They began to speak with other tongues.

After this they were baptized in water.

We see a repeating pattern. People hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus. Without delay they are baptized in the Holy Spirit with the manifestations of the Spirit. They are also baptized in water. There is no “tarrying” or special process of sanctification to go through before one is baptized in the Holy Spirit or baptized in water. The only requirement is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for who He is, Lord and Savior.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Acts Book Study Chapters 9-10
Sunday June 30, 2024**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Please request Life group members to read Acts 9-10, before the Life Group Meeting. This can help save time.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Examine in both the experience of Saul (Acts 9:17-18), and that of Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-46), the experience of being saved, filled (baptized) with the Spirit and being baptized in water. Should the Church today continue to teach and practice salvation, Holy Spirit baptism, and baptism in water, today?



2, Consider the silent years of Saul (Paul). What would have been God's intention in keeping Saul (Paul) "on hold" for 10-14 years before releasing him to start his apostolic ministry?

3, We observe God speaking in visions to Saul (Paul), Ananias, Cornelius and Peter. Does God speak through visions today, or have these ceased? Is Acts 2:17-18 still valid today?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Acts records the first 40 years of the Early Church. This is a book study of the Acts of the apostles, or more correctly, the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early believers. As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We glean spiritual and practical insights from each chapter and share ways we can apply these in our lives. In this sermon we cover Acts chapters 9-10. We observe Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. We consider the numerous times God speaks through visions to Ananias, Saul (Paul), Cornelius and Peter. We learn about Paul's Silent Years. We consider how God directs the opening of the door of the Gospel to the non-Jewish world.

KEYWORDS

Acts of the apostles, book study of Acts, Gospel preaching, Spirit filled church community, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources



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REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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