

*The story, power and  
purpose of the Church.*



...FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE  
AND PEOPLE AND NATION. -REV. 5:9

## **What we can learn from the Apostle Paul's conversion to Christ**

Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you,  
because I am humble and gentle at heart, and  
you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

**The Story Of Saul Of Tarsus:** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. Philippians 3:5-6

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. Acts 9:1-2

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. Galatians 1:13

"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Acts 26:9

**Saul's Conversion:** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. Acts 9:3-9

**Paul's Early Experience As A Christian:** At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. Acts 9:20

After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, ... 25But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. Acts 9:23,25

...after three years, (in Damascus) I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. Galatians 1:18

So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Acts 9:28-30

**Paul's Later Reveals The Rest Of The Story :** Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'...""But Lord,' I argued, 'they certainly know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" Acts 22:18-21

### **Paul Is Brought Back In To Serve:**

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. Acts 11:25, 26a

So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. 30 This they did entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem. Acts 11:29,30

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts 13:2

### **Your Take Away:**