

**1. Saul Preaches in Damascus. Acts 9:20-25**

We read that after believing in Christ Saul begins to preach that Jesus is the Son of God. Saul went to the synagogues first to tell his countrymen of the Christ. It is a natural fruit of saving faith that one tells others they have believed.

If we think of Saul's life it is much like what we read in **Luke 15:1-10**.

As far as we can tell, up till Jesus came on the scene, Saul was faithful to God- but he refused to take the next step and receive Jesus as the Messiah. He diverged away from the LORD by rejecting His son.

We are all, every day, challenged to continue with Christ. **2 Timothy 3:10-17**

What are some things that make it difficult to continue following Jesus at times?

---

---

---

Saul was able to become so strong in the Lord so quickly because of his training prior to Christ under Gamaliel and most likely his father. Once he came to Christ, many new revelations came to Him as he connected the Law and the Prophets with the life of Jesus. Add this the superior intellect and passion that the LORD gave him to begin with, and the power of the Holy Spirit- Saul will become Paul, a man to be reckoned with as before, but now under the authority of Jesus Christ.

**2. Saul goes into the wilderness of Arabia. Galatians 1:11-17**

Though Paul had much training which prepared immediately to preach, much of his training would have been as a Pharisee. A Pharisee is certainly one who knew the scriptures, but much of their training was on the traditions of men specifically the oral interpretations of the Torah.

There are many theories as to why Saul was sent to Arabia. This passage in Galatians reveals what it was all about. He met with Jesus to be taught. Much of it was probably unlearning the traditions he had so passionately studied as a student under Gamaliel and raised in the home of a Pharisee.

What are some things that have been torn down in your thinking by reading God's word?

---

Who were some other people in the scripture who were set aside for a time before proceeding with their call from God?

---

This setting aside by the LORD no doubt was to give Saul the opportunity to go deep in his walk with God.

**3. Saul Visits Jerusalem. Acts 9:26-30; Gal. 1:18-19**

Three years elapse between Acts 9:22 and 9:26. Saul did not go to Jerusalem to study under the apostles. It was simply a visit. It was to build relationships. On arriving most of the apostles were afraid to meet with Him. Only Peter and James (the LORD's brother) were willing to do so and that at the prompting of Barnabas (Joseph).

Next week we will learn more about Barnabas. As a preview **Acts 11:24a**

**4. Persecuted by the Jews and receives a vision. Acts 9:29-30, 22:17-21.**

This must have been an unbelievable sight for the Jews living there. Those who had been friends with him in their opposition to the Jesus sect. But here he was, preaching with power. God comes to him in another vision to warn him of those who want to kill him. Therefore, he flees the persecution.

**5. Travels to Tarsus via Caesarea. Acts 9:30**

Probably visited his family. Shared the good news of Jesus with people of his hometown. Was probably here for 9 years. This was a suitable training ground with real ministry work in a city that was a microcosm of the world He would one day travel throughout.

**6. Brought to Antioch by Barnabas and serves the church there for one year. Acts 11:26.**

This is where we will pick up next week.