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# **Church – The Beginnings, Part 25**

## **The Salvation of Saul of Tarsus - Part 3**

### **Acts 9:1-31**



## Acts

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### The Damascus Road: Saul Converted

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

## Chapter 9

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<sup>3</sup> As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

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## The Salvation of Saul of Tarsus - Part 3 → Acts 9:1-31

Focusing on vv. 23-31

<sup>23</sup> Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. <sup>24</sup> But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. <sup>25</sup> Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

<sup>26</sup> And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the LORD on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the NAME of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. <sup>29</sup> And he spoke BOLDLY in the name of the LORD Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the FEAR of the LORD and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

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Jesus said,

“Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. <sup>12</sup> And when you go into a household, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. ...

<sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in this city, flee to another.”

Matthew 10:12-14,23

So, we see this happened, personally, individually with Saul of Tarsus – who, again, had a Target on his back because of his very public display of perceived Betrayal and Humiliation of his former “*employers*” → the Chief Priests (Sadducees) and the Party of the Pharisees ... like the Mafia – they had many “hits” out of Saul of Tarsus (unlike other followers of Yeshua) - it was Personal

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When Saul of Tarsus originally started the Great Persecution - to round up all the Followers of the WAY – The Jewish Yeshua Cult... everyone in Jerusalem knew about it because of what happened in Jerusalem, already (Acts 7 & 8) – They all remember Stephen being Martyred and the many who were persecuted, who fled Jerusalem, and who were imprisoned, all led by Saul of Tarsus, the ringleader of it all. Suddenly Saul came back to Jerusalem and wanted to join the local church family in Jerusalem . . . → Do you blame them for being suspicious about Saul? I don't blame them at all. Trust but Verify

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When Barnabas heard Saul, he was convinced of Saul's sincerity. I am not sure if Barnabas tried to verify Saul's "story" or not. But, back then, since, Jews were all related, I am sure Barnabas had a cousin up there in Damascus and could easily verify. Regardless, based upon Barnabas' "declaration" on behalf of Saul, the local church was no longer in fear of Saul, but in the Fear of the LORD, received Saul into their Fellowship. Again, Saul, once within a Local Fellowship of love and nurture, edification and encouragement, he once again went out Evangelizing the lost around him – he Preached Boldly in the Name of the LORD Jesus and Disputing...

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Why was this so important? Saul of Tarsus was still young in his Faith-walk in Jesus Christ (Yeshua h'Mashiach). Having the Right-Hand of the Fellowship through Barnabas was key to his continued growth in Christ, it was also, much needed validation and vindication → that Saul's Faith in Christ was the same as that of the Holy Apostles in Jerusalem. As well, Saul's bold preaching was evidence of that. Saul was able to master the Word of God (at that time – what we would call the Old Testament Scriptures) to use to show that Jesus of Nazareth was / is the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the World, just as the Apostles were doing already before him.

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Just like what happened in Damascus – his past was catching up with him. His former life – those who were a part of it – would NEVER get over his perceived Betrayal of them. He was personally targeted for DEATH – he had a HIT on him from his former “Jewish Mafia” syndicate he was a part of. Notice, that no one else was targeted, only Saul of Tarsus. Again, if Saul laid low and was not out there Preaching and Disputing, etc. regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ this Persecution would've happened.

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**31 THEN the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the FEAR of the LORD and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.**

After it was MADE KNOWN that this PLOT to Kill Saul was brewing, the local church, again, rallied around Saul, to protect Saul and help him escape to safety, to live another day. Eventually he went to his home town of Tarsus. Again, no one else was targeted. But this fits what Jesus said we should do – when this happens flee to the next town or to safety (ref.: Matthew 10:12-14,23). Notice verse 31 ... Benefit?

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**Notice verse 31: So, after Saul was helped to escape, notice the Benefits to the local church: Peace, Edification, Walking in the Fear of the LORD, Comfort of the Holy Spirit – and evangelistic multiplication of Disciples of Jesus Christ. Why did this happen as a result of getting Saul out of town?**

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Why these Benefits as a result of getting Saul out of town?

1. It could be that Saul's bold preaching & teaching actually re-Energized the church
2. The focus of Persecution was elsewhere – on Saul and not on them anymore?
3. The realization that if Jesus Christ could save someone like Saul, then they did not need to fear anything but Him, alone (walking in the Fear of the LORD).

**Let's Worship God ... Because of Who He is,  
For What He has done, and What He is Yet  
to do → He is the GREAT GOD, ALMIGHTY  
WHO HAS ALL CONTROL OVER THE  
WHOLE UNIVERSE and TIME...**

**ALL POWERFUL ALMIGHTY GOD  
The GOD of ISRAEL**



**See y'all Next Time we Gather...  
@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week**



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