

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

Acts 9	Acts 22	Acts 26
<p>¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest</p> <p>² 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.</p> <p>³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.</p> <p>⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"</p> <p>⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.</p> <p>⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."</p> <p>⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.</p> <p>⁸ 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.</p> <p>⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.</p> <p>¹⁰ 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."</p>	<p>³ <i>"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.</i></p> <p>⁴ <i>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,</i></p> <p>⁵ <i>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.</i></p> <p>⁶ <i>"As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.</i></p> <p>⁷ <i>And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'</i></p> <p>⁸ <i>And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'</i></p> <p>⁹ <i>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.</i></p> <p>¹⁰ <i>And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'</i></p> <p>¹¹ <i>And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and</i></p>	<p>¹² "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.</p> <p>¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.</p> <p>¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'</p> <p>¹⁵ And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.</p> <p>¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,</p> <p>¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles---to whom I am sending you</p> <p>¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to</p>

¹¹ 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,
¹² 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."
¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.
¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."
¹⁵ 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.
¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."
¹⁷ 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."
¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;
¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

came into Damascus.
¹² *"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,
¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.
¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;
¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.
¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'*
¹⁷ *"When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance
¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'*
¹⁹ *And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.
²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'*
²¹ *And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"*

light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
¹⁹ **"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance."**