

Acts 9: Paul's Calling and the Progress of Peter's Experience

- I. Paul's Conversion Experience: The Apostle to the Gentiles Is Saved Among the Gentiles (vv. 1–30)**
- A. A blind religious fanatic
 - B. Persecuted those belonging to the Way — walking in the Way was the reason for persecution
 - 1. A people absolutely following the Lord
 - 2. Knowing what is the Way of the Lord
 - C. The Lord's appearing — an Irresistible Power
 - 1. A great light shining — the first step and deep experience
 - 2. Falling to the ground — the second step experience, all the hardness fell down — losing self-will, knowledge, pride, and self esteem
 - 3. Hearing the Lord's voice
 - D. Realized the church was the body of Christ — persecuting the church meant persecuting the Lord
 - E. The changes of Saul
 - 1. "Lord" — revered Jesus as Lord and "self" was no longer the master
 - 2. "Who are you?" — a saint's deeper experience is established by the continuous revelation hinged on the question, "Who are you?"
 - 3. Eyes to the world were closed — only directed by the Lord from then on
 - 4. Became a man of prayer — entering into spiritual reality and maintaining constant fellowship with the Lord
 - F. The obedience of Ananias — accepting Paul on the Lord's behalf
 - 1. "Here I am, Lord" — in a servant's position
 - a) a person in constant fellowship with the Lord
 - b) a vessel always ready to be used by the Lord
 - 2. Pointed out that Paul was a vessel chosen by the Lord
 - a) to proclaim the name of the Lord
 - b) to suffer much
 - 3. Delivered the commission — in grace and truth
 - a) "Brother Saul" — in the Lord there is nothing in-between; fellowshiped with laying on of hands
 - b) "so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit" — the principles in chapters 1 and 2
 - G. Paul began to preach the gospel — proclaiming with power that Jesus is the Son of God
 - 1. A complete change
 - 2. Confounded the Jews — must first prove to himself within in order to have power
 - 3. Became one in the Way and was persecuted
 - H. The ministry of Barnabas — ministry of encouragement to bring unity
 - 1. "But Barnabas took him" — unique in perspective and love
 - 2. Removed misunderstanding and ushered in fellowship
 - 3. Increased Paul's strength in service
- II. The Progress in Peter's Experience (vv. 31–43)**
- A. The progress of the church is established on the progress in the saints' experiences; progress in concept and understanding leads to progress in action; action ushers in the expansion of God's kingdom
 - B. The church was being built
 - 1. Enjoyed peace, was strengthened, feared the Lord, and was encouraged by the Holy Spirit

2. Grew in numbers
- C. Peter departed from Jerusalem — left a small sphere so experience moved forward
1. Traveled about the country — did not stay in one place
 2. The miracle in Lydda — healed a paralytic, causing people to turn to the Lord
 3. The miracle in Joppa — the pinnacle of Peter's experience
 - a) raised Dorcas from the dead
 - b) Peter's experience proved the unity between the Lord and the church; the church can experience all that is in the Lord