"A TRANSFORMED LIFE"

ACTS 9:1-31
6-14-2026

*** Today, you must see what it means to have a <u>transformed life</u>**

How does God transform a life, and what is the proof of it?

I. THE <u>SECRET</u> TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 1-9; 17-18)

A. The Lord Got Paul's <u>Attention</u> (V. 1-5)

1. Paul was <u>sincere</u> about what he was doing, but sincerely wrong (v. 1-2)

2. Paul was <u>convicted</u> about what he was doing, but not converted (v. 3-5)

B. Paul Saw <u>The Lord As He Really Is</u> (V. 4-5)

C. Paul <u>Bowed To His Lordship</u> (V. 6-9)

D. Paul <u>Called Upon The Lord</u> To Save Him (V. 17-18; Acts 22:11-16)

1. Paul received cleansing when he called

2. Paul showed that he had been cleansed by being baptized

II. THE <u>EVIDENCE</u> OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 10-31)

A. Paul Received A <u>New Mission</u> (New Direction) (V. 10-16)
(God gave Paul the <u>mission</u> he once had tried to destroy)

B. Paul Identified With <u>New Men</u> [i.e. People]
(new associations) (v. 17-19; v. 26-28)
(God joined Paul to the <u>family</u> he once had tried to destroy)

C. Paul Proclaimed A <u>New Message</u> (New Conversation) (V. 20-25; 29-31)
(God gave Paul the <u>testimony</u> he once had tried to destroy)

"A TRANSFORMED LIFE"

ACTS 9:1-31
6-14-2026

*** Today, you must see what it means to have a <u>transformed life</u>**

How does God transform a life, and what is the proof of it?

I. THE <u>SECRET</u> TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 1-9; 17-18)

A. The Lord Got Paul's _____ (V. 1-5)

1. Paul was <u>sincere</u> about what he was doing, but sincerely wrong (v. 1-2)

2. Paul was <u>convicted</u> about what he was doing, but not converted (v. 3-5)

B. Paul _____ <u>As He Really Is</u> (V. 4-5)

C. Paul _____ <u>To His</u> _____ (V. 6-9)

D. Paul _____ To Save Him (V. 17-18; Acts 22:11-16)

1. Paul received cleansing when he called

2. Paul showed that he had been cleansed by being baptized

II. THE <u>EVIDENCE</u> OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 10-31)

A. Paul Received A <u>New</u> _____ (New Direction) (V. 10-16)
(God gave Paul the <u>mission</u> he once had tried to destroy)

B. Paul Identified With <u>New</u> _____ [i.e. People]
(new associations) (v. 17-19; v. 26-28)
(God joined Paul to the <u>family</u> he once had tried to destroy)

C. Paul Proclaimed A <u>New</u> _____ (New Conversation) (V. 20-25; 29-31)
(God gave Paul the <u>testimony</u> he once had tried to destroy)

"A TRANSFORMED LIFE"

ACTS 9:1-31

INTRODUCTION:

Some of the most unlikely people to become Christians in church history:

Augustine of Hippo
In his youth he lived a lifestyle far removed from Christian teachings and was skeptical of Christianity.
He later became one of the most important theologians in Christian history.

John Newton
He worked in the transatlantic slave trade.
After converting, he became a minister and wrote the hymn Amazing Grace.

C. S. Lewis
He described himself as an atheist for years and was initially resistant to Christianity.
He later became one of the best-known Christian authors and apologists of the 20th century.

Nicky Cruz
He was a violent gang leader in New York City.
After converting to Christianity, he became an evangelist and speaker.

David Berkowitz
The man infamously known as the "Son of Sam," who murdered six people and wounded several others in New York City during 1976–1977. He was arrested in 1977 and remains in prison serving multiple life sentences.

Berkowitz says that he became a born-again Christian in prison in 1987 after reading a Bible that was given to him by another inmate. Since then, he has described himself as the "Son of Hope" rather than the "Son of Sam." He has participated in prison ministry, written about his faith, and repeatedly expressed remorse for his crimes.

Among these, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) is considered the most unlikely convert because he went from being one of the church's fiercest opponents to one of its greatest advocates. Saul of Tarsus actively persecuted Christians and participated in efforts to imprison them. After his conversion, he became the Apostle Paul and one of Christianity's most influential church planters and writer of more books of the Bible than any other person (13 in total).

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians

Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

See 1 Timothy 1:12-16 – Paul's testimony of his dramatic coversion.

Paul would be one example of Jesus' prediction: John 16:2 – "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

Doctors can heal sick bodies; but only God can heal a sick soul.

The greatest miracle is the salvation of a soul! The greatest proof of this miracle is the transformed life.

* **Today, you must see what it means to have a <u>transformed life</u>**

How does God transform a life, and what is the proof of it?

I. THE <u>SECRET</u> TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 1-9; 17-18)

A. The Lord Got Paul's <u>Attention</u> (V. 1-5)

1. Paul was <u>sincere</u> about what he was doing, but sincerely wrong (v.1-2)

God really needed to get Paul's attention, because Paul really believed he was doing the right thing by opposing Christ and Christians.

Paul was "zealous toward God" (Acts 22:3)

SEE I Tim. 1:12-15 - Paul persecuted "ignorantly."

ILLUS: Driving in Maine in wrong direction for 40 miles.

V. 1
SEE Acts 26:9-11

Paul compelled Christians to blaspheme against Christ. Being a Pharisee, he did not consider blasphemy against Christ to be against God.

What is blasphemy against Christ?

a) To deny <u>who</u> He is (His Person) - deity; sinless life; Lordship

b) To deny <u>what</u> He did (His Work) - substitutionary death and bodily resurrection

V. 2

The "Way" - was an expression referring to Christianity (cp. Acts 19:9, 23).

Jesus calls Himself "the Way" (Jn. 14:6)

2. Paul was <u>convicted</u> about what he was doing, but not converted (v. 3-5)

V. 5

"Pricks" = sharp pointed sticks used to make animals go in a
Certain direction (EX spurs)

God loves us so much that He does not let us go our own way without prompting (provoking, urging) us. His jabs (poking) may hurt; conviction may be uncomfortable, but we need it!

Many hear the Word, are convicted, but rebel against the prodding of God.

God does <u>not</u> get our attention the same way He did with Paul, but He still uses circumstances (happenings of nature, deaths in family, accidents, physical afflictions, etc.) so that we will look up!

B. Paul Saw <u>The Lord As He Really Is</u> (V. 4-5)

V. 5

The question among unbelievers today still is: Who is the Lord? Who is Yahweh? <u>answer:</u> It is Jesus!

Paul evidently thought that Jesus was some false prophet (deceiver), cult leader, etc.

He no doubt refused to admit His Lordship, thinking He was just a mere man.

C. Paul <u>Bowed To His Lordship</u> (V. 6-9)

V. 6

Paul was not yet saved at this point, even though he

surrenders to do the Lord's will. His sins were not yet cleansed. We know this by comparing this account with Paul's own testimony in Acts 22:16.

Before one is saved, he does not have the ability (power) to do God's will. But in order to be saved, you must at least be willing to do it.

If someone in their heart thinks, "I will `try out' Jesus as my Savior, but I don't intend to ever live for Him" -- they will not get saved no matter how many "sinners' prayers" they pray. They must repent of this wickedness and surrender their stubborn will to Him.

Did Saul get saved on the road to Damascus (v. 5-6) or when he was at Damascus (v. 17-18)?

ANSWER: At Damascus.

How do we know?

1) Saul came to recognize that Jesus was "Lord" (v. 5-6) on the road, but recognition is not salvation - trust is.

However, in order for one to be saved, they must know that Jesus is Lord ("Yahweh" of the O.T.) . They must acknowledge His divinity.

2) Saul was willing to submit to Jesus as Lord (v. 6) "What wilt thou have me to do" But did not have a cleansing from sin yet.

When Paul came to grips with who Jesus really was, He had no choice but to say: "What do you want me to do?"

Maybe the reason why you don't serve Christ like you should is because you don't fear Him.

Jesus is not a weak, impotent, powerless softy. Demons trembled before Him! John fell down like a dead man (Rev. 1)

V. 7

They heard a voice but <u>didn't understand it</u>.
(cp. Acts 22:9 - means "to hear" in two senses:

--to listen to (to hear audible sound)
--to understand (to comprehend with the mind)
(EX: I Cor. 14:2; Gal. 4:21)

Why didn't they understand? Jesus spoke in Hebrew

(26:14) on this occasion (NOTE: Hebrew being the language of the O.T. would prompt Paul to equate Jesus with the O.T. and with Yahweh. Paul being a strict Pharisee knew Hebrew, not merely Aramaic and Greek, which were the primary spoken languages in His day).

They saw no man, but did see the bright light (22:9).

D. Paul Called Upon The Lord To Save Him (V. 17-18; Acts 22:11-16)

22:16

This verse has 2 commands (not necessarily in chronological order):

1. Allow yourself to be baptized (imperative) by getting up (participle)
2. Allow yourself to be cleansed from your sins (imperative) by calling on the Lord (participle)

This verse cannot be twisted to teach baptismal regeneration. He is not teaching that baptism cleanses, but that "calling" cleanses! (Rom. 10:13)

Baptism is a picture of what salvation is in reality; namely: baptism pictures cleansing.

1. You receive cleansing when you call

We know that Paul was cleansed from his sin (saved) before his baptism!

How do we know? He evidently had the Holy Spirit prior to his baptism (SEE Acts 9:17-18). No one has the Spirit until cleansed from sin.

2. You show that you have been cleansed by being baptized

By Paul's baptism he testified to the removal of his sins, and to the complete change from his past life.

By baptism, he identified with Jesus Christ and marked a clean break from his previous antagonism against Christ.

II. THE EVIDENCE OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE (v. 10-31)

What three things are typical of a lost person?

1. No direction
2. Bad associations
3. Blasphemous language

God cleaned all three up in Paul's life!

A. Paul Received A New Mission (New Direction) (V. 10-16)
(God gave Paul the mission he once had tried to destroy)

V. 15

God chose Paul so that Paul would serve Him. Why do you think He chose you?

Paul would be a vessel (a cleansed vessel) that God could fill with the grace and love of Christ.

God would then take Paul and, through trials and tribulations, pour out Christ to others.

Paul desired to "spend and be spent" for others!

Jesus said: "He who is not with me is against me."

There is no neutral ground. You are either building for Christ, or you are tearing down the work of Christ.

Paul previously was tearing it down! Now God would use Paul to build it up!

What are you doing?

Paul's mission would now be to make disciples of all nations! (Mt. 28)

No partiality -- Gentiles (outcasts); Kings (upper class); Israel (paul's own people)

Paul, who once tried to destroy "this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" would now be going this way!

Why? it's the only way! By God's grace, Paul found this truth out.

B. Paul Identified With New Men [I.E. People]
(new associations) (v. 17-19; v. 26-28)
(God joined Paul to the family he once had tried to destroy)

Why does God send Ananias to Paul?

1) So that Paul could understand what Christ wanted him to believe and do (v. 6) (NOTE: Again we find that God uses men to give the gospel and call men to repentance; when Jesus could have told this to Paul himself)

2) The same reason why He sent Peter and John down tot he Samaritan believers in Acts 8:14-17. So that Paul would know whose side he was now on. He was now to be a member of the "army" he recently fought against!

Before one gets saved, he usually does not think much of those who belong to Christ.

We are viewed as "strange" "cultic" "fanatical" (EX: Fundamentalists Anonymous)

Paul who was diametrically opposed to Christians is now part of the family!

V. 19

Paul is now "with the disciples" -- when just a short time previously he was "against the disciples" (v. 1). This shows the transforming power of God!

C. Paul Proclaimed A New Message (New Conversation) (V. 20-25; 29-31)
(God gave Paul the testimony he once had tried to destroy)

After Paul got saved he had this testimony, as recorded in Galatians 1:23: "that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed."

V. 20

"Straightway" = immediately. Paul did not delay in sharing Christ. Why should we?
Paul preached a singular message - Christ! (v. 20, 22); "in the name of Jesus" (v. 27; 29)
"In the synagogues" (v. 20)/ "Jews" (v. 22) - He was not ashamed to go to those who were his relatives; or those who would not be too excited to hear his message.

CONCLUSION:

V. 31

It's amazing what one man could upset. When Saul got saved, the Church breathed a sigh of relief.

When God transforms a life, it is a blessing! Can you imagine what God could do with you if you were to let Him totally transform you?

Why was Saul's (Paul's) life changed so drastically? Why did Paul love Christ so much? Why did he live so fruitfully?

ANSWER: He knew he was forgiven much! ("Never forget how lost you were" - E.R. Jordan)

jesus said, "To whom much is forgiven, the same loveth much."

If we only realized how much we have been forgiven.

Nothing glorifies God more than a changed life.

Throughout eternity we will be a trophy of His grace that He will display.

He gave us new life in Christ so "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

If God can save the "Chief of Sinners," He can save you!

Don’t view anyone as “impossible” to save!

PRAY for even the most unlikely to be saved.