

## THE LIFE OF PAUL

### LESSON II PAUL BECOMES A CHRISTIAN

1. Where was Saul going and what happened to him when he met Jesus? How could Saul meet Jesus, since Jesus had already ascended into heaven? Acts 9:1-22; 22:6-21; **(Acts 9:1-5 - Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 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. And as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.") (Acts 22:6-8 - "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. "And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' "So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.')**
2. Where was Saul when the light appeared? **He was on the road to Damascus, near Damascus.**
3. How did Saul react to meeting the Lord? **Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. NKJV**
4. Where was Saul instructed to go? (Acts 9:6) **(Acts 9:6 - So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."**
5. Find Damascus on your maps. How far is Damascus from Jerusalem? **130 miles North East of Jerusalem.**
6. To whom was Saul to take Christ? Acts 9:15 **(Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.)**
7. How many days did Saul stay in Damascus? **(Acts 9:19 - So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.)**
8. What did Saul do shortly after his conversion? Acts 9:20 **(Acts 9:20 - Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.)**
9. What effect did Saul's teaching have on those who heard him? Acts 9:21-22 **(Acts 9:21-23 - Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.)**
10. After Saul's baptism, where did he first go? Gal. 1:17-18 **(Gal 1:17-18 - nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.)**

## THE LIFE OF PAUL

11. What did Saul do following his conversion? With whom did he meet? **Gal 1:15-17; But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia , and returned again to Damascus. NKJV**
12. What did the Lord ask Saul to do when Saul met Jesus? **Acts 9:3-6; As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." NKJV**
13. What did the Lord not tell Saul at their first meeting? **Matthew 9:2 ; Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you. NKJV** Why do you think Jesus' response was different in Matthew versus what Jesus told Saul to do? Jesus was adhering to the Old Testament law which only required repentance for forgiveness for a Jew. A Jew was already born into a covenant relationship at birth. Christians are not.
14. Who was given the responsibility for teaching Saul the Gospel? **Acts 9:11-12; 11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." NKJV**
15. When was Saul filled with the Holy Spirit? On the road to Damascus or in this meeting with Ananias? **Acts 9:17-18 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. NKJV.** Paul did not receive the Holy Spirit when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Not until Ananias told taught Saul the Gospel (told Saul what he must do) **Acts 2:36-39 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."NKJV**
16. When does Saul say he was forgiven of his sins? **Acts 22:12-16; "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men**

## THE LIFE OF PAUL

**of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' NKJV**

17. How long did Saul remain in Damascus after returning and before leaving for Jerusalem? Gal. 1:18 **(Gal 1:18 - Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.)**
18. How did Saul escape from Damascus? Acts 9:25; II Cor. 11:32-33 **(Acts 9:25 - Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.) (2 Cor 11:32-33 - In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.)**
19. Who did Saul meet in Jerusalem? Acts 9:27; Gal. 1:17-18 **(Acts 9:26-27 - 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. 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.) (Gal 1:18-19 - Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.)**
20. What was the background of Barnabas? Acts 4:36-37 **(Acts 4:36-37 - And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.)**
21. What kind of man was Barnabas? Acts 11:24 **(He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.)**
22. How did the Jews receive Saul in Jerusalem? Acts 9:29 **(Acts 9:29 - And he {Saul} spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.)**
23. Compare Acts 9:30 to Gal. 1:21-22 and explain where Saul went after leaving Jerusalem. Follow his journey on your map. **(Acts 9:29-30 - And he (Saul) spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.) (Gal 1:18, 21-22 - Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.) Saul went from Jerusalem to Caesarea, then up to Syria and probably through Seleucia, Antioch and on to Tarsus.**
24. After Peter taught Cornelius and his household the word of God and the church had been scattered because of the persecution, where did the Jerusalem church send Barnabas and why? Acts 11:18-24 **(Acts 11:18-24 - When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them,**

## THE LIFE OF PAUL

and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.) At first, the Christians taught only the Jews the word of God, but after Peter taught and baptized the house of Cornelius, the Gentiles started obeying the word. When the Jerusalem church heard about the acceptance of the word in Antioch, they sent Barnabas to preach the word.

25. Where did Barnabas go and for what reason, after being in Antioch? Acts 11:25-26; 9:15-16 (**Acts 11:25-26 - Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.) (Acts 9:15-16 - But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.") Barnabas went after Saul to help him preach the word in Antioch, where many Gentiles lived. God intended for Saul to preach to the Gentiles as well to the Jews.**
26. What did the Christian in Antioch send to Jerusalem and by whom? Acts 11:27-30 (**Acts 11:27-30 - And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.**)
27. Who did Barnabas and Saul meet on this trip and what was his relationship to them? Acts 12:25; Col. 4:10 (**Acts 12:25 - And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.**) (Col. 4:10 - Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas {about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him}) There has been some dispute as to whether John Mark was Barnabas nephew or cousin. The most popular belief is that he was Barnabas' cousin.