

The Conversion of Saul
Acts 9:1-4
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the conversion of Saul.

- Intro:
1. Many of us can think of some dramatic changes we have seen in people because of their obedience to the gospel.
 2. Saul is probably the best example of this.

I. Who was Saul?

- A. He was dedicated to his beliefs.
1. He was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin (**Phil 3:4-6**)
 2. Paul was zealous in his efforts.
- B. His reasons for his actions against the Church.
1. His zeal drove him to persecute those who believed contrary to God (**Acts 9:1-2, Phil 3:6a**)
 2. Saul believed what he had been doing was right (**Acts 23:1**)

II. What He did.

- A. It was more than seeing & believing.
1. What changed Saul (**Acts 9:3-6**)
 - a. "It is hard for you to kick against the goads."-**Acts 9:5b**
 2. No one can be saved while in sin – sin separates thus we cannot come to God with sin (**Isaiah 59:2a**).
 3. Saul is an example of obedience to God's plan for man's salvation. Saul wasn't saved on the road, he was saved, his sins were remitted at baptism, and not before (**Acts 22:16, Rom 6:4, Gal 3:27**)
- B. Anannis visits Saul
1. Anannis would tell Saul what he must do (**Acts 9:6-8**).
 2. What Anannis told Saul wasn't an option, it wasn't a prayer, it wasn't faith only, it was obedience that brought salvation & remittance of sin (**Acts 9:17-18**)

III. Who He became.

- A. A New man
1. He left all to follow Christ (**Phil 3:7-9**)
 2. He became a new creature, a new man, because he was now following Christ (**Eph 4:21-24**)
 3. He became a very humble man, very much aware of his harmful actions (**1 Tim 1:15**).
- B. A Apostle by the will of God.
1. Paul was made an apostle by God (**Rom 1:1, 1 Cor 1:1a**)
 2. Christ had a plan for Paul (formerly Saul), **Acts 9:15-16; Acts 22:14-15**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Saul is an example of the change that is possible in the heart of man.
2. Shouldn't the gospel have the same effect on you today?

3. Full Invitation

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9