

# Sermon Discussion Questions

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell**

**Topic: Acts**

**Scriptures – Acts 9:1-31**

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Vv. 9:1-19a
  - According to verses 1-2, what was Saul's purpose in traveling to Damascus? How does this fit into his role as a Pharisee?
  - In verses 3-6, what details of Saul's encounter with Jesus indicate divine authority? How does Jesus identify with His followers?
  - In verses 10-16, what concerns does Ananias express about Saul, and how does the Lord respond?
  - What does God's statement in verse 15 reveal about His plan for Saul?
  - Saul thought he was serving God by persecuting Christians. How can religious zeal sometimes lead people away from the truth? (See Romans 10:2-3.)
  - Saul's conversion was radical, but all believers undergo transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17). In what ways has Christ changed your life?
- Read Vv. 9:19b-25
  - How do the people react to Saul's preaching in verses 21-22?
  - The text says Saul "increased all the more in strength" (v. 22). What might this refer to in the context of his preaching and arguments?
  - Why did the Jews plot to kill Saul (v. 23)?
  - How was Saul's escape facilitated, and what does this reveal about the role of the Christian community in his early ministry?
  - Compare this event with other biblical examples of God delivering His people from danger (e.g., Moses in Exodus 2, David in 1 Samuel 19). What patterns do you see?
- Read Vv. 9:26-31
  - Why were the disciples in Jerusalem hesitant to accept Saul (v. 26)? How does this show the lingering effects of his past actions?
  - What role does Barnabas play in v. 27, and why is his advocacy important for Saul's integration into the church?
  - How does Saul's boldness in preaching (v. 28) mirror his earlier actions in Damascus? What does this suggest about his calling?
  - In verse 31, what factors contributed to the church's peace and growth? How does this verse summarize God's work in this section of Acts?
  - How does this passage as a whole demonstrate the fulfillment of Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 about the spread of the gospel?
  - After Saul's conversion, he was bold in his faith. How can you emulate Saul's boldness in your sphere of influence?

