



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

I praise you for your matchless glory and power. Work in me what you desire to see work out through my life.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 9:21-31)

²¹All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

²³When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

²⁶When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. ³⁰But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus. ³¹So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

O – Observe what God has said

How did Saul stand out for God? How should believers stand out for God today?

How does Luke describe the church in verse 31? What does a healthy church look like?

W – Work on Application

There was nothing especially useful about Saul, at least in relationship to the church, until God got a hold on him and then worked his strength into him—“But Saul kept increasing in strength” (9:22). The verb is passive, meaning, again, that God was working the strength into Saul (he wasn’t doing it alone). What is God working into your life? God can’t use you to do anything that he isn’t working in you. Are you willing to accept that kind of righteous conditioning? Are you open to his work in your life?

How might you make yourself more available to God’s work in your life this week?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: “But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 9:22