



Saul's Story Continues

Acts 9:20-31

Reminders about the book of Acts:

1. It shows us the _____ of the church, and ushers in the church age
 - a. God's chosen method to **lead, communicate with, & disciple** _____.
 - b. God's chosen way to _____ the world.

2. It shows us the _____ work of the Holy Spirit, as God's _____ presence on Earth.
 - a. Jesus is now present in Heaven, _____ on Earth.
 - b. God is no longer found and/or encountered via the _____.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is God's _____ presence on Earth until Jesus returns.
 - d. The Holy Spirit is _____ we find and/or encounter God today.

3. It narrates the _____ from Jesus leading the Apostles, to the Apostles leading the church in Jesus name.
 - a. We do _____ build models, doctrines, or apologetics on transitions.
 - b. We _____ see many **examples** to follow and **principles** to observe.

Where do we see this in today's passage:

Acts 9:20 "At once, he began to preach ... that Jesus is the Son of God."

Acts 9:22 "Yet Saul grew more and more powerful, and baffled the Jews..."

Acts 9:27 "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles"

Acts 9:30 "When the believers learned of this, they took him ... to Tarsus"

Acts 9:30 and 31 "Believers" and "Church"

Acts 9:31 "Then the church ... enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened"

Acts 9:31 "Being encouraged by the Spirit, It increased in numbers."

Three things we cannot miss in this passage:

1. The more effective our testimony, or ministry, or message; the _____
the opposition you will encounter.
 - a. Acts 9:22-23 There was a **conspiracy to kill** Paul in Damascus.
 - b. Acts 9:28-29 The Hellenistic Jews **tried to kill** Paul in Jerusalem.
 - c. Paul had to be _____ both times.

You will also find opposition, in _____ to your faith and practice.

- a. Your opposition to sin, as well as your adherence to Biblical truth, may get you _____ bigot, fanatic, xenophobe, racist, intolerant, hate based, etc.
 - b. Your faith based _____ may get your fired, sanctioned, labeled, censored, cancelled, or attacked.
2. Saul's response, as well as the church, give us _____.
 - a. Saul _____ both times, rather than defend himself or become a martyr.
 - b. The church sent Paul to a _____ place to continue his work both times.
 - c. _____ used this to further increase his kingdom of believers. (vs 31)

You, by following their example, can better serve God and His purposes.

- a. Only speak boldly and powerfully about matters of _____ and morality.
 - b. Rather than risk the loss of another's life, or soul by your actions – _____ away and **live to engage** at another time.
3. Barnabas
 - a. Barnabas, at great risk, took a _____ on Saul
 - b. Barnabas, minimizing that risk, took Saul through the _____ channels
 - c. Barnabas began a discipleship/mentoring _____ with Saul