

## Blinded by the Light, He Finally Saw

### Acts 9:1–20 | The Conversion of Saul

*“Suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’”* (Acts 9:3–4)

#### 1. God Can Hijack You for Holiness

Let’s begin with a simple truth: **nobody is beyond God’s reach**. Saul wasn’t on a silent retreat. He wasn’t discerning priesthood. He wasn’t even neutral.

He was *breathing murderous threats* (v.1). The Greek literally says: *he was breathing in hate and violence like oxygen*.

So what does God do? He doesn’t strike him dead. He **blinds him with light**.

The irony is rich: The man who thought he “saw the truth” so clearly is now physically blind—but **finally ready to see with his soul**.

Sometimes God has to **knock us off our horse**—not to punish us, but to wake us up.

Have you ever had a moment like that? A job lost, a relationship broken, a plan ruined—and suddenly, **you hear the voice of God asking you: “Why are you fighting me?”**

#### 2. “Why Are You Persecuting Me?” – Christ and the Church Are One

This is perhaps the most important apologetic verse in this passage:

*“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”*

Jesus doesn’t say, “Why are you hurting **my followers?**” or “my Church.” He says **me**.

This is crucial. Jesus **identifies Himself with His Church**.

To persecute the Church is to persecute Christ Himself.

This is the foundation for Catholic teaching on the **Mystical Body of Christ** (cf. CCC 795).

St. Joan of Arc once said:

*“About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they’re just one thing.”*

So when someone says, “I like Jesus, but not the Church,” remind them: **Jesus and the Church are not a divorceable package**.

#### 3. Ananias: The Reluctant Healer Becomes a Saintmaker

Now let’s look at **Ananias**—the unsung hero.

God tells him, *“Go to Saul.”*

Ananias replies with the spiritual equivalent of, *“Um, Lord... do You know who this guy is? He has a Yelp review of 1 star from every Christian he’s met.”*

But God says:

*“Go, for this man is my chosen instrument.”* (v.15)

Here’s the pastoral insight:

Sometimes the people we’re **most afraid of** are the very ones God wants to use **powerfully**. God can write with crooked lines. He can make a **murderer into a missionary**, a **persecutor into a preacher**, a **sinner into a saint**.

And God uses **the Church** to mediate healing and mission:

- Saul is baptized (v.18).
- He is filled with the Holy Spirit (v.17).
- And **he immediately begins preaching** that Jesus is the Son of God (v.20).

No “cool down” period. No five-year wait. When grace hits, it moves fast.

#### **4. A Practical Word: Let Grace Knock You Over**

Sometimes we resist grace. We want to control our own conversion, manage our image, and keep Jesus in our weekend schedule.

But this story tells us: **Grace is disruptive**.

When Christ enters your life, **you cannot stay the same**.

For some of us, we need to be knocked off our “horses” of pride, comfort, or fear. We need to be blinded—not by suffering—but by **a light that exposes our false ways and reveals the truth**.

And let’s be honest: Saul is the least likely guy to ever convert.

If Saul can become **St. Paul**, then don’t give up:

- On your teenager who left the Church,
- On your coworker who mocks the faith,
- Or on yourself, when you feel unworthy of grace.

As someone once joked: *“If God can use a donkey to speak in Numbers 22, He can definitely use you.”* Amen!

#### **From Terrorist to Theologian**

Saul entered Damascus as a terrorist.

He left as a theologian.

He came to arrest Christians.  
He left as one of them.

And it all started when he **heard a voice, obeyed a call, and received healing from the hands of the Church.**

Let us pray for the same grace today—to let Christ knock us off the horse of our pride and lead us into the joy of being His chosen instruments.

*“Lord, what do You want me to do?”* (Acts 9:6, paraphrased)

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**