

Saul's ARISING Story

Acts 9:1-31

Sunday 25 October 2026

Increasing number of believers / disciples

Acts 1:15 (a group numbering about **120**)

Acts 2:41 .. about **3,000** were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:47 And the Lord **added** to their number **daily** those who were being saved.

Acts 4:4 .. the number of men who believed grew to about **5,000**.

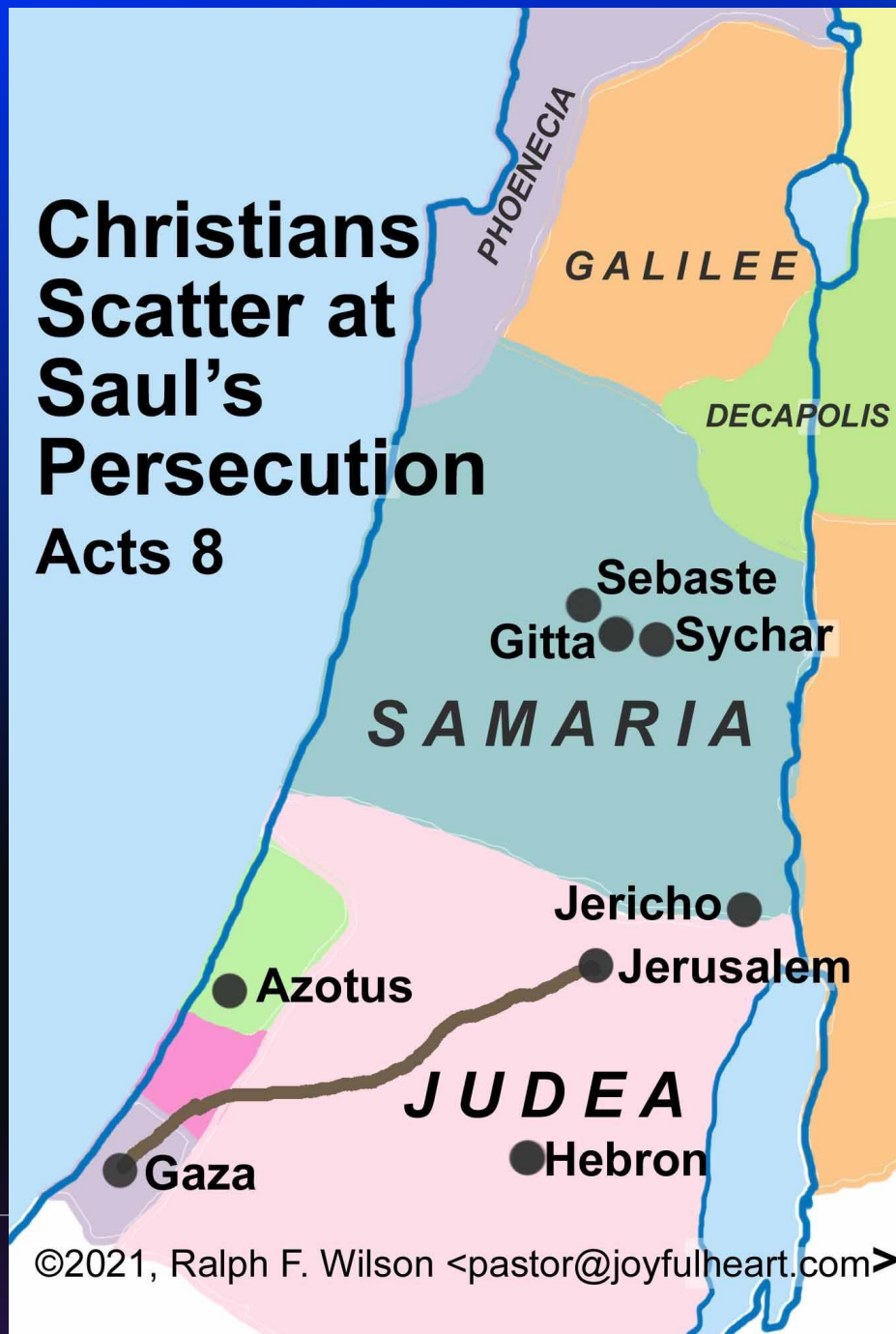
Acts 5:14 .. **more and more** men and women believed in the Lord and were **added** to their number.

Acts 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was **increasing**...

Acts 6:7 The number of disciples... **increased rapidly**...

Christians Scatter at Saul's Persecution

Acts 8



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Acts 8:1 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and **all except the apostles** were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered **preached the word** wherever they went.



Acts 8:3 But Saul began to **destroy the church**. Going from house to house, he **dragged off** both men and women and put them in **prison**.

Acts 9: 1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out **murderous threats** against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for **letters** to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Who was Saul?

Why did Saul persecute the followers of the Way?

Philippians 3:5 **circumcised** on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew** of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a **Pharisee**; 6 as for **zeal**, persecuting the church; as for **righteousness based on the law**, faultless.

Acts 21:39 Paul answered, “I am a **Jew**, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city...”

- Born as a **Roman citizen** (Acts 22:28)
- **Pharisee**: Strict member of the Pharisee sect who was **zealous** and **faultless** regarding the observance of the Jewish Law.

Acts 22:3 I studied under **Gamaliel** and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as **zealous** for God as any of you are today.

Saul's ARISING Story (Acts 9:1-31)

- 1) Dramatic Conversion**
 - 2) Drastic Change**
 - 3) Divine Call**
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(A) Dramatic Conversion (Acts 9)

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting**,” he replied. 6

“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Acts 9:7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he **could see nothing**. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was **blind**, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"
"Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a **vision** he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to **restore his sight**."

Acts 9:13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” ...

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he **could see again.** He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

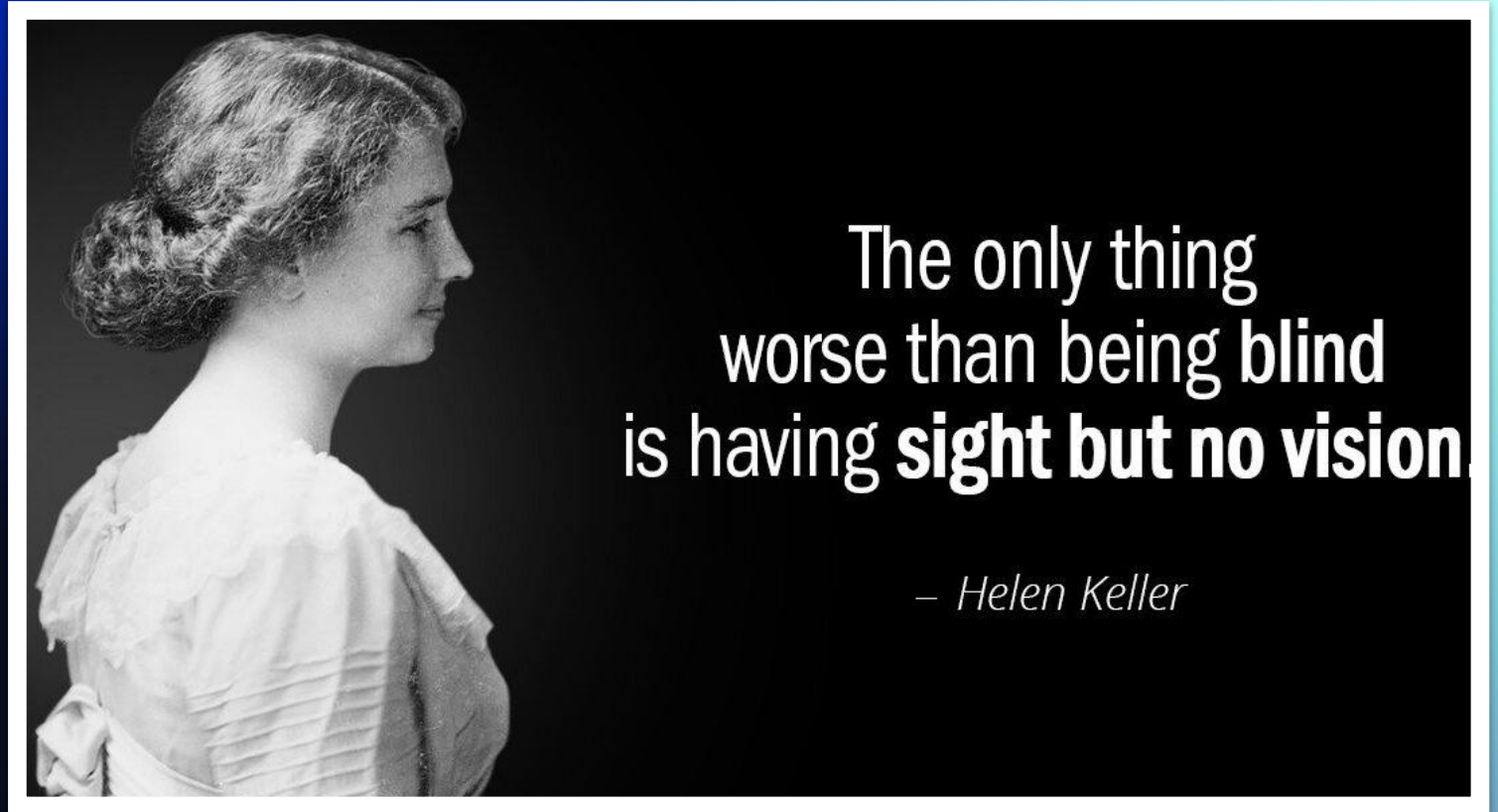


Acts 9	v.8	v.9, 11	v.12	v.18
Saul	he could see nothing	for three days, he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything... for he is praying	in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight	immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.
What?!	SEE NOTHING	FASTING & PRAYER	SEE VISION	SEE AGAIN

Helen Keller

(1880–1968) was an American author, political activist, and lecturer who was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

She wrote 12 published books—including her autobiography “The Story of My



(B) Drastic Change (Acts 9:19-30)

19 Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

20 **At once** he began to **preach** in the synagogues that **Jesus is the Son of God**. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

22 Yet Saul grew **more and more powerful** and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that **Jesus is the Messiah....**

(B) Drastic Change (Acts 9)

	Before	After
Zeal	breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord (v.1)	grew more and more powerful... preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus (v.22,27)
Purpose in synagogues	authority from the high priest - letter to the synagogues in Damascus (v.2)	began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God (v.20)
Plan	arrest men or women as prisoners to Jerusalem (v.2)	tried to join the disciples but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple (v.26)
Stand	against the followers of the Way (v.2)	disputed against the Hellenistic Jews (v.29)

(C) Divine Call

Saul received his **apostleship** from Jesus Christ through a **vision** and **revelation** on the road to Damascus

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my **chosen instrument** to **proclaim my name** to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must **suffer** for my name.”

For the Cause of Christ

	Acts 9:15	Acts 22	Acts 26
Appointment	chosen instrument	V15) witness to all people of what you have seen and heard	V16) servant and witness of what you have seen and will see of Me
Purpose	proclaim Jesus' name	V14) to know God's will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth	V18) open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
Targeted Audience	Gentiles, their kings, people of Israel	V15) all people V21) the Gentiles	V17) the Jews and the Gentiles

The Spirit of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has **anointed** me
to **proclaim** good news to the poor.
He has **sent** me to **bind up** the brokenhearted,
to proclaim **freedom** for the captives
and **release** from darkness for the prisoners...

Zech.4:6

‘Not by might nor by power, but by **my Spirit**,’
says the Lord Almighty.

How much he must **suffer** for My name (**The Way of the Cross**)

2 Cor.11:23-28...I have worked much harder, been in **prison** more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death** again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one**. 25 Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **pelted with stones**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day in the **open sea**, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from **rivers**, in danger from **bandits**, in danger from my fellow **Jews**, in danger from **Gentiles**; in danger in the **city**, in danger in the **country**, in danger at **sea**; and in danger from **false believers**. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone **without sleep**; I have known **hunger** and **thirst** and have often gone **without food**; I have been **cold** and **naked**. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the **pressure** of my concern for all the churches.

The conditions / situations of the church thereafter:

Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (NKJV)

- enjoyed a time of **peace** and was **strengthened** (edified / built up)
 - living (walking) in the **fear of the Lord** and
 - encouraged by (comfort of) **the Holy Spirit**,
 - it **increased** in numbers (they multiplied).
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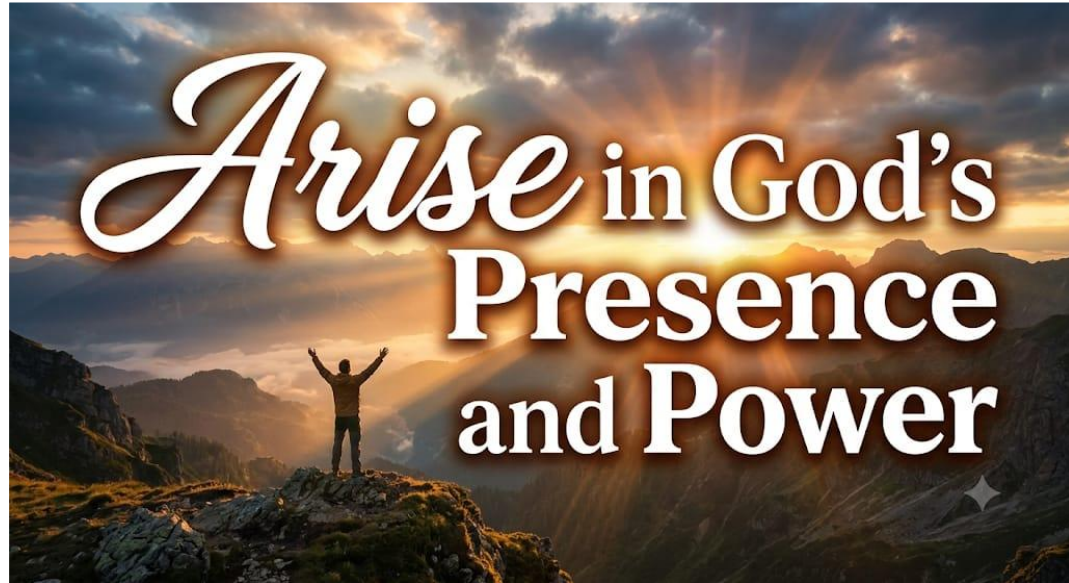
The Lord's Grace to Paul (1 Tim. 1)

12 I thank **Christ Jesus** our Lord, who has given me **strength**, that he considered me **trustworthy**, appointing me to his **service**. 13 Even though I was once a **blasphemer** and a **persecutor** and a **violent man**, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The **grace** of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the **faith** and **love** that are in **Christ Jesus**.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus** came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown **mercy** so that in me, **the worst of sinners**, **Christ Jesus** might display his immense **patience** as an example for those who would believe in him and receive **eternal life**. 17 Now to the **King** eternal, immortal, invisible, the only **God**, be **honor** and **glory** for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is your conversion story that impacted your life until now?
 2. In what ways are we being changed by God's grace?
 3. Through our lives' testimonies, what is God calling us to be / do?
 4. What is the one takeaway that I can apply in my life this week?
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