

We hear a lot today about “seeker sensitive” churches and “seeker driven” services. But the bible says that no one seeks after God. Yet there is a Seeker, and His name is Jesus. Jesus sought out Saul, and he was converted in an instant because of the powerful grace of God in his life.

Ques: Do you remember the hour you first believed? Paul’s conversion, the subject of this lesson, is recorded in Acts 9. Paul tells the story of his conversion in Acts 22 to a mob of Jews, and again in Acts 26 to a group of Roman rulers. So there are three distinct accounts of Paul’s dramatic conversion to Christ. Besides Christ himself, we have more details about the life of the apostle Paul than any other figure in the New Testament.

- I. Saul the Hunter
 - He was a zealous Pharisee who viewed Christianity as a blasphemy and a heresy.
 - Saul was present at the stoning of Stephen – Acts 7:58
 - He was actively involved in the persecution of the early church – Acts 8:3
- II. Saul the Hunted – Paul went from being the hunter to the hunted as Jesus Christ set about to capture him with grace.
 - A. Confrontation – What happened on the road to Damascus?
 1. Saw a “light” – Acts 26:13
 2. Heard a “voice” – Acts 22:9

Note: One of the requirements was that every one of the original apostles had to have seen Jesus Christ, which Paul confirmed that he had in I Cor 9:1: “Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?”

- B. Conviction
 1. He knew that Jesus was alive, that the resurrection story was true
 2. He realized that when he persecuted the Christians, the pain he inflicted was being felt by Jesus himself: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
 - C. Conversion
 1. Paul’s conversion was a direct encounter with Jesus Christ himself.

Note: A British barrister, or attorney at law, named Lord Lyttleton spent two years studying the account of Paul’s conversion, thinking if he could disprove it; the whole NT would lack credibility. After two years, he became a Christian. The evidence was too strong that the biblical account of Paul’s conversion was totally trustworthy.

- D. Consecration
 1. Once he realized he was talking face to face with the Lord, he submitted himself to Christ’s will
 - E. Communion
 1. Sometimes solitude and fasting cause us to focus intently on spiritual issues like we otherwise could not do

III. Saul the Humbled

- A. The Power of Grace in our salvation – While writing to his protégé, Timothy, Paul called himself a former blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent man, “and the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant.” He reiterates that Christ came into the world to save sinners, “of whom I am chief” 1 Tim 1:12-15
- B. The pursuit of God in our salvation
 - 1. The true seeker is Jesus, not us
 - 2. We should be attempting to be sensitive to everything He says; everything He wants me to do
 - 3. “Where once I was blind, now I can see”

Note: So it is not just the power of grace in our life that saves us – it is the pursuit of God as well. God pursues us, and His grace opens our eyes that we might see Him who has sought us out for himself.

Ques: Read Acts 22:1-16

- Why did God seek out and chose Saul? Vs 14
- What was the ultimate purpose for Saul? Vs 15 & 21