**GOD’S GREAT GRACE**

**Acts 9:1-9**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-1/)**And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,**

[**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-2/)**And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.**

[**3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-3/)**And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:**

[**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-4/)**And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**

[**5**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-5/)**And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

[**6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-6/)**And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

[**7**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-7/)**And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.**

[**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-8/)**And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus.**

[**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-9/)**And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.**

[**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-17/)**And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

[**18**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-18/)**And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Saul received God’s Great Grace and that’s when he became Paul, God’s man!**

**\*\*First people must realize this about God’s Great Grace:**

 **1. It is not a Fairytale!**

 **a. Grace is Real!**

 **b. Grace is Reliable!**

 **c. Grace is Remarkable!**

 **2. It is not a Fad!**

**\*\*A fad is an short-lived enthusiasm, but grace is not short-lived!**

 **a. It’s not a thing that you can Buy.**

 **b. It’s not a trend that you can Borrow.**

 **3. It is not a Failure!**

 **a. It’s not a failure Here.**

 **b. It’s not a failure Hereafter.**

**I Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;***

**\*\*I want to look closely at this testimony that Paul gives, and examine what grace can do for someone whose life is in a mess, someone who is not right with God, someone who hates church and Christianity, and someone who is just lost and on their way to hell. Let’s look at God’s Great Grace!**

**I. GOD’S GREAT GRACE CLAIMED SAUL’S LIFE**

 **A. Despite His Deeds God’s Grace Claimed Saul**

**Acts 9:1** [**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-9-1/)**And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord**

 **1. He was Vicious; yet, God’s Grace claimed Saul.**

 **2. He was Vile; yet, God’s Grace claimed Saul.**

 **3. He was Violent; yet, God’s Grace claimed Saul.**

**\*\*I’m so glad that despite our Devilish and Dirty Deeds of sin we have committed, God’s Great Grace claimed us one day!**

**\*\*Some of you only know your fellow church-goers for who they are now as Christians. You would have a hard time believing that they used to be drunkards and dope-addicts and committed sinful dirty deeds.**

**\*\*However, despite all of Saul’s deep, deep, dirty, devilish deeds, the Lord’s grace got a hold of him and laid claim on him.**

**\*\*You can relate to that and rejoice because God did it for you also!**

 **B. Despite His Desires God’s Grace Claimed Saul**

 **1. Saul desired to stop and kill Christians.**

 **2. Saul desired to stop and kill Christianity.**

**\*\*If we were left to our own desires, we would never come to God.  Our path would lead us straight to Hell’s flames; however, I praise His name that He doesn’t care about our desires, but He comes to us and draws us unto Himself.**

 **C. Despite His Defiance God’s Grace Claimed Saul**

**Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

**\*\*Pricks (Ken Tron) – It is a sting that you feel from an iron rod that pokes you! Jesus said, “Saul, you’re just like an old stubborn ox that kicks every time I sting you with the truth, but your kicking isn’t doing you any good.”**

 **1. The Lord stung him about the Guilty Faults.**

 **2. The Lord stung him about the Gospel Facts.**

 **3. The Lord stung him about the Great Faith.**

**Illustration: Anyone that has ever been around real Christians and even heard the gospel preached at all has been stung by the Word of God that poked us all about the Guilty Faults, the Gospel Facts, and the Great Faith. You might as well quit fighting it and just surrender to God and His Grace!**

**\*\*I’m so glad that despite our defiance, the Lord still dealt with us to accept His grace!**

 **D. Despite His Devotion God’s Grace Claimed Saul**

 **1. He was devoted to Slaughter.**

 **2. He was devoted to Sin.**

 **3. He was devoted to Sacrilegion.**

 **4. He was devoted to Satan.**

**\*\*I’ve seen people so determined to be devoted to their life of sin, but I’ve also seen the Lord claim them and save them with His great grace and change their devotion!**

**\*\*God’s great grace claimed Saul’s life because Saul let it claim His life, and it can claim your life too if you’ll let it!**

**II. GOD’S GREAT GRACE CHANGED SAUL’S LIFE**

 **A. Saul’s Direction was Changed**

**Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

 **1. He had a New Faith.**

 **2. He had a New Friend.**

 **a. The Holy Spirit**

 **b. The Holy Savior**

 **3. He had a New Function.**

 **a. He began Preaching Christ.**

 **b. He began Promoting Christianity**

**\*\*By the way, if you are headed in the wrong direction and headed for Hell, God’s Great Grace can change your direction too and lead you to Heaven!**

 **B. Saul’s Dedication was Changed**

**Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.**

 **1. New Christians get dedicated to Christ!**

 **2. New Creatures get dedicated to Church!**

 **C. Saul’s Destination was Changed**

 **1. Saul was destined for hell because of False Religion.**

 **2. Saul was destined for hell because of Faulty Rituals.**

**\*\*Religion nor Rituals will get you into heaven; only the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and His blood can do that!**

**\*\*God’s great grace changed Saul’s life because Saul let it change His life, and it can change your life too if you’ll let it!**

**III. GOD’S GREAT GRACE COMPLETED SAUL’S LIFE**

 **A. Grace Filled the Deficiencies in Saul’s Life**

 **1. Saul had Beliefs, but he lacked the Peace of the Savior.**

 **a. He believed in the Teachings of Judism instead of Jesus.**

 **b. He believed in the Traditions of Judism instead of Jesus.**

**\*\*Paul needed the Right beliefs and the Redemptive beliefs of Christ in order to have peace in his heart!**

 **2. Saul had Backbone, but he lacked the Power of the Spirit.**

 **a. Grace gave Saul that power through his Conversion.**

 **b. Grace gave Saul that power through his Calling.**

 **B. Grace Filled the Desires in Saul’s Life**

 **1. Grace provided Faith**

**\*\*Before grace, Saul believed Judism was the Law that all should believe in, but after grace, Paul believed Jesus was the Lord that all should believe in!**

 **2. Grace provided Fellowship**

**\*\*Saul found out that Religion doesn’t provide Fellowship with God, but Redemption does provide Fellowship with God!**

 **3. Grace provided Fulfillment**

**\*\*Grace satisfied and fulfilled Saul.**

 **a. His Heart was an empty Soul until it was filled with the Holy Savior.**

 **b. His Heart was an empty Shell until it was filled with the Holy Spirit.**

**\*\*God’s great grace completed Saul’s life because Saul let it complete His life, and it can complete your life too if you’ll let it!**

**CLOSE**

**1. Today God’s Great Grace wants to Claim you!**

**\*\*That’s why the Holy Spirit is pricking and stinging your heart right now with this message despite your past sinful deeds, your past sinful desires, your past sinful defiance, and your past sinful devotions.**

**2. Today God’s Great Grace wants to Change you!**

**\*\*Jesus wants to come in your heart today and change your Direction, your Dedication, and your Destination!**

**\*\*Right now in your lost condition you are on a road that is dedicated to one direction and one destination, and that destination is Hell!**

**\*\*Paul was headed down that road to hell, but then God spoke to him and stopped him in his journey toward hell and Paul said, “What do you want me to do?”**

**\*\*The Lord told Paul to go to a certain place and he would be told what to do. God wants you to come to this altar and pray, and God will come by and give you sight and the Holy Ghost just like he did for Paul!**

**3. Today God’s Great Grace wants to Complete you!**

**\*\*Are you here today looking for that Peace of God and the Power of God to make your soul complete?**

**\*\*Are you here today looking for that Faith, that Fellowship, and that Fulfillment that will fill up your heart that is just an empty soul and an empty shell with no real life in it?**

**\*\*Would you please come today where God wants you to be on this altar so that God’s Great Grace can Claim you, Change you, and Complete you today?**

**\*\*Perhaps you have been saved and you know you are saved, but you sure could used God’s Great Grace to Comfort you right now. Come and pray and let God’s Great Grace comfort you today!**