



Lesson 12 – Days of Preparation

Based on Acts 9:19-30

- 1) What did Paul do after his encounter with Jesus and his conversion?
Acts 9:19 And when he had received meat, he was _____. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.
- 2) What did he do almost immediately?
Acts 9:20 And straightway he _____ Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.
- 3) What was ever at the center of his messages?
1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the _____; And that he was buried, and that he _____ the third day according to the scriptures:
- 4) What did he say about seeing Jesus?
1 Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was _____ of me also, as of one born out of due time.

His arguments from prophecy were so conclusive, and his efforts were so manifestly attended by the power of God, that the Jews were confounded and unable to answer him.

- 5) What was the short term effects of his early preaching?
Acts 9:21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that _____ them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them _____ unto the chief priests?

The news of Paul's conversion had come to the Jews as a great surprise. He who had journeyed to Damascus **“with authority and commission from the chief priests” (Acts 26:12)** to apprehend and persecute the believers was now preaching the gospel of a crucified and risen Saviour, strengthening the hands of those who were already its disciples, and continually bringing in new converts to the faith he had once so bitterly opposed.

- 6) How does Scripture record these early days?
Acts 9:22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and _____ the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

Paul had formerly been known as a zealous defender of the Jewish religion and an untiring persecutor of the followers of Jesus. Courageous, independent, persevering, his talents and training would have enabled him to serve in almost any capacity. He could reason with extraordinary clearness, and by his withering sarcasm could place an opponent in no enviable light. And now the Jews saw this young man of unusual promise united with those whom he formerly persecuted and fearlessly preaching in the name of Jesus.

A general slain in battle is lost to his army, but his death gives no additional strength to the enemy. But when a man of prominence joins the opposing force, not only are his services lost, but those to whom he joins himself gain a decided advantage. Saul of Tarsus, on his way to Damascus, might easily have been struck dead by the Lord, and much strength would have been withdrawn from the persecuting power. But God in His providence not only spared Saul's life, but converted him, thus transferring a champion from the side of the enemy to the side of Christ. An eloquent speaker and a severe critic, Paul, with his stern purpose and undaunted courage, possessed the very qualifications needed in the early church.



- 7) What was the notable hallmark of his preaching?
Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should _____ and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.
- 8) What did he add to that?
Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the _____ and _____ did say should come:
- 9) Where did Paul go to find focus and get right with God?
Galatians 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into _____, and returned again unto Damascus.

Here, in the solitude of the desert, Paul had ample opportunity for quiet study and meditation. He calmly reviewed his past experience and made sure work of repentance. He sought God with all his heart, resting not until he knew for a certainty that his repentance was accepted and his sin pardoned. He longed for the assurance that Jesus would be with him in his coming ministry. He emptied his soul of the prejudices and traditions that had hitherto shaped his life and received instruction from the Source of truth. Jesus communed with him and established him in the faith, bestowing upon him a rich measure of wisdom and grace.

- 10) How does one get right with God?
Job 22:21 _____ now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

When the mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite, the effect on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate. In such communion is found the highest education. It is God's own method of development.

- 11) What did Paul say about his 1st stay in Damascus?
Acts 22:12-13 And one _____, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwell there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, _____ thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.
- 12) What did Ananias tell him he would do?
Acts 22:14-16 And he said, The God of our fathers hath _____ thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest _____ the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his _____ unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- 13) For what purpose did God spare Paul?
Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a _____ and a _____ both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from _____ to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by _____ that is in me.
- 14) What kind of ministry did God call Paul to?
1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an _____ of Jesus Christ through the will of God...



The word apostle is a straight transliteration of the Greek *apostolos*, literally meaning "one who is sent forth." It implies an ambassador or messenger bearing an official message by the authority of someone more powerful than himself. Jesus called twelve Apostles to be his special messengers to all the world.

15) Was his calling from men?

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by _____ Christ, and God the _____, who raised him from the dead;)

16) What did he say to the church in Corinth?

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with _____ of _____, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the _____ and of _____: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of _____.

17) Where did Paul go after his time in the desert?

Galatians 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18) How'd that go?

Acts 9:23-25 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to _____: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a _____.

19) Where did he go from there?

Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to _____ to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Acts 9:26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

It was difficult for them to believe that so bigoted a Pharisee, and one who had done so much to destroy the church, could become a sincere follower of Jesus.

20) Who helped him in Jerusalem?

Acts 9:27 But _____ took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Upon hearing this, the disciples received him as one of their number. Soon they had abundant evidence as to the genuineness of his Christian experience. The future apostle to the Gentiles was now in the city where many of his former associates lived, and to these Jewish leaders he longed to make plain the prophecies concerning the Messiah, which had been fulfilled by the advent of the Saviour. Paul felt sure that these teachers in Israel, with whom he had once been so well acquainted, were as sincere and honest as he had been. But he had miscalculated the spirit of his Jewish brethren, and in the hope of their speedy conversion he was doomed to bitter disappointment

21) How was Paul received in Jerusalem?

Acts 9:29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to _____ him.



Sorrow filled his heart. He would willingly have yielded up his life if by that means he might bring some to a knowledge of the truth. With shame he thought of the active part he had taken in the martyrdom of Stephen, and now in his anxiety to wipe out the stain resting upon one so falsely accused, he sought to vindicate the truth for which Stephen had given his life.

22) What did God do to spare Paul at this time?

Acts 22:18 And saw him saying unto me, Make _____, and get thee _____ out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

Paul was inclined to remain at Jerusalem, where he could face the opposition. To him it seemed an act of cowardice to flee, if by remaining he might be able to convince some of the obstinate Jews of the truth of the gospel message, even if to remain should cost him his life.

23) How did God reply to Paul's plea to stay?

Acts 22:19-21 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. And he said unto me, _____: for I will send thee _____ unto the Gentiles.

24) What was the effect of Paul leaving Jerusalem?

Acts 9:30-31 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to _____. Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were _____.

The departure of Paul suspended for a time the violent opposition of the Jews, and the church had a period of rest, in which many were added to the number of believers.

**Can you see that God is better than us at
planning the future?**

**Do you want to be a vessel of the Holy
Spirit?**

When is the time listen to God?