

Saul Encounters Jesus

Acts 9:1-31

by Don Falkos

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Saul was on his way to Damascus to hunt down believers in Jesus. Suddenly, a bright light was shining all around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city."

When Saul got up, he discovered he was blind. The men traveling with him led him into Damascus. For three days he didn't eat or drink anything.

The Lord spoke to a disciple in Damascus, "Ananias, go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for Saul of Tarsus. Place your hands on him and restore his sight. I have chosen this man to carry my name to the Gentiles as well as to the people of Israel."

Ananias went, placed his hands on Saul, and said, "Brother Saul, regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see. He was baptized. Then he ate and regained his strength.

Saul immediately began to proclaim Jesus the Son of God. People were surprised because they knew he had come to Damascus to arrest followers of Jesus. Saul's life was threatened, so some believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall.

He went to Jerusalem, was introduced to the apostles, and continued speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. After Saul returned home to Tarsus, the church experienced a time of peace and growth.