

Redeemed

(Acts 9:19b-31)

God is a transforming God.

1. Saul's life was transformed. (Acts 9:19b-25)

- a. Transformation #1: A Changed Heart. (Acts 9:19b)
 - Saul is now living with the same people he came to destroy!
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit within the life of a believer can transform hate into love. (Rom. 5:5)
- b. Transformation #2: A Changed Purpose. (Acts 9:20-22)
 - God gave Saul a new purpose. Instead of trying to silence the gospel, his purpose now is to declare it with boldness!
 - God's redemptive work always leads to noticeable transformation. (Acts 9:21)
 - God's transformation is a continual work in the life of His people. (Acts 9:22)
- c. Transformation #3: A Willingness to Suffer for Christ. (Acts 9:23-25)
 - Saul was transformed from being the persecutor to becoming the persecuted.
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 says, *"Everyone who desires to live a godly life will be persecuted."*
 - A precious promise from Jesus. (Matthew 5:11-12)

2. We still face the consequences from our past (Acts 9:26-30)

- a. Saul's former life caused some to fear him and question the sincerity of his faith. (Acts 9:26)
- b. The Church needs more encouragers. (Acts 9:27)
- c. Saul once again needed to flee. (Acts 9:28-30)

3. The Unstoppable God continues to build His Church (Acts 9:31)

- a. With its chief persecutor transformed, the church enjoyed a measure of peace.

- b. The believers walked in reverence of the Lord, experiencing His abiding presence and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.
- c. The Church continued to grow.

4. Applications

- ◆ God is still redeeming and transforming lives. Follow Him!
- ◆ No one is beyond the reach of God's redeeming love.
- ◆ Share with others how much the Lord has done for you.