



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 6, 2025

Acts 9:19-31

[19] and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. [20] And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." [21] And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" [22] But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. [23] When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, [24] but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, [25] but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. [26] And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. [28] So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. [29] And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. [30] And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. [31] So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

1. What comes into your mind when you think about God? How does your understanding of God impact your life and the way you live?
2. Luke writes that Saul proclaimed Jesus to the Jews in the synagogues, emphasizing that Jesus was the Son of God. Why was it critical for the Jews to know that Jesus is the Son of God? Why is it critical for you as a Christian to believe this?
3. Saul went from being a powerful persecutor of the church to a powerless man being lowered in a basket from a hole to escape his would-be murderers. Do you think Saul regretted this turn of events in his life? Why or why not? In 2 Cor 11:30, why do you think Paul boasts in his weaknesses? How does this help you when you are struggling and feeling defeated and weak?

4. Saul finally returns to Jerusalem after three years but the church is still afraid of him. How did Barnabas bring Saul into the church? What can this teach us about how to deal with people who may hurt us in the church?
5. Describe what it looks like to “walk in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit”. and explain why this causes the church to multiply and grow. How does this kind of growth differ from a church that grows because of a funny, entertaining and charismatic preacher? Which kind of church would you prefer and why?