

When You Live in God's Will

Acts 9:28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Lessons We Have Learned in this Series:

1. The love of God can _____ anyone's _____!
2. One person can make a great _____ on our world; particularly when he or she _____ God's plan for their lives.

There is power in one when...

- ... You Hear God's Voice
- ... You Know Your Purpose
- ... You are Surrounded by God's People
- ... You live in God's Will

God's Plan for Paul & the Church:

A Plan for healing: Paul began where Steven left off!

	<i>Steven</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<i>His Vision</i>	Ministry ended with a vision of Jesus	Ministry began with a vision of Jesus
<i>His Ministry</i>	Died while serving the Grecian Widows & Speaking Boldly	Began by boldly Debating the Grecian Jews
<i>His Impact</i>	Death initiated great persecution	A death threat initiated peace for the Church
<i>His Message</i>	Began in Jerusalem & was forced into Judea	Began in Judea & extended to the World
<i>His Proof</i>	Validated by Signs & Wonders & rejected by the Masses	

Progress for the Gospel:

Paul was called to change the direction of the Gospel!

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

Paul needed to leave for the church to move forward!

Acts 9:31 **Then** the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

The Church was strengthened spiritually.

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The Church grew numerically.

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The people were awestruck by God!

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Preparation for the next move!

The Church was preparing for the next wave of persecution!

Paul was given a taste of what he would face throughout his ministry.

He was sent back to his hometown for 11 years before we see him again.

Acts 9:30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Gal. 1:18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days...21 Later I went to Syria and Cilicia 2:1 Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. 2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles.

Paul's ministry signals a change in the Church & a change in the book of Acts.

Your Challenge:

- 1- God's great desire is to be his witnesses.
- 1- Preparation is a necessary part of Living God's Will!
- 2- Waiting for God doesn't justify inactivity!