

The Acts of the Apostles 9

ASVh with Comments

Summary. In this chapter, the Lord calls to faith His chosen apostle to the Gentiles, calls His worker to pray for His chosen apostle, and the Lord starts to magnify His power in the church throughout all of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, so the Lord sent Peter to strengthen the believers in these churches and teach them how to worship the Lord God Almighty. **Acts 9:1-9.** Saul meets the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. The dark forces started to interrupt the work of the Lord God Almighty by using Saul to commit evil deeds. On the road to Damascus, the blessed man experienced a miracle from the Father Himself; the light from the Lord shone upon the worker, and the Lord Jesus called Saul for work. **Acts 9:10-19.** Ananias prays for Saul to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus appears in a vision to Ananias and gives him specific orders to go and pray for Saul to be healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. From great mercy, the Lord God Almighty has chosen Saul to be His apostle and spread the Word of God to the Gentiles. **Acts 9:20-25.** Saul proclaims the Lord Jesus in Damascus. Saul's body strength returned, which made his heart have positive faith in the Lord God Almighty; he acted according to the faith he received and had no fear left in his heart to proclaim the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ to people; however, the Jews plotted to kill him, but the Lord God Almighty was with him and helped him to escape their plot. **Acts 9:26-30.** Saul proclaims the Lord Jesus in Jerusalem. The Lord guided Saul to go and join His disciples in Jerusalem. Saul began to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior to all the people he met; the Lord God Almighty had chosen this new disciple for a great work among all believers. Here, the Hellenists sought to kill Saul; however, the brothers took him away to safety. **Acts 9:31-32.** Peter ministers to the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. By the Lord's guidance, the apostle of the Lord God Almighty came to these chosen areas, where he taught; thereby, the Lord used him to grow the church in faith. **Acts 9:33-35.** In Lydda, the Lord heals Aeneas. The beloved Son of God showed His power to the humans at this time through the apostle. Simple order with the mercy of the heart, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the man who had been lying sick on a bed for a long time was healed. **Acts 9:36-43.** In Joppa, the Lord raises Dorcas from the dead. In Joppa, Peter prayed to the Lord by the body of a kind-hearted woman, Dorcas, and then, with the word of authority, commanded the body to wake up. The Lord God Almighty was in the apostle's mouth to perform the miracle in the eyes of those present, and the dead person woke up again. With miracles, people's hearts come and worship the Lord God Almighty.

¹ But Saul, **still** breathing threatening and slaughter **toward** the disciples of the **Lord**, **having gone** to the high priest,

Comments Acts 9:1. The dark started the work to interrupt the work of the Lord God Almighty by using this man to do evil deeds, but the dark didn't know the Lord wanted to use this man to spread the Word of God.

² asked **from** him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, **so** that if he found any **being** of the Way, **both** men **and** women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Comments Acts 9:2. "Asked from him letters to Damascus ..." The purpose of the dark is to fight against the Lord God Almighty by using humans. The dark has a certain mindset that the Lord God Almighty loves humans and will not harm them. If the dark uses humans to fight, they believe they will win because the Lord God Almighty's love cannot be changed.

"So that if he found any being of the Way ..." This part of the verse tells us clearly that the dark targets only the children of the Lord God Almighty; whoever has shown faith in the Lord God Almighty will be the target of the dark for torture.

³ And **in the going**, it came to pass, he drew **near to** Damascus, and suddenly **shined around** him a light out of heaven;

Comments Acts 9:3. "And in the going ..." This is a specific place and time for the Lord God Almighty to perform the miracle in guiding His worker.

"And suddenly shined around him ..." The blessed man had experienced the miracle from the Father Himself; the light from the Lord God Almighty shone upon the worker; this light was also significant in pointing out the work this person would do. This light is the light from the Father, the God of Three in One;

this light includes the beloved Son of God and the Holy Spirit as well; the magnificent light from the Father has appeared to this human.

⁴ and having fallen on the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?

Comments Acts 9:4. "And having fallen on the ground." Take notice of the power which is so mighty: when the Lord God Almighty has shined His light upon this human, the heart has made the person have no power and energy to stand up but fall down to the ground. In front of the power coming from the Lord God Almighty, humans who come from the ground cannot stand up but must be at the same level as the ground. "He heard a voice saying to him ..." This question is not condemning the person but reminding the person to think about what he is doing; now, the mind of this man starts to think about what he has done, and the reason of the heart will also come out with this question.

⁵ Then he said, Who are You, Lord? Now, I am Jesus whom you persecute,

Comments Acts 9:5. The beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, has pronounced Himself to the person that He chose to be His servant. By letting this person know who He is, it also declares what duty this servant will be.

⁶ but rise up, and enter into the city, and it will be told you what it behooves you to do.

Comments Acts 9:6. "But rise up, and enter into the city." The beloved Son of God had given straight directions and commandments where the servant should go.

"And it will be told you ..." The duty of this servant will be announced at the right time of a meeting.

⁷ And the men traveling with him stood speechless, hearing indeed the voice, but seeing no one.

Comments Acts 9:7. "And the men traveling with him stood speechless." The miracle to be noticed happened in front of more humans, and these humans could not even speak out; the voice to express fear or amazement couldn't come out of their throats because of the miracle they had experienced.

"Hearing indeed the voice, but seeing no one." When humans hear a voice but see no one speak, that makes the heart shudder; when human hearts are in shock, it also makes the mind stop thinking.

⁸ Then, Saul arose from the ground, and his eyes having been opened, he saw nothing; then, leading him by hand, they brought him to Damascus.

Comments Acts 9:8. "Then, Saul arose from the ground." The person the Lord chose to do the work got up from the ground at this time.

"And his eyes having been opened ..." The eyes had been closed by the power of the Lord God Almighty; this blindness was not a punishment, but the leading for work would accompany this hardship. When a person has experienced the hardship of physical suffering, they will rely on the Lord God Almighty more than on their own knowledge.

"Then, leading him by hand ..." When the eyes could not see, he would be led by someone else to the place where the Lord God Almighty had appointed him to be.

⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither did he eat nor drink.

Comment Acts 9:9. This hardship made the man to be humble; this hardship did not damage the body. The Lord God Almighty has a way to tame the man to be humble.

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple in Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

Comments Acts 9:10. The Lord God Almighty used His disciple who believed and had faith to do the important work as well; He commanded this disciple to travel to another place for work; if the person did not trust in the order, he would not do the job until the end.

¹¹ And the Lord said to him, Having risen up, go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas of one named Saul, of Tarsus; for behold, he is praying;

Comments Acts 9:11. "And the Lord said to him ..." The work needs to succeed, so the Lord God Almighty gives details to the point where the disciple should go to succeed in the work.

“And inquire in the house of Judas ...” The verse clearly tells whom to find and what the person is doing; the man praying to the Lord God Almighty, with an honest heart, makes the work come to him easy and fast. The Lord God Almighty chose the man because of his heart, not his ability.

¹² and he **saw** a man named Ananias, **having come** and **having laid the** hands on him, **so** that he might receive sight.

Comments Acts 9:12. “And he saw a man named Ananias ...” The worker of the Lord God Almighty also received the gift of vision as well; with human eyes, he could see what would come to him. The Lord God Almighty has shown to His worker the man, the name, and the action that will come, and he will receive the healing; but also, he must realize that not the man is the one who heals him, but the Lord God Almighty is the One who is healing him.

“So that he might receive sight.” The Lord God Almighty will provide this healing for him; it will be instantaneous, restoring him to his former state.

¹³ But Ananias answered, **Lord**, I have heard from many **about** this man, how much evils he did to **Thy** saints **in** Jerusalem;

Comments Acts 9:13. “But Ananias answered ...” The Lord God Almighty had been a point of attack from many people at that time; here, as it has been told, people heard what this man did and said; the blasphemous things he has said about the Lord God Almighty have been witnessed.

“How much evils he did ...” The verse clearly states that the person committed many evil acts; the children of the Lord God Almighty have faced difficulties, both physical and mental, and the family has also suffered hardship due to this person’s deeds.

¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all **who** call on **Thy Name**.

Comments Acts 9:14. “And here he has authority from the chief priests.” These persons, the chief priests, who were supposed to be the Lord God Almighty’s servants, have given bad orders. But the people who receive orders need to think as well: right and wrong order is also in the mind of the person who will commit to doing the work; therefore, if you receive orders to do evil deeds and those orders have made your heart not at peace, then you also need to pray and seek advice from the Lord God Almighty before acting out.

“To bind all who call on Thy Name.” The people who believe in the Lord God Almighty, because they have acted according to the teachings of the Lord God Almighty, the action against them is not only directed at them alone; this order goes against the Lord God Almighty Himself, as the people whom they want to arrest are the people who worship Him.

¹⁵ **However**, the **Lord** said **to** him, Go, for he is a chosen vessel **to Me**, to bear **My Name** before the Gentiles, and **also** kings, and the **sons** of Israel;

Comments Acts 9:15. “However, the Lord said to him, Go.” The Lord God Almighty pointed out the time and place to work, and success will come; when the Lord God Almighty told him to go, also, that means do not delay to make the time not fit in.

“For he is a chosen vessel to Me.” In the eyes of the Lord God Almighty, He has seen His chosen already where he is; the time to work for His servant has come; now, in the right moment of time and situation, the chosen will work properly.

“To bear My Name before ...” The chosen one has a difficult work to come ahead, to tell the outside about the work of the Lord God Almighty, but the work for His own children will be harder to do than the work with the outsiders.

¹⁶ for **I** will show him how many things he must suffer for **My Name**.

Comments Acts 9:16. From great mercy, the Lord God Almighty has chosen him to be His apostle, and in this, he will do the work greater for the Lord than against; the Lord God Almighty saw his heart that is faithful; the work in spreading the gospel among people will achieve more towards all.

¹⁷ And Ananias **went away**, and entered into the house; and **having laid the** hands on him said, Brother Saul, the **Lord**, **Jesus**, the **One** **having** appeared to **you** on the **road by** which **you came**, has sent me, that **you may** receive sight, and be filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

Comments Acts 9:17. “And Ananias went away ...” The Lord God Almighty leads him to the house which He (the Lord) has to work upon; the mighty work will begin with this task at hand.

“And having laid the hands on him ...” The beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, confirms to this apostle that He is the one calling him for work.

“That you may receive sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” By laying hands on him, the Holy Spirit came and baptized him; the healing began in the man, and he became the apostle of the Lord, who had received the gift and would go to spread the good news to people.

Q: In Romans 11:13, Paul writes that he is an apostle to the Gentile; the Lord Jesus had only twelve apostles; what is the difference between Paul’s position and the twelve apostles’ position? **A:** Paul was not part of the twelve apostles, but he was called to do miracle work. The twelve apostles have a duty to proclaim the gospel throughout the human race, but the apostles, other than these, have a duty to serve from the direct order of the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, to do the work among the outsiders.

¹⁸ And straightway fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and **having risen up**, he was baptized;

Comments Acts 9:18. The beloved Son of God performed miracle work for His chosen one; when the man’s eyes were freed, and he could see, his work also began with the sight of his eyes. The next step for the true believer was to spread the good news.

¹⁹ and **having taken** food, he was strengthened. **Now** he was **some** days with the disciples in Damascus.

Comments Acts 9:19. “And having taken food, he was strengthened.” The body is weak when you fast, but that weak body makes your heart stay firm in the teaching of God Almighty; the fasting shows humbleness towards the Lord God Almighty, and that also will bring blessings for your own soul.

“Now he was some days ...” The chosen one spent time among believers, which also created love in knowing about the power of the Lord God Almighty. Spending time together among believers, the ear will hear more good news about the Lord, and that good news will produce fruit in life.

²⁰ And straightway in the synagogues he proclaimed **Jesus**, that **He** is the **Son of God**.

Comments Acts 9:20. “And straightway in the synagogues.” In the old times, the synagogue was the place for telling about the Lord God Almighty; the Lord God Almighty stirred the heart of the chosen one to proclaim the Lord God Almighty in these places as well.

“He proclaimed Jesus, that He is the Son of God.” When the heart is honest and receives the teaching, the disciple proclaims the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, to be God for all humans, and now the chosen one with a firm heart proclaims the beloved Son of God in public.

²¹ **Then** all **who** heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this **the one having ravaged** in Jerusalem **those calling** on this **Name**? And he had come **here** for this, that he might bring them bound **to** the chief priests.

Comments Acts 9:21. “Then all who heard him ...” The Lord God Almighty’s disciple had behaved in many ways against the Lord but did not have hatred toward people whom he had harmed; in his heart, he wanted to be the best in his position, even by doing things that he himself did not fully agree, but when the heart let the power of this world influence it the reason for right and wrong had disappeared.

“And he had come here for this ...” The chief priests had authority among humans, and at that time, the chosen one was serving human leaders and did his best to get the earthly benefits; even though deep in his heart he had no hatred, but his actions went against the heart, and the Lord God Almighty sees his actions and also his heart at the same time as well.

²² But Saul increased **all** the more in strength, and confounded the Jews **who dwelt in** Damascus, proving that this is the **Christ**.

Comments Acts 9:22. “But Saul increased all the more in strength.” The human body is a miracle of recovery; after rest and proper food, the body regains its strength; this is the way the Lord God Almighty created the human body to fight against fatigue. Without body strength, spiritual strength won’t come that easy.

“And confounded the Jews ...” The body’s strength returned, which made the heart of the chosen one have positive faith in the Lord God Almighty; when body and heart received the strength back, the chosen one acted according to the faith he received and had no fear left in his heart to proclaim the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ to people.

²³ And when many days **had passed**, the Jews **plotted** together to kill him;

Comments Acts 9:23. The dark worked among his people to make a plan to kill the chosen one; the chosen one would work for the Lord God Almighty, which made the enemy of light angry toward him.

²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. And they also watched the gates **both** day and night that they might kill him;

Comments Acts 9:24. The chosen one learned of the enemy’s plan against him, which made him stay put and wait for the right time to escape. The Lord God Almighty would guide the chosen one to escape their hands.

²⁵ however, his disciples **having taken** him by night, they let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Comments Acts 9:25. The Lord God Almighty has stirred people’s hearts to help the disciple to escape even if the way was not natural, but the danger in the way of the escape also would stir the heart of the disciple; the position hanging from the wall in the basket, made the disciple put more trust in the Lord God Almighty.

²⁶ **Then**, **having** come **in** Jerusalem, he **attempted** to join the disciples; and all were afraid of him, not believing that he **is** a disciple.

Comments Acts 9:26. “Then, having come in Jerusalem ...” The Lord God Almighty guided his heart to go and join with His disciples; in his heart, the fear also happened at this time that he would not be welcomed because of his deeds in the past.

“And all were afraid of him ...” Everybody had knowledge of this new disciple’s deeds in the past, and nobody trusted that he was a true disciple and had truly given his heart to the Lord God Almighty, becoming a good disciple for everyone.

²⁷ **However**, Barnabas **having taken** him, brought him to the apostles, and **he** declared **to** them how he had seen the **Lord** on the **road**, and that **He** had spoken to him, and how **in** Damascus he had **spoken** boldly in the name of **Jesus**.

Comments Acts 9:27. “However, Barnabas having taken him ...” The Lord God Almighty stirred up the man of faith (Barnabas) to bring the new disciples (Saul) to His disciples.

“And he declared to them ...” The new disciple had been a witness of the risen Lord by telling His disciples that the Lord God Almighty’s beloved Son had spoken to him in a simple place. The place is not the limit for the Lord to speak, but the heart is the limit; the Lord God Almighty will come to meet all of you in your heart regardless of where you are because the heart is the best place to meet and worship the Lord.

“And how in Damascus he had spoken ...” The Lord God Almighty had ignited the fire in this new disciple; as it is written, he spoke boldly, telling all that listen how merciful the Lord God Almighty is for the sinner.

²⁸ And he was with them **coming** in and going out **in** Jerusalem, **speaking** boldly in the name of the **Lord**;

Comments Acts 9:28. “And he was with them coming in ...” The new disciple had joined the disciples of the Lord and started to feel welcome among them; the Lord God Almighty had brought His disciples together for work.

“Speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.” The new disciple, with a whole heart full of faith, proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior to all people that he met; the Lord God Almighty had chosen this new disciple for a great work among all believers.

²⁹ **also**, he **spoke** and disputed against the **Hellenists**; but they were seeking to kill him.

Comments Acts 9:29. The new disciple of the Lord God Almighty spoke wholeheartedly from his belief against those who believe differently, and this made the dark minds angry, and they wanted to kill him.

³⁰ However, the brothers having known it, brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him away to Tarsus.

Comments Acts 9:30. The believers in the Lord God Almighty had one heart and mind together and wanted to help the new disciple escape; one heart, one mind, had taken the new disciple away to safety.

³¹ Then, indeed, the church throughout all of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified, and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was multiplied.

Comments Acts 9:31. “Then, indeed, the church throughout ...” The Lord God Almighty has chosen the places to magnify His power; humans will start and learn to worship the Lord God Almighty at this time.

“And, going on in the fear of the Lord ...” When the hearts were opened to receive the Lord God Almighty that had made the Holy Spirit dwell and show His power in leading people to worship the Lord God Almighty and the people were blessed with faith in the Lord God Almighty; the knowledge of the Lord God Almighty would be spread out among people more, the people with true hearts had been touched, and the faith multiplied among people.

³² And it came to pass that Peter passing through all, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda.

Comments Acts 9:32. “And it came to pass that Peter passing through all.” The apostle of the Lord God Almighty also came to these areas by the Lord’s guidance; he went throughout teaching, which made more disciples grow in faith. The Lord God Almighty planned to multiply the disciples in this area, starting with the apostle coming to help the people.

“He came down also ...” When the apostle stayed among the people, it would make them see what the true way of worshiping the Lord God Almighty should be. The Lord God Almighty helped the disciple to perform miracles among the people.

³³ And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been lying sick on a bed for eight years, who was paralyzed.

Comments Acts 9:33. “And there he found a certain man named Aeneas.” The apostle found the person who needed help, and the Lord God Almighty wanted to show him the miracle of healing.

“Who had been lying sick on a bed ...” As the verse tells us, the person was in bad condition for a long time, but the Lord God Almighty saw him and wanted to heal him.

³⁴ And Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you: rise up and make your bed. And straightway he arose.

Comments Acts 9:34. “And Peter said to him ...” The beloved Son of God showed His power to the humans at this time through the apostle. Simple order with the mercy of the heart and the man was healed; there was no need for anyone to help, just the order alone, and the body recovered, and the man was healed.

“And straightway he arose.” Give attention as well to the condition and the time the body has not been used, but with the command from the Lord God Almighty, the human body recovered instantly.

³⁵ And all those living in Lydda and Sharon saw him, who turned to the Lord.

Comments Acts 9:35. The testimony and the miracle work had been performed in this area; people who witnessed it had turned their hearts to have faith in the Lord God Almighty.

³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which translated is called Dorcas; she was full of good works and alms which she did.

Comments Acts 9:36. In the area, one woman stood out among all, not because of her good deeds but because her heart, full of faith, had made her behave differently than them. Her name has been mentioned because of the good heart she had. All readers should think and take this as an example for themselves: the Lord God Almighty sees the true heart and will lift you up above all.

³⁷ However, it came to pass in those days, that she fell sick, and died; and having washed her, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Comments Acts 9:37. The kind-hearted woman fell sick and died; people mourning this loss have prepared her body according to tradition and left it at rest, waiting in an upper room.

³⁸ And as Lydda was **near to** Joppa, the disciples, **having heard** that Peter was **in it**, sent two men to him, **beseeching**, Delay not **coming to us**.

Comments Acts 9:38. "And as Lydda was near to Joppa ..." The disciples of the Lord heard that the apostle was close by and had sent chosen men to inquire about the apostle to come.

"Delay not coming to us." The men were also rushing the apostle to come quickly without delay because the dead body would not stay but would decompose rapidly; they were urging the apostle to come without delay.

³⁹ And Peter, **having risen up**, went with them, **who having** come, brought him into the upper chamber; and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the **tunics** and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

Comments Acts 9:39. "And Peter, having risen up ..." With hope to seek help at this moment, the people coming to the apostle had faith in the Lord God Almighty.

"And all the widows stood by him weeping ..." The poor women, without husbands, had worked hard with the faithful women in doing good things for people; weeping with sadness of heart, they showed the apostle all the good deeds the good woman had done while staying with them.

⁴⁰ **Then** Peter, **having put** them all **outside** and **having bowed the knees**, he prayed; and **having turned** to the body, he said, Tabitha, arise! And she opened her eyes; and **having seen** Peter, she sat up.

Comments Acts 9:40. "Then Peter, having put them all outside ..." The first thing the apostle did was humble himself, go down to the ground, and beg mercy from the Lord God Almighty in prayer.

"And having turned to the body ..." The apostle, with the word of authority, commanded the body to wake up; the Lord God Almighty was in the apostle's mouth to perform the miracle in people's eyes; the dead woke up again.

"And she opened her eyes ..." The living woke up and saw the apostle; her heart had received the power from the Lord God Almighty and helped her body to be able to do things as normal again.

⁴¹ **Then having given** her his hand, he raised her up; and calling the saints and **the** widows, he presented her **living**.

Comments Acts 9:41. "Then having given her his hand ..." When the apostle gave out the hand to the poor woman, the Lord God Almighty also went with that hand.

"And calling the saints ..." The apostle called out to all the people who were there to be witnesses in the miracle of the Lord God Almighty: to raise the dead it is only by the miracle hand of the Lord God Almighty; for all humans, when the life ends, only by the will of the Lord God Almighty one can be alive again.

⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa; and many believed on the **Lord**.

Comments Acts 9:42. "And it became known throughout all Joppa." Now, at this place, the Lord God Almighty has shown a miracle to bring the people's hearts back to Him again; the news of this miracle will be proclaimed further than this area itself.

"And many believed on the Lord." With miracles, people's hearts come and worship the Lord God Almighty. This miracle worked in people's hearts, and it will also work on their children and future generations.

⁴³ And it came to pass, he abode many days in Joppa with **a certain** one Simon, a tanner.

Comments Acts 9:43. The Lord God Almighty picked a simple man to host the apostle; with simple hearts and simple minds, the work of the Lord God Almighty will succeed and spread out more in this town.

Life and faith applications. 1) We should all examine our faith and pray to see if we are on some road to Damascus ourselves, persecuting the Lord Jesus in some way. 2) When the Holy Spirit calls us for some work, we should obey immediately without delay. 3) We should be bold in our faith and proclaim the Lord Jesus, as guided by the Holy Spirit, to those that the Lord brings in our path. 4) Believe in the miracle work that the Lord performed through the apostles' hands in the name of the Lord Jesus; also, believe that through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, miracles are still happening these days.