

Now that you are saved...



Your recent confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour has brought joy to our hearts and to the angels in heaven (Luke 15:7).

The Bible refers to conversion as "new birth". You are therefore now a babe in Christ. The Lord wants you to grow into a mature Christian and to assist that process "the sincere milk of the word" is recommended (1 Peter 2:2).

- While your conversion might not have been as dramatic as that of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9), it was just as effective. As a work of the Spirit, it may be likened to the activity of the wind (John 3:8) which sometimes comes in the form of a hurricane and sometimes as a gentle breeze.

It is instructive to look at some of the things that followed Saul's (Paul's) conversion.

- He was no longer able to act in his own power. Someone had **to lead him** (Acts 9:8).
- **He prayed** (Acts 9:11). This activity is going to be as important to you as it was to Paul. Be a praying Christian. You will find great blessings in prayer. While Paul was praying the Lord directed Ananias to him (Acts 9:12). It is amazing how wonderful the blessings are and how effective can be the life of prayer. See Acts 4:31; 12:5-11; 16:25-29.
- **Paul** needed **Spiritual help** from one who was more mature in the faith and this God provided through Ananias. Perhaps you too will have questions concerning the Bible and the Christian life. Do not hesitate to ask someone in your assembly or drop a line to me or to any believer whom you think can be of help to you.

- Because of Paul's past conduct, others doubted the reality of his conversion (Acts 9:13). This could also be your experience. If this happens do not become discouraged and give up. Paul did not. In fact, like him, you too are a chosen vessel (Eph1:1). All you need to do now is to show by the way you live that you are a "new creation" (2 Cor 5: 17).
- Note too that the Christian experience is not without suffering (Acts 9:17).
- Paul's baptism is mentioned in Acts 9:18. You too should get baptized. It is both a testimony and act of obedience.
- He needed Christian fellowship. That is why he found himself in the company of other believers (Acts 9:19). It is very important that you find others with whom you can enjoy times of fellowship. This will help to strengthen you spiritually.
- Later, when he returned to Jerusalem, he did not seek the company of the High Priest but of the disciples (Acts 9:26). Always make an effort to seek the fellowship of other believers.
- Acts 9:20 shows him preaching the word of God at Damascus. This was quite a change for a man

who had set out to go to Damascus to persecute any who preached Christ. You too are encouraged to share with others the fact that you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. It could mean hardships but the Lord will help you out of these (Acts 9:25).

- Paul returned to his home at Tarsus (Acts 9:30). This is sometimes a big challenge: to return to your own home and family and to witness to them. It takes a lot of courage as one is often fearful of the reactions from those who know us best. It is true that some will ridicule and maybe ostracise you but make a start. These difficulties will soon disappear or be reduced to a point where you can handle them. This is a part of the growth process.

The Lord bless you. “Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

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