



# SAUL: NEW CHALLENGES

ACTS 9:17-25

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • July 3 & 4, 2021 • Acts, week 45 • Msg. 21-24

1. Embrace the Challenge of \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv.17-19)

**Acts 9:17** So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

**18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; **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. (ESV)

2. Embrace the Challenge of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.20-22)

3. Embrace the Challenge of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.23-25)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-26**. How can this lengthy illustration correct the thinking and habits of the isolated Christian and the maverick Christian? What aspect of this truth are you most tempted to lose sight of?
2. Read **2 Corinthians 1:8-11** and **7:5-6**. While challenges in the Christian life force us to see our utter dependence on God, how can those pains sometimes blind us to the support that God intends to supply through the willing interdependence of God's people?
3. Read **John 15:18-19** and **1 John 5:19**. How can we be rightly vigilant about the distinction our Christianity necessarily creates with the world, without becoming hostile, hateful, or hardhearted?
4. Read **Philippians 3:4-8**. It was obviously no small thing for Paul to humbly lay aside his pre-Christian reputation and achievements, and to repent and embrace Christ's will for his life. What are some of the things you have had to humbly count as loss?
5. Read **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**. How would you describe to a non-Christian the reality of this passage from your own experience?

*This Week's  
Bible Reading Schedule*

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 29-30 & Ac. 12*

**July 5<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 31-32 & Ac. 13:1-23*

**July 6<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 33-34 & Ac. 13:24-52*

**July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 35-37 & Ac. 14*

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 38-39 & Ac. 15:1-21*

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 40-42 & Ac. 15:22-41*

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ps. 1-3 & Ac. 16:1-15*

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ps. 4-6 & Ac. 16:16-40*

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 08-02 – **Interdependence Instead of Independence**  
Msg. 2002 – **Telling the Truth**  
Msg. 18-02 – **Lamenting His Rebellious Subjects**  
Msg. 16-33 – **Grieving Over the Sinfulness of Sin**  
Msg. 15-03 – **When You've Been Rejected**  
Msg. 13-04 – **The Gospel's Assault on the Egocentric**  
Msg. 11-09 – **Empathy for God's Embattled People**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Lewis, C.S. **The Screwtape Letters**. Barbour Publishing, 1990.  
MacArthur, John. **Essential Christian Doctrine: A Handbook on Biblical Truth**. Crossway, 2021.  
Mack, Wayne A. **Humility: The Forgotten Virtue**. P & R Publishing, 2005.  
Nash, Ronald H. **Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas**. Zondervan, 1992.  
Packer, J. I. **Weakness is the Way: Life with Christ Our Strength**. Crossway, 2013.  
Piper, John. **Love Your Enemies: Jesus' Love Command in the Synoptic Gospels**. Baker Books, 1992.  
Sande, Ken. **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflicts**. Baker Books, 1997.  
Sauls, Scott. **From Weakness to Strength: Vulnerabilities that Can Bring Out the Best in Your Leadership**. Cook, 2017.  
Schaeffer, Francis. **The God Who is There: Speaking Historic Christianity into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**. InterVarsity, 1968.  
Scott, Stuart. **From Pride to Humility: A Biblical Perspective**. Focus Publishers, 2003.  
Sire, James W. **The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog. Fifth Edition**. InterVarsity, 2009.  
Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. NG Press, 2008.  
Stott, John. **Basic Christian Leadership**. InterVarsity, 2006.  
Zuber, Kevin D. **The Essential Scriptures: A Handbook of Biblical Texts for Key Doctrines**. Moody Publishers, 2021.