

## “The Triumphant Power of the Lord Jesus”

Acts 9:1-22

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.<sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”<sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.<sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.<sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”<sup>17</sup> 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.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;<sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.<sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”<sup>21</sup> 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?”<sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

*Jesus shows us that he can graciously overcome the most hostile opposition.  
That's why we can serve him with confidence.*

### I. JESUS CAN POWERFULLY CHANGE ANY LIFE.

A. It doesn't matter how hostile you are to Jesus He is the one who can beautifully change your life.

B. It doesn't matter how blind you are to spiritual reality Jesus is the one who can change your life.

*The resurrection of Jesus is a stubborn fact but many people are blind to the reality of the resurrection.*

*The intimate connection between Jesus and the church, those people who belong to him is also a reality to which many are blind.*

*Even people who are totally blind to the reality of the resurrection and the relationship between Jesus and his church can be changed.*

## II. JESUS CAN BEAUTIFULLY HEAR AND ANSWER PRAYER.

A. Prayer is the reason that some things happen.

*Matthew 7:11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

B. Dependent prayer can lead to beautiful answers.

## III. JESUS CAN SOVEREIGNLY APPOINT CHOSEN INSTRUMENTS TO SERVE HIS PURPOSES.

A. His purposes will prevail.

B. We can confidently give ourselves to serving him.

*John 15:16 Jesus said, You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

*1 Timothy 1:15-16 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*

*1 Corinthians 15:58 ends with these words, Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*