**Acts 8:1-3 NIV And Saul approved of their killing him.** On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. **But Saul began to destroy the church.** Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. ​

**ACTS 9:1-2 NIV** Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to **The Way**, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

**ACTS 9:3-5 NIV** As he neared Damascus **on his journey**, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “**Saul, Saul**, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

**ACTS 9:6-7 NIV** “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

**THE 4 TRUTHS OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE**

1. **YOUR HEART IS PURSUED BY GOD**.

**Acts 26:14 NIV** We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to **kick against the goads**.’

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**Romans 5:8 NIV** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: WHILE we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1. **YOUR BLINDNESS IS HEALED BY GOD**

**ACTS 9:17 NIV** Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 9:18 NIV** Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was **baptized**.

1. **YOUR PAST IS FORGIVEN BY GOD**

**Acts 9:3-4 NIV** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “**Saul**, **Saul**, why do you persecute me?”

**Your past does not disqualify you from God’s grace.**

**Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in **MERCY**, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by **GRACE** you have been saved.

**Grace is proof that God is way better at forgiving than you could ever be at sinning.**

1. **YOUR FUTURE IS PREPARED BY GOD**

**Past *DEFEATS* don’t disqualify you from future *VICTORIES*!**

**Acts 9:19-20 NIV**

He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent **several days** with the disciples in Damascus. **At once** he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

God did not save you to **SIT** you; God saved you to **SEND** you!

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