

# THE DAMASCUS OUTPOURING

(How Saul Was Saved, Healed And Baptized In The Holy Spirit)  
Acts 9:1-22



## SAUL WAS DELIVERED

- ◆ From His Sin
- ◆ From His Sickness
- ◆ From His Self-Dependence

*“And Ananias laid his hands on him and said, Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me to you that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 9:17)*

Bill Kirk

# “THE DAMASCUS OUTPOURING”

**Text:** Acts 9:1-22

**Subject:** How The Holy Spirit Brings Freedom And “Life – Change”

## **Introduction**

1. If anyone ever needed the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it was Saul of Tarsus.
2. Saul was a bitter opponent of the Lord.
3. He was kicking against the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and he was miserable.

**Question:** What was in Saul’s heart?

**Answer:** (Acts 9:1 & 2 tell us clearly)

- ◆ “And Saul, breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord”

### **(Which Means:)**

- #1. Saul burned with a flaming fury against the Lord and His church (and)
- #2. Saul’s objective was to destroy every believer who was following the Lord.

**Question:** What did Saul do?

**Answer:** In verse 2, Saul obtained permission from the high priest to extradite believers who had fled the persecution in Jerusalem.

### **(What Does Saul Do?)**

- ◆ He is angry that believers have escaped his capturing of them.
- ◆ Believers had fled to Damascus where several synagogues served a large Jewish colony.
- ◆ Saul plots to eradicate the disciples on the run.
- ◆ He persuades the high priest to sanction his plan.
- ◆ So he has written authority to the Damascus synagogues, (to take prisoner any Christian he can find).

**Question:** What does he do?

**Answer:** He travels Northeast to Damascus in Syria (175 miles North East of Jerusalem.)

- ◆ It’s a six day journey on foot.
- ◆ He has a sophisticated plan to follow.
- ◆ He had legal permission from the high priest.
- ◆ He has hatred and anger in his heart.

### **(Then Suddenly His World Turns Up-Side Down)**

**Question:** What happens to Saul as he attempts to...

- ...extradite believers back as prisoners?
- ...exterminate the church in its infant stage?
- ...eradicate the message of salvation? (and)
- ...extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit?

### **(Verse 3)**

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus; and **suddenly**”:

**Question:** What did God **suddenly** do?

**Question:** What did Saul **suddenly** experience?

**Question:** What did Jesus **suddenly** ask?

**Question:** What did the Holy Spirit **suddenly** reveal?

**Question:** And, what did Ananias **suddenly** witness?

### **Ananias Witnessed 3 Things**

**(That God is still doing this very present moment)**

**I. Saul Was Freed From "Sin" (Through the work of conversion)**

"And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: "And suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven". (v. 3)

"And he fell to the earth and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (v. 4)

"And he said, who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus". (v. 5)

**Fact:** Saul had received the letters and authority he asked for.

**Fact:** Saul had set off for Damascus to hunt believers down.

**Fact:** Saul journeys five or six days to Damascus (the capital city of Syria).

**Fact:** And (at noon) on the last day of the journey (with Damascus probably in sight),

**(The Unexpected Happens)**

**#1. In (Verse 3) There was a light from heaven:**

- A. The light appeared suddenly (out of nowhere).
- B. The light was supernatural (from heaven).
- C. The light was great (brighter than the noonday sun). (Acts 26:13)
- D. The light was a revelation (of the very presence of God, II Corinthians 4:6).

"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ".

**(What's It Mean, Why The Light Pastor?)**

- #1. Light is the first thing experienced in salvation.
- #2. Light is the knowledge, the awareness, the consciousness, the quickening, and the understanding that Jesus is the Savior.
- #3. Light came to Paul while he was on his mission to slaughter, kill and destroy believers.

**Question:** Did Paul deserve the light? (no)

**Answer:** Paul deserved the judgment, death and the wrath of God.

**Question:** Do we deserve the light? (no)

**Answer:** We deserve judgment, death and the wrath of God.

**Question:** What's the big deal about the bright light?

**Answer:** The big deal is that Saul was so steeped in sin (and yet God was able to penetrate the hardest of hearts.)

**Question:** What's the application? (very simply)

**Answer:** That God is able to penetrate, break in, get through, pull down and overcome every excuse that you could ever give Him.

- #1. God's light can penetrate any heart!
- #2. God's light can pierce any darkness!
- #3. God's light can expose anything hidden!
- #4. God's light can come to anyone, at anytime, at any place (without exception)!

**(#1. There was a light unexpectedly)**

**#2. There was a voice unexpectedly (v. 4)**

"And he fell to the earth and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?"

**Question:** What's the big deal about the voice?

**Answer:** The voice of the Lord was a message to Paul?

**(What Did The Message Convey?)**

#1. It was a tender voice (calling Saul's name twice reveals the tenderness, love, concern and appeal the Lord has to want to talk to us).

#2. It was a convicting voice (filled with rebuke and passion).

◆ "Why do you persecute me?"      ◆ "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (v. 5)

### (What's It Mean?)

**Fact:** To "kick against the pricks" is a picture of an ox being goaded or pricked with a long stick, to make him respond to the drivers will.

**Fact:** Saul was fighting, struggling, and kicking against the truth.

**Fact:** He was deliberately shutting his ears and his heart to his own sin and God's will.

**Fact:** But the good news is: The light of God's truth and the voice of God's compassion can break through to any human heart!

#1. It was a tender voice

#2. It was a convicting voice

**(But #3) It was an effective voice:**

(v. 6) "And Saul trembling and astonished said, Lord, what do you want me to do?"

**Question:** How was Saul affected by the Lord's appearance?

**Answer:** (v.4) He fell to the earth.

(v.5) He acknowledges the Lord.

(v. 6) He is trembling and astonished and broken in utter submission:

### (What Did Saul Discover?)

#1. That his sin was against God.

#2. That Stephen belonged to God.

#3. That the men and women he jailed were Gods.

#4. That those he persecuted belonged to God.

#5. That he was lost and separated from God.

#6. That he was fighting against God.

#7. That he was "kicking against the pricks" (or that he couldn't change the truth but the truth could change him!)

### (In Other Words Saul)

◆ You're wasting your time resisting the Lord, (instead) submission is the pathway to victorious living.

**Question:** Why the light?

**Answer:** To reveal to us the Lord Jesus!

**Question:** Why is the light brighter than the sun at noon?

**Answer:** To reveal to us that God can penetrate every heart and any condition that needs Him. (His light is greater than any darkness opposed to Him)

**Question:** Why the voice of God speaking to us?

**Answer:** To reveal the tenderness of Jesus.

To reveal the conviction of Jesus.

To reveal the effectiveness of Jesus (causing us to tremble in astonishment that we are wasting our time whenever we resist His advances.

**Question:** What did Jesus say to Saul? (He said)

**Answer:** "What do you think you are doing Saul?"

**Question:** What was the ultimate purpose for Jesus speaking to Saul?

**Answer:** The ultimate purpose was to change Saul and commission Saul.

**(In Other Words)**

- #1. God has something to say to us (He wants our attention).
- #2. God has something to reveal to us (He has a job for you and me to do).

**II. Saul Was Freed From "Sickness" (Through the gift of healing)**

- ◆ For 3 days Saul was without his sight.
- ◆ For 3 days he would consider his past life.
- ◆ For 3 days darkness reminded him of his soul's need for God.
- ◆ For 3 days he searches his heart in prayer and fasting.
- ◆ For 3 days an inner transformation takes place.
- ◆ For 3 days he wonders if God will hold his past against him (or totally forgive him of every past misdeed and sin).

**(And In Verses 10-16)**

- ◆ The Lord sends Ananias to the house of Judas. (v.11)
- ◆ He tells Ananias that Saul will be there praying.
- ◆ And when Ananias arrives, what a revelation of grace that is greater than all our sin.

**Question:** What happens to Saul in just 3 short days?

**Question:** What happens to one who hated Christ's church?

**Question:** What ministry takes place (then and now) for those willing to obey the Lord?

**Question:** What happens to this angry, bitter, mad man, God hater when he least expected it?

**(What Happened In Damascus Still Happens Today)**

#1. Saul was freed from his sin in verse 17:

- ◆ In verse 17, "Ananias went his way, entered into the house, and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul"
- ◆ Saul had been transformed from a sinner to a saint.

**(But Secondly)**

- ◆ Saul was freed from his sickness in verse 18:

"And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales, and he received his sight"

- ◆ In verse 12, Jesus told Ananias to lay hands on Saul and pray for him to receive his sight.
- ◆ In verse 17, Ananias told Saul, "Jesus has sent me to you Saul, to pray for you to be healed".
- ◆ In verse 18, Jesus heals Saul instantaneously in response to the prayer of faith of Ananias.

**Question:** Was Paul convinced that Jesus wants to heal people today?

**(Paul Said In I Corinthians 12:9)**

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to profit the church, for to one is given **the gift of healing** by the same Spirit"

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ What God did for Saul in peeling off the scales from his eyes, (so he could see again),
- ◆ God is still doing now because of His **incredible love** and **unlimited power**.

**III. Saul Was Freed From "Self-Dependency" (Through the in-filling of the Holy Spirit)**

**Question:** Why was the baptism in the Spirit so important for Saul?

**Answer:** (2 Reasons)

- ◆ In verse 15, **Lots of Responsibility:**

"The Lord said unto Ananias, go your way to Saul, for he is to bear My Name before Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel (and), (Pg. 4 of 5)

◆ In verse 16, Lots of Rejection:

“For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My Names sake”.

**(In Plain Vanilla)**

- #1. Saul was saved,
- #2. Saul was healed,
- #3. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit when visited and prayed for by Ananias.

**Question:** Do we know that Saul was thoroughly Pentecostal?

**Answer:** He testified himself in I Corinthians 14:18:

“I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all”

◆ I Corinthians 14:4, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself”

**Question:** How was Saul prepared to be filled with the Spirit?

**Answer:** Notice the Scriptures:

- ◆ In verse 9, Saul was fasting for 3 days to allow nothing to distract him. (Focus)
- ◆ In verse 11, Saul was praying as Ananias was on his way. (Focus)

**Question:** What did Ananias say to Saul?

**Answer:** (Verse 17, “The Lord has sent me Brother Saul, to pray with you to be **filled with the Holy Spirit**”

**Question:** What does it mean to be “**Filled with the Holy Spirit?**”

**Answer:** The words “**Filled with the Holy Spirit**” occur for the fourth time in the book of Acts.

- ◆ It means to be saturated with the Holy Spirit as a sponge is filled with a liquid.

**(I love Dr. George Wood’s 2 reasons why we need the Holy Spirit)**

- #1. The **task is so big!**
- #2. Our **resources are too small.**

◆ That’s why Saul of Tarsus (turned into Paul the apostle) and said to the believers in Ephesus:  
“Be not drunk with wine, but **be filled with the Holy Spirit** on a continued basis”

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ What happened to Paul in Damascus, God wanted to happen to all believers everywhere!
- ◆ What God did for Paul, God wants to do for you!

1. Freedom from **sin’s dominion!**
2. Freedom from **sickness!**
3. Freedom from **self-dependency!**

Altar Call  
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