

'Next to the events of the death and resurrection of Christ, no event has been more importance for the history of Christianity than the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.'

F. F. Bruce

'God chose the 'most aggressive enemy of the church, its bitterest persecutor, and transformed him into the great apostle...the most tireless missionary of the Church he once ached to destroy.'

J. O. Sanders

After Stephen's stoning Saul began to destroy the church. (Acts 8:1-3)

Saul was a religious zealot (Acts 9:1-2; 22:3) who persecuted 'followers of the Way to the death' (22:4). In my obsession. I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.' (26:11)

As he neared Damascus...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...Acts 9:3-6

A vision. A voice
'Who are you, Lord?' 'I am Jesus'.
Saul saw God's Son Jesus in glory.
'God spoke, and God was Jesus'
(James Boice)

'Lord, what do you want me to do? '
Acts 22:10

'Get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do' (Acts 9:6).

Jesus also spoke to Ananias in a this 'double vision' encounter (9:12).

Jesus calls us to active faith. -

Get Up = Anastasis = resurrection

The reality of the resurrection.
What are the signs that a person has encountered the risen Lord Jesus?

HUMBLING	'they led him by the hand into Damascus'	(9:8)
	Converted from self-centeredness to Christ dependence.	
PRAYING:	'ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying'	(9:11)
	Calling out to the risen Jesus for help and healing,	
OBEYING.	'This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name	(9:15)
	No longer his own, he lived and suffered for the Lord Jesus.	
FILLING:	'be filled with the Holy Spirit.'	(9:17)
	Living in the power of the risen Jesus Christ.	
SEEING:	'something like scales fell from Saul's eyes'	(9:18)
	Leaving religious darkness for the kingdom of light.	