

**'Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.'**

(John Wesley)

**Enthusiasm (enthousiasmos) = in God.**

Saul encountered Jesus and "caught alight".

**At once he began to preach in the synagogues him that Jesus is the Son of God'** (Acts 9:20).

### Reconnect the revelation.

*'As Saul spoke, he grew strong, baffling the Jews by "proving that Jesus is the Christ.'* (Acts 9:22)

**The source of a word will determine its weight.**

**'Proving'** means **'put together'** Old Testament prophecy alongside their fulfillment in Jesus.

We must learn to put the biblical parts together.

**Why visit 'Arabia'?** Arabian evangelism? This might explain the hostility shown Paul from Nabatean King Aretas (Acts 9:24-25; 2 Cor 11:32-33). *1st Century Arabia stretched from Damascus to Petra to the western tip of modern 'Saudi Arabia.*

### Recapture the enthusiasm.

*The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him: "We have found the Messiah." And he brought him to Jesus. John 1:42*

What happens between

**'several days'** (9:19-22)

and **'after many days'** 9:23?

*'When God who set me apart from birth called me through his grace... I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem...' Galatians 1:13-18*

**'I went away into Arabia' (Gal 1:17)      'Sinai is a mountain in Arabia' (Gal 4:25)**

Pre-Christian Saul was **'zealous for the traditions of his fathers.'** He persecuted the church because in his eyes Jewish Christians were traitors to the Torah (Gal 1:13).

**Elijah** too said: **'I have been very zealous for YHWH of Hosts'** (1 Kings 19:14). Later,

he ran **'to Horeb, the mountain of God'** (19:8) to resign. **There God spoke to him:**

***"Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus...anoint Hazael as king over Aram.Jehu as king over Israel; and anoint Elisha.'*** Saul did what Elijah did.

He went to **Sinai**, where the Law was first given. **In Arabia**, the Lord revealed the Law afresh to him as God's life and love now fulfilled in Jesus - God's Son Savior.

Saul returned to Damascus to proclaim Jesus as king (1:16,23) to all the nations.

After spending 15 days in Jerusalem, he returned home to Tarsus for a decade.

**AD 34 Saul converted    AD 34-36 Damascus Arabia Jerusalem    AD 36-46 Tarsus**

### MAY MISSION MONTH 'ALONGSIDERS'

**First**, commit to studying Scripture by putting the parts of the bible alongside each other ('proving' = bring together 9:22) like Paul, to understand the gospel of Jesus

**Second**, as Barnabas brought Saul alongside fearful Christians in Jerusalem and won his acceptance, we "meet and mingle" with insiders & outsiders, being neighborly.

**Third**, be encouraged by the Greatest Along-sider - the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:31).