

The Acts of the Apostles - Chapter 9 Study Questions

1. **Acts 9:1–2** How would you describe the difference between a religious fanatic and a person who is radically committed to his faith?

Which of these was Saul?

Which are you?

2. **Acts 9:2** What two groups used the name "the Way" to identify themselves?

How is the name connected to Isaiah and the Exodus? Through whom does this new way pass?

Footnote p. 222, **9:2 Damascus ... The way**

Isaiah 40:3-5 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

3. **Acts 9:8** What was the irony for Saul in being blinded on the road to Damascus?

Footnote p. 222, **9:8 See nothing**

4. **Acts 9:10–16** Have you ever felt led by God to do something you were afraid to do?

What was the effect on your faith of actually *doing* what he was leading you to?

Jeremiah 20:9 If I say, "I will not mention him {the LORD}, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

5. **Acts 9:26** You often hear stories of celebrities or known enemies of the faith converting to Christianity. How would you recognize the genuineness of such a conversion?

6. **Acts 9:26-28** What does Saul's conversion teach us about those in our life who are most likely *not* to believe?

How might God use you to bring them to Christ?

Acts 15:36 (p. 234)

7. **Acts 9:31** What is meant by "walking in the *fear of the Lord* and the comfort of the Holy Spirit"?

How does the Catholic community to which you belong experience that fear or this comfort?

How do you experience it?

CCC 1831 The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and **fear of the Lord**. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God . . . If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Fear of the Lord{https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fear_of_God }

Roman Catholicism counts this fear as one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In Proverbs 15:33, "the fear of the Lord" is described as the "discipline" or "instruction" of wisdom. Writing in the Catholic Encyclopedia, Jacques Forget explains that this gift "fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread, above all things, to offend Him." In an April 2006 article published in *Inside the Vatican* magazine, contributing editor John Mallon writes that the "fear" in "fear of the Lord" is often misinterpreted as "servile fear" (the fear of getting in trouble) when it should be understood as "filial fear" (the fear of offending someone whom one loves).

8. **Acts 9:43** Why was being a tanner an "unclean" occupation for devout Jews?

What is the connection between Peter's decision to accept the tanner's hospitality and the conversion of Cornelius?

Footnote p. 223, 9:43 A tanner