

## Cases of Conversion

When Was Saul Saved? v2

## Introduction

- In the book of Acts, we have the inspired record of several cases of conversions, examples of people turning to God to become Christians
- Sadly, many often mislead people about how to be saved by excluding acts of faith found in these cases of conversion such as baptism for forgiveness of sins

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## Introduction

- Also, they include things not found such as the sinner's prayer
- The case of Saul is an example with many claiming he was saved on the road to Damascus
- Therefore, we study, when was Saul saved?
- And, we encourage all to make sure we are saved at the same point of faith Saul was saved

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## When he was persecuting Christians?

Act 9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

Act 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

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## When he was persecuting Christians?

Act 23:1 Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

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## When he was persecuting Christians?

- No, Saul was not saved while persecuting Christians
- He was sincerely serving God upholding Jewish traditions punishing those he believer were blasphemers
- But sincerity and a clear conscience does not guarantee we are doing the will of God

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

Act 9:3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

Act 9:4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Act 9:5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

Act 9:6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

Act 9:7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

Act 9:8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

Act 26:16 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

Act 26:17 rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

Act 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

1Co 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

- Many have told of "salvation experiences" where they have claimed to have either seen or heard directly from Jesus
- Also, many claim they have received "miracles" directly from Jesus
- They claim they were instantly saved, saying the sinner's prayer, asking Jesus to forgive them, during these supernatural experiences

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When he saw and believed in Jesus and was miraculously blinded?

- Certainly, Saul now believed in Jesus as Lord having seen, heard and spoken to the Lord and receiving a miracle where he was blinded
- There is no sinner's prayer mentioned on the Damascus road that saved Saul
- The Lord appeared to Saul in order to prepare him for his ministry as apostle
- The Lord sends someone to tell him what he must do to be forgiven, saved

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## When he fasted?

Act 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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## When he fasted?

- Fasting associated with distress and sorrow
- If saved, why would he not be rejoicing?
- No, Saul was not saved while fasting

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## When he prayed to God?

Act 9:10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

Act 9:11 And the Lord *said* to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

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## When he prayed to God?

- Saul's prayer content is not revealed
- There is no indication he was praying the sinner's prayer
- No, Saul was not saved while praying
- He was still waiting for someone to come and tell him what he must do to be saved

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## When he saw a vision?

Act 9:12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."

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## When he saw a vision?

- Many have claimed to see visions from the Lord and were saved at that moment
- Saul is still waiting to be told what he must do to be saved
- No, Saul was not saved when he saw a vision from the Lord

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## When he miraculously received his sight?

Act 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

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## When he miraculously received his sight?

- Many are deceived after experiencing a "miracle" that they were saved at that moment
- Saul still needs to do something to be saved
- No, Saul was not saved after he received his second miracle

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## When he was baptized (fully immersed) in water for the forgiveness of his sins?

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

Act 9:19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

Act 9:20 and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

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## When he was baptized (fully immersed) in water for the forgiveness of his sins?

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

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## When he was baptized (fully immersed) in water for the forgiveness of his sins?

- He was not told to pray to be saved but commanded to be baptized
- Purpose – wash away his sins
- Mode – full immersion in water
- No arguments about how baptism conflicts with faith
- Yes, when Saul believed, repented, confessed Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:35-39) and was baptized, he was then forgiven, saved

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## When were you saved?

- It is clear that Saul was saved at the point when he was baptized
- Baptism was accompanied by his belief in Jesus repentance of sins and confessing Jesus as the Son of God
- Belief alone does not save anyone
- Baptism alone does not save anyone
- Excluding baptism from salvation does not save anyone

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## When were you saved?

Act 2:21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

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## When were you saved?

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## When were you saved?

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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## When were you saved?

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

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## If Jesus can save Saul, He can save you

1Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

1Ti 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

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## If Jesus can save Saul, He can save you

1Ti 1:14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

1Ti 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

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## If Jesus can save Saul, He can save you

1Ti 1:16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.