



THE SECRET TO A GROWING CHURCH

Acts 9:20-31 // Dr. Ron Jones

After his dramatic conversion to faith in Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19), Saul of Tarsus begins his ministry in Damascus and the church continues to grow and even multiply. What is the secret to a growing church?

1. Godly leaders that _____.

ACTS 9:20-30 AND GALATIANS 1:15-2:1

A Chronology of Saul's Early Ministry

WHAT?	WHERE?	WHEN?	SCRIPTURE
Saul's dramatic conversion	On the road to Damascus	N/A	Acts 9:1-19
Proclaiming Jesus	Damascus synagogues	"For some days"	Acts 9:20-25
Alone with God	Arabia	Less than 3 yrs.	Galatians 1:17
Plot to kill Saul; basket escape	Damascus to Jerusalem	"When many days passed"	Acts 9:23-25
Joined disciples and Barnabas	Jerusalem	3 years after conversion	Acts 9:26-30; Gal. 1:18-24
Preaching boldly; plot to kill	Caesarea and Tarsus	Returns to Jer. after 14 years	Acts 9:26-30; Gal. 1:18-2:1

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ... 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

2. Faithful leaders that _____.

But Barnabas took [Saul] and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ACTS 9:27 ESV

3. People who _____.

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. ACTS 9:31 ESV

4. The comforting presence and power of the _____.

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