
Acts 11:26 ... and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

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Breaking the Independent Spirit

The Life and Ministry of Paul—part 3

July 10, 2016

Dependent on the Nameless

■ *Acts 9:19 ...and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*

²⁰ *At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

²¹ *All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"*

■ *Acts 9:22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.*

■ *Acts 9:23 After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him,*

Acts 9:24 ... but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.

■ *Acts 9:25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.*

Acts 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he

really was a disciple.

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

³⁰ When **the brothers** learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Waiting on the Lord:

Ps. 27:14; 62:5; 91:1; Isa. 40:31;

Romans 8:25 If we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Side-lined: the Gospel explodes into the Gentile world without Paul

Acts 11:19 Now those who had been scattered by the

persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.

Acts 11:20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to **Antioch** and began to speak to **Greeks** also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.
²² News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they **sent Barnabas to Antioch**.

Acts 11:23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

A Noticeable Absence

Acts 11:25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
