

**The Beginning of Paul's Witness:
A Believer's Life and Testimony
Acts 09: 19–22**

1 *He cared for himself physically*

2 *He joined and became associated and identified with other disciples*

3 *He preached immediately: That Jesus is Son of God*

4 *He stood as a testimony to the community*

5 *He was faithful and steadfast, continuing on with Christ*

a. He grew spiritually

b. He proclaimed Jesus:
He is the Christ

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?"

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

**The Foretaste of Paul's Great Sufferings:
Faithful Despite Terrible Trials
Acts 09:23–30**

**1 *Faithful in witnessing,
but faced a life-threatening plot***

- a. His witnessing (v. 20)
- b. The plot to kill him
- c. The escape

23 After many days had gone by,
the Jews conspired to kill him,

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

25 But his followers took him by night
and lowered him in a basket
through an opening in the wall.

**2 *Faithful in seeking fellowship
with believers, but rejected***

- a. He tried to join the fellowship
of believers
- b. His past haunted him:
Believers rejected him
- c. He was befriended by
Barnabas
- d. He was finally accepted

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.

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.

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

**3 *Faithful in preaching boldly,
but faced opposition
and assassination***

- a. His bold preaching
- b. The opposition
and attempted assassination
- c. The escape

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.