

**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.

The State of the Church: What a Church Should Be
Acts 09: 31

1 Condition 1: At peace

2 Condition 2: Edified — Strengthened

3 Condition 3: Living — Walking

a. In fearful trust

b. In the Spirit's comfort

4 Condition 4: Growing

31 Then the church throughout Judea,
Galilee and Samaria
enjoyed a time of peace.
It was strengthened;
and encouraged by the Holy Spirit,
it grew in numbers,
living in the fear of the Lord.