

Life with a Long-Range View

"The Life of Paul" episode 3

Acts 9:10-19

The Public Enemy #1 of the early Church is now--astoundingly!--converted. Saul the Inquisitor had all the power of man behind him, but the power of God stopped him dead in his tracks. The humbled terrorist limped on into Damascus, blind and dizzy but changed forever. But the former victims of Paul's terror were just as dizzy as he was! *Wha-a-a-t's going on here? Can we believe this?* Their fearful confusion contrasts with Paul's fervent commitment, while God calmly prepares His new convert to become history's greatest evangelist.

Three striking lessons emerge from this "transition text"-- a lesson about *God*, a lesson about *Christians*, and a lesson about *Faith*.

✎ God sometimes doesn't ____ for us;
He goes on ahead and tells us to _____.
"Lord, you're goin' too fast for me!" 9:13,21,26

✎ It's not enough to get converted;
you also need to get con_____.
"God's been amazing, but I need some help here!" 9:9

✎ In the ____ term, life rarely makes sense;
but Faith takes the ____ -range view of life.

✓ Exhibit A: Ananias

✓ Exhibit S: Stephen

Paul = "Stephen reborn" 6:9-13 9:29 17:48 21:28

Do you live life with a long-range view? It's something to think about.