

8--Evidence of the Resurrection: The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9, 22, 26

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:8-9, who is the last witness to the resurrection noted in Paul's list of eyewitnesses? Why might he be an especially powerful eyewitness?

2. What is the common theme in the following passages (Acts 9:1-9; 22:3-11; 26:9-18)? Is there ample evidence from these passages Saul literally saw the Lord?



3. What does Paul indicate were one of the conditions of apostleship in 1 Corinthians 9:1-2? What does he admit caused a change in Galatians 1:13-14? What was he like prior to his conversion (see 1 Timothy 1:12-16)?

4. Who else confirms Paul was a witness to Jesus Christ (see Acts 9:17, 27; 22:9, 14; 26:14; 2 Peter 3:15; cp. 2 Peter 1:16)?

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5. Some modernists and skeptics try to argue Saul never actually saw Jesus. Some argue his “resurrection” experience was due to more of a psychological meltdown from a conflicted mind (Acts 9:5) leading to a hallucination rather than a literal appearance. How might you respond to this by using the following passages (1 Corinthians 15:5-8; Acts 23:1; 26:9; Acts 7:58-8:3; 9:1-2, 19-22)?

6. Some people convert to Christ for selfish motives (to please a spouse, make friends, promised some type of earthly reward). Was Paul in a better situation pre- or post-conversion in the following areas?

- Personal safety (Acts 9:23-25)?
- Wealth (Philippians 3:8; 4:12)?
- Education (Acts 22:3)?
- Family tradition (Philippians 3:3-6)?
- Reputation (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)?

7. Some modernists argue the “resurrection” was created by the disciples because of their love for him. In other words, it was a figurative resurrection of the heart. Why does this not work in Saul’s case (Acts 26:9-11)?

8. What was Saul doing to the church before he converted (Acts 8:3)? What could have possibly changed his mind?

9. Saul’s conversion is to be a pattern or blueprint for us all (1 Timothy 1:12-15). If we will get people to change from hating Jesus to serving Jesus, what kind of evidence do we need to present to them?

10. Some believe it is impossible to change. How does Saul’s conversion challenge that idea?