



Key References:

Acts 26:11 (NLT) - Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.

Philippians 3:4–6 (NLT) - though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

Acts 9:4–5 (ESV) And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”** ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**

1 Timothy 1:12–16 (ESV) - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

1 – HOW YOU WERE SAVED

How often do you think back to when you were saved / converted? If you were to pick one thing from your testimony to share with a non-Christian which part would you highlight and why?

Would you describe your conversion as happening in an instant or was God working on you over time?

2 – WHEN SAUL WAS SAVED

Nathan talked about who Saul was before he was known as Paul. **What do you know about kind of person Saul was, & why was he that way? What does Saul/Paul highlight about himself in Philippians 3:4-6?**

Read the story of Saul’s conversion in Acts 9:1-18. **Going around the room what stands out to you the most as you read this freshly?**

In what way was Saul’s conversion a miracle? On Sunday Nathan said; *“Do you know that your salvation is a straight up miracle?”* **Do you think about your salvation like that?**

3 – BY GOD’S MIGHT NOT BY OUR OWN

Read Acts 26:9-11. **How scared of this man would Christians have been? What’s the modern-day equivalent of what he was doing?**

How does Saul’s conversion highlight this quote from Nathan? *“No matter how far gone you think you may be, He has the power to change us even when we don’t have the power to change ourselves.”*

4 – WE RECEIVED MERCY

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16 when Saul/Paul describes who he was before compared to who Christ transformed him in. **Meditate on this scripture for a few moments and highlight the weighty truths within.**

If you were to write your own version of this what would it say?

Where do you think you would be today if Christ hadn’t saved you?

How does reflecting on Saul’s conversion give us perspective and faith on how God wants to meet people in Nanaimo?