



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High.  
**Title:** The Beautify of Divine “Buts”  
**Lesson:** 57

**Text:** Acts 9:17-31  
**Date:** October 8, 2023

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## Common realities in every conversion:

1. God takes the initiative to pursue us.
2. God exposes our sin.
3. We surrender our will to the Lordship of Christ in salvation.
4. We are commissioned to serve Christ.
5. We will obey His commands.
6. We become interdependent members of the body of Christ.
7. We will suffer for the cause of Christ.

**8. We can be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be **filled with the Holy Spirit.**”

Acts 2:4 And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **began to speak** with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and **declared to them**: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people,

Acts 6:5–8 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the **Holy Spirit**,

8 And Stephen, full of grace and **power**, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:55 But being **full of the Holy Spirit**, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

“**And**” - Continuative conjunction

“**baptized**”

**Water baptism is important:**

1. It publicly proclaims that we have become members of God's family.
2. It is a testimony of our salvation. It is an outward sign that symbolizes an inward change.
3. It marks a change in ownership and allegiance.

19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

**9. We need \_\_\_\_\_ with the saints.**

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

**10. We desire to \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ.**

20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

**"Son of God"**

21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

“**amazed**” [existemi]

22 **BUT** Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

“**But**” [de]

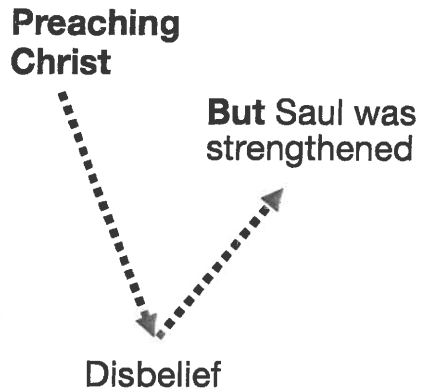
...▶ **But** ▶...

This pattern is repeated seven times.

“**increasing in strength**”

“**confounding**”

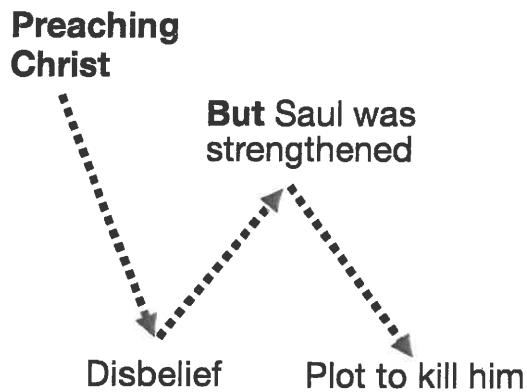
## God's blessing on Saul's life:



God grows us in our \_\_\_\_\_.

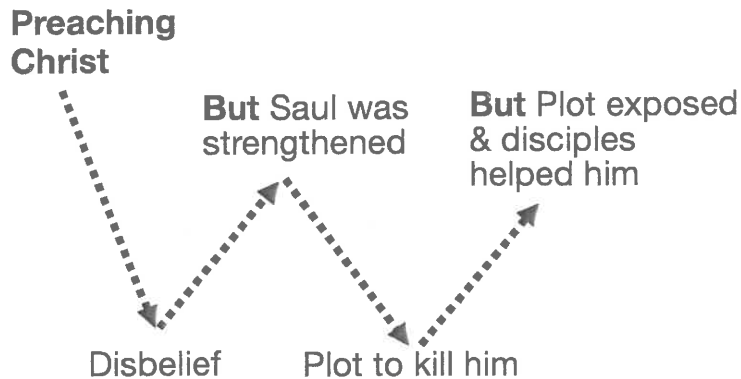
23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,

## God's blessing on Saul's life:



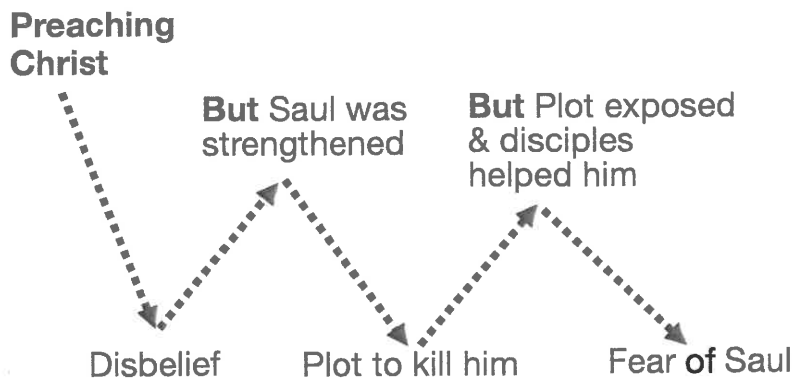
24 **BUT** their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; 25 **BUT** his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

### God's blessing on Saul's life:



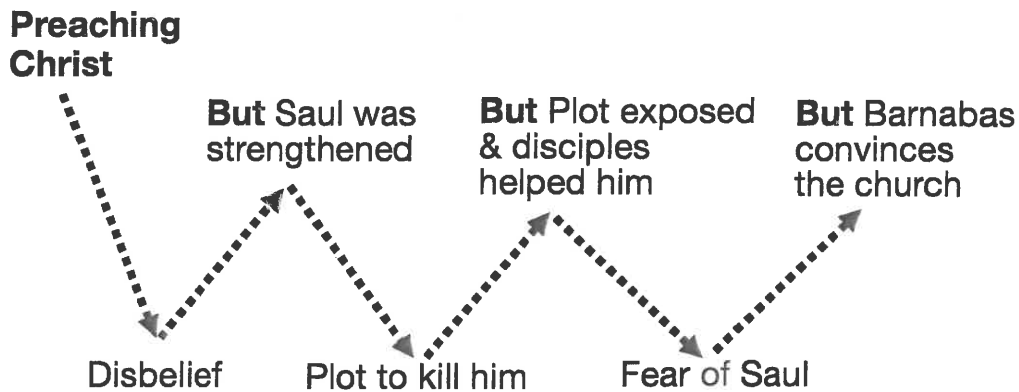
26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

### God's blessing on Saul's life:



27 **BUT** Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

### God's blessing on Saul's life:

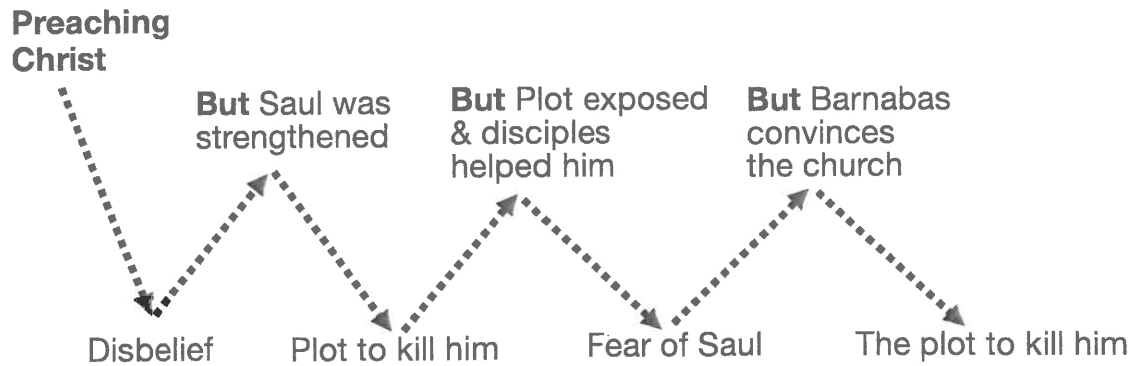


28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

29 And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death.

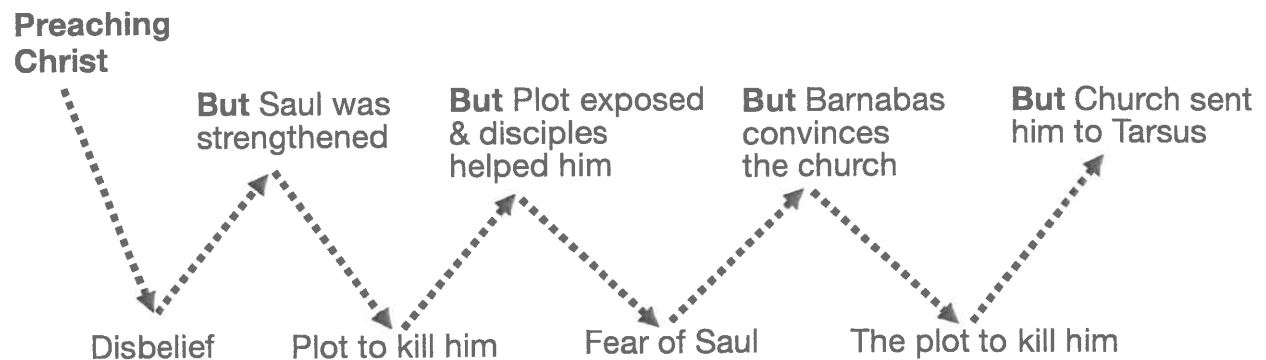
“arguing” [syzēteō]

## God's blessing on Saul's life:



30 **BUT** when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

## God's blessing on Saul's life:





31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

## **“Church”**

### **Implications**

1. We must be \_\_\_\_\_, passionate, and \_\_\_\_\_ in speaking about Jesus Christ.

2. Ministry success is often marked not so much by peace, but by \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ until our work  
for God is finished.

Revelation 11:3–7 “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

## Discussion Guide

1. Why is it helpful to talk about salvation in terms of transformation and not just salvation?
2. Do you believe the expectations of believers regarding salvation is too low? if so, why, and why is that so dangerous?
3. We talked about conflict as evidence that we are invading the devil's domain. What conflict have you experienced because of your bold stand for Christ.
4. It was mentioned that the willingness to speak of Christ is different than the early church. Why are we different today and what can we do about it?
5. Saul had an advocate in Barnabas. How might that apply to new believers who attend EastPointe?
6. How should the fact that we are immortal until our work is finished affect our lives?



**ANSWERS:** Transformation, filled, fellowship, speak, Opposition, God's blessing, obedience, skilled, courageous, conflict, immortal

