



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Title: A Life On Trial, Part 3

Lesson: 134

Text: Acts 26:4-18

Date: August 16, 2026

Acts 26:4–5 “So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; 5 since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

6 “And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; 7 the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.

“hope of the promise”

8 “Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?

9 “So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 “And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 “And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

Five works of God in saving sinners:

1. He _____ us.

12 “While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.

“While so engaged as I was”

_____ (Total Inability)

Ephesians 2:1–3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

“dead”

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,

according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Isaiah 64:6–7 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls on Your name, Who arouses himself to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us And have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

“seek” [zēteō]

**Grace is God pursuing sinners who _____
and _____ pursue Him apart from His grace.**

2. He _____ us.

14 “And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

Abraham - Genesis 17:3
Moses / Aaron - Numbers 16:22
Joshua - Joshua 5:14
Ezekiel - Ezekiel 1:28
Daniel - Daniel 10:9
The disciples - Matthew 17:6
John - Revelation 1:17

“Saul Saul”

“why are you persecuting Me?”

John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning **SIN** and righteousness and judgment;

**Ultimately, all false religion is _____
to Christ.**

“goads”

3. He _____ Himself to us.

15 “And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

4. He _____ us.

16 ‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

“minister”

“witness”

5. He _____ us.

18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

“open heir eyes”

“turn”

“darkness to light”

“dominion of Satan to God”

“forgiveness of sins”

“inheritance”

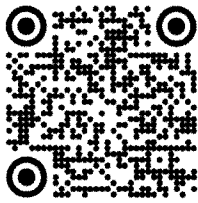
“faith” in Me

**Does our life give _____ that we have
been raised from death to new life in Christ?**

Romans 6:1–4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! **(Crazy?)** How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Discussion Guide

1. Paul was deeply religious, sincere, and zealous—yet he was completely wrong about Jesus. What does Paul's story teach us about the difference between being sincerely religious and truly knowing Christ?
2. How does Paul's conversion help you understand the truth that Jesus pursues sinners before they pursue Him?
3. Why do we need to understand the seriousness of our sin before we can really appreciate God's grace?
4. What does it practically look like to turn from “darkness to light” and from “the dominion of Satan to God”?
5. Paul’s encounter with Christ completely changed his direction, allegiance, and purpose. Looking at your own life, what evidence do you see that you have been raised to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4)?



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ANSWERS: pursues, Total Depravity, will not, cannot, confronts, opposed, reveals, transforms, sends, evidence