

WHO ARE THE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD?

ACTS 9:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the Bible, you will not find different kinds of Christians. They were just Christians. (Acts 11.26; 26.28; 1 Pet. 4.16)
2. In Acts 9, we find references made to disciples as they are described in four different ways. [Read Acts 9.1-19]

I. DISCIPLES ARE OF THE WAY

- A. **ACTS 9.2:** *“so that if he found any who were of the Way”*
- B. Consider two verses about “the Way.”
 1. It refers to the church. (Acts 22.4; cf. Phil. 3.6)
 2. They were distinct. (Acts 24.14)

II. DISCIPLES ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

- A. **ACTS 9.4:** *“Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’”*
- B. Consider two verses about the body.
 1. It refers to the church. (Eph. 1.22,23; cf. 5.23)
 2. They are distinct. (Eph. 4.4)

III. DISCIPLES ARE SAINTS

- A. **ACTS 9.13:** *“Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.”*
- B. Consider two verses about saints.
 1. It refers to members of the church. (1 Cor. 1.2)
 2. They are distinct from the world. (1 Cor. 6.9-11)

IV. DISCIPLES ARE THOSE WHO CALL ON JESUS

- A. **ACTS 9.14:** *“And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”* (cf. 8.16)
- B. Consider two verses about calling on the name of Jesus.
 1. It refers to the members of the church. (1 Cor. 1.2)
 2. They are distinct. (Acts 19.13-16)

CONCLUSION: How do I become a member of His church?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 26, 2026

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

April 26, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

You Can Be Somebody in the Church

Have you ever felt like your illness has made you useless to the Lord? Perhaps because of what you are going through physically, you have little to offer the church?

In Acts 9, we are introduced to a man named Aeneas. He is described as a saint who *“had been bedridden eight years”* due to paralysis (Acts 9.33). That is a long time to lie in bed feeling forgotten. We are not told much about Aeneas. He is not a preacher. He is not a teacher. He is simply a member of the church who is sick.

The apostle Peter came through the region visiting the saints (Acts 9.32). Of interest, the text does not say that Peter visited everyone except Aeneas. He went to the saints and Aeneas was one of them. Peter healed him in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 9.34). What followed is remarkable. When the people of Lydda and Sharon *“saw him, they turned to the Lord”* (Acts 9.35). The word translated as “saw” in verse 35 means to perceive or to take notice. They noticed him. They saw what God had done through him. And they believed. A bedridden, paralyzed man became the instrument God used to bring an entire region to faith.

We often measure our contribution by what we can do. God measures it differently. Your presence in the Lord's church matters, even from a bed. By remaining faithful and active through prayer and reaching out to others through modern technology, you can offer a great deal of encouragement to the Lord's church. CLP

WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

ACTS 9:31

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most of the book of Acts focuses on just two individuals. Peter preached to the Jews. Paul preached to the Gentiles. (Gal. 2.7,8)
2. In Acts 9, Saul made a complete transformation from persecutor to preacher. (Acts 9.21,22,27,29,31).
3. Consider the impact Jesus had on two individuals in Acts 9.

I. UNFOLDING THE TEXT

- A. **Acts 9.32-35:** Peter preaches in Lydda.
 1. **Acts 9.32:** There is a location.
 2. **Acts 9.33:** There is an individual.
 3. **Acts 9.34,35:** There is a miracle.
- B. **Acts 9.36-43:** Peter preaches in Joppa.
 1. **Acts 9.36:** There is a location.
 2. **Acts 9.36,39:** There is an individual.
 3. **Acts 9.37-43:** There is a miracle.

II. WHAT CAN JESUS MEAN TO YOU?

- A. What did Jesus mean to Saul?
 1. Saul ruined the lives of many. (Acts 9.13,14)
 2. To Saul, Jesus became the Son of God. (Acts 9.20,22)
 3. Jesus can take a life that has caused much pain and turn it into a life that causes much good. (1 Tim. 1.12,13)
- B. What did Jesus mean to Aeneas?
 1. Aeneas was nobody of significance.
 2. To Aeneas, Jesus heals. (Acts 9.35)
 3. Jesus can have an impact on your life of assumed insignificance. (1 Cor. 12.15,16,22,23)
- C. What did Jesus mean to Tabitha?
 1. Tabitha meant someone to a group of nobodies.
 2. To Tabitha, Jesus gives life. (John 11.25)
 3. Jesus is the only one who can save you and give you eternal life. (John 3.36)

CONCLUSION: Jesus can be someone special to you if you allow Him into your life.

“Be Holy, for I Am Holy”

Does living a holy life feel impossible? Is it something out of reach for the average Christian? In 1 Peter 1.13-16, we find that the life of holiness is not only within our reach, but it is required for the hope of heaven. It is here that Peter writes to scattered Christians. In verses 10-12, he just described the salvation that was promised by the prophets and delivered through Christ. He then begins verse 13 with the word "therefore." Because of that great salvation, we are to live a certain kind of life. In other words, Peter is telling us that our salvation is dependent on a life of holiness.

First, holiness requires a prepared mind. Peter opens with the command to "gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Pet. 1.13). In the ancient world, men wore long robes. Before any strenuous activity, they would gather the robe and tuck it into the belt so it would not slow them down. Peter applies that vivid image directly to the mind. Pull your thoughts together. Get mentally ready. Holiness does not happen by accident — it begins with an intentional decision to fix the mind on what is true (Phil. 4.8; Col. 3.2). We cannot live a holy life with an undisciplined mind.

Second, holiness requires a break with the past. Peter commands that we not conform ourselves "to the former lusts, as in your ignorance" (1 Pet. 1.14). Before coming to Christ, we lived our lives guided by what the flesh desired. Peter calls that period one of "ignorance" — we did not know better. But now we do. Of interest, the word "conforming" translates the Greek word *syschematizo*, meaning to be fashioned according to a pattern. We are no longer to be molded by the patterns of the old life (Rom. 12.2; Eph. 4.22). What patterns from your past still have a hold on you? Holiness demands a clean break. The old pattern is gone; the new pattern is Christ.

Third, holiness is grounded in the character of God. The anchor of the entire passage is this: "as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Pet. 1.15,16). The word "holy" translates the Greek word *hagios*, meaning "set apart." God is set apart from everything impure, corrupt, and false. He calls us to reflect that same character in "all our conduct" — not just on Sunday mornings, not only when others are watching, but in every corner of life (1 Thess. 4.7; 2 Cor. 7.1). He did not say "try to be holy." He said, "Be holy." The command is absolute because the standard is the character of God Himself (Lev. 11.44; Matt. 5.48).

Holiness is not a mood or a feeling. It is a prepared mind, a surrendered past, and a life shaped by who God is. He has called us. He has set the standard. Be holy, for He is holy. CLP