

The Apostle Paul

“Salvation & What to Expect” Part 2

Introduction:

1. When a person experiences salvation through Jesus Christ, changes begin to happen, both inwardly and outwardly.
2. God immediately begins doing two things in that person's life:
 - a. He begins ***conforming*** them into the image of His Son. Romans 8:29
 - b. He begins ***preparing*** them to be a vessel that He can use. 2 Timothy 2:21
3. God uses several things to accomplish these tasks. In this lesson, we will look at these, as evidenced in the life of the apostle Paul in Acts 9:19-29.
4. What can we expect to happen after salvation?
 - I. First, God begins to provide us a new circle of ***friends***. vs. 19, 25, 26-28
 - A. Paul's salvation changed his associations dramatically. Instead of being with people who hated and persecuted Christians, now Paul's friends were believers in Jesus Christ.
 - B. It is absolutely essential that new believers immediately begin to establish relationships with other ***believers***.
 - C. God sets a ***high*** precedent on our friendships and relationships with others. Proverbs 2:20, 4:14-15, 9:6, 12:11, 13:20, 14:7, 22:24-25, 28:7
 - D. But sometimes, making a new circle of friends can be tough. (vs. 26) This brings me to my next point.
 - II. Secondly, God may allow us to go through times of ***loneliness***.
 - A. Somewhere within the time context of Acts 9:19-25, we know that God led Paul into the wilderness area of ***Arabia*** for a time. Paul mentions this in Galatians 1:15-18.
 - B. This was a desolate wilderness area where Paul was isolated from others and was all ***alone***.

- C. It is not unusual for a new believer to go thru times of **loneliness**, especially in the transition time of making new friends.
- D. But God had a **purpose** for allowing Paul to go through the isolation of Arabia.
 - 1. It was in this time period that God revealed to Paul the wonderful **truths** of the gospel that we understand today. Galatians 1:11-12
 - 2. Through this Arabian experience God drew very **close** to Paul and showed himself mighty in Paul.
- E. Do not despise the Arabian times of isolation and loneliness. God can rain down many spiritual **blessings** in the times of desert solitude.

III. Thirdly, spiritual _____ begins to take place.

- A. The Bible teaches that when a person is saved and born into God's family, he begins as a _____ Christian. 1 Corinthians 3:1 uses the phrase "babe in Christ."
- B. But a baby is expected to _____. Likewise, after salvation, a baby Christian should begin to _____. 2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:15
- C. What were some signs that Paul was growing spiritually in his Christian life?
- D. First of all, Paul exhibited a desire to _____ God's Word. vs. 22
 - 1. Spiritual growth will not take place apart from the _____.
 - 2. A baby must have _____ if it is to grow. The _____ is the Christian's spiritual _____. It feeds our spirit and gives us spiritual strength. 1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:12-14
- E. Secondly, Paul desired to tell others about _____. vs. 20
- F. Thirdly, Paul desired to be with other _____. vs. 19, 26, 28

IV. Fourthly, the new Christian can expect _____.

- A. Paul received death threats in Damascus. vs. 23
- B. Paul then goes to Jerusalem and has more problems.
 - 1. The disciples are all _____ of him. vs. 26

2. Finally, after getting that straightened out, he witnesses for Christ and more people try to _____ him. vs. 27-29
- C. It is very _____ for new Christians to encounter many trials and problems after their salvation. Why is this?
1. Because a new Christian has been delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13) and now _____ is his enemy and desires his destruction. Ephesians 6:11-13, 1 Peter 5:8
 2. Because many people will not understand nor appreciate your new _____ in Christ.
 3. Because God purposely allows _____ to make us stronger and help us to _____. Acts 9:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 6; 3:1-7
- D. If we will stay faithful to Christ, the _____ will far outweigh the problems.