The Book of Acts - Chapter 9
NRSVA

The Conversion of Saul
1 Meanwhile **Saul, still breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and **asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus**, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, **'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**' 5 He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, **'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting**. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' 7 The men who were travelling with him stood **speechless** because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named **Ananias**. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' 11 The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' 13 But Ananias answered, **'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;** 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' 15 But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for **he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel**; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, '**Brother Saul**, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. **Then he got up and was baptized**, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul Preaches in Damascus
For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and **immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'** 21 All who heard him were amazed and said, **'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name?** And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' 22 **Saul became**

increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Saul Escapes from the Jews
23 After some time had passed, **the Jews plotted to kill him**, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, **lowering him in a basket**.

Saul in Jerusalem
26 When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and **they were all afraid of him**, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But **Barnabas** took him, brought him to the apostles, and **described for them** how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Meanwhile **the church** throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

The Healing of Aeneas
32 Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. 33 There he found a man named **Aeneas**, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralysed. 34 Peter said to him, **'Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!'** And immediately he got up. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Peter in Lydda and Joppa
36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was **Tabitha**, which in Greek is **Dorcas**. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she

opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain **Simon**, a tanner.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 10
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Peter and Cornelius
1 In Caesarea there was a man named **Cornelius**, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. 2 He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; **he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God**. 3 One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' 4 He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, '**Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.** 5 Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; 6 he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' 7 When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, 8 and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

9 About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, **Peter went up on the roof to pray**. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 14 But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' 15 The voice said to him again, a second time, '**What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'** 16 This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. 18 They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. 19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Look, three men are searching for you. 20 Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.' 21 So Peter went down to the men and said, 'I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for

your coming?' 22 They answered, 'Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.' 23 So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. 24 The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. 26 **But Peter made him get up, saying, 'Stand up; I am only a mortal.'** 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; 28 and he said to them, 'You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. 29 So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?'

30 Cornelius replied, 'Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. 31 He said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea." 33 Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.'

Gentiles Hear the Good News
34 Then Peter began to speak to them: '**I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him**. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

44 **While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word**. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 '**Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing** these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.