

## **Living Free**

### **FULL CONVERSION**

Those who are living free in the Lord are those who are experiencing a full conversion.

*(Galatians 1:11-24) I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles - only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me.*

#### **1. Obvious Faith**

*(Acts 9:1-6) Saul was... breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" "Who are you, Lord"? Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

- A. Paul put all his faith for life in Jesus.
- B. Paul's life obviously changed.

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- C. Genuine faith in Christ is life transforming.

#### **2. Immediate Service**

*(Acts 9:19a) After taking some food, he regained his strength.*

*(Galatians 1:17b) I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.*

*(Acts 9:19) Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*

*(Acts 9:20) At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

- A. Paul began serving the Lord very soon after he trusted Jesus.
- B. How much more time is going to lapse before we begin serving Jesus?

**3. Godly Influence**

*(Galatians 1:24) And they praised God because of me.*