

The Changes Jesus Brings

Acts 9:19-31
October 4, 2026

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Acts 9:31 (ESV)

Big Idea: *Trusting Christ means that you are, in fact, a new person. You were spiritually dead, and now you have been born again to a new life in Christ as He lives in you and works through you. You have new desires and a new hope. The term we use for this is conversion, and the very name implies that there are changes.*

Conversion brings immediate change (vv. 19-22).

God gives a new understanding of Jesus.

Others will not understand what has happened.

Conversion leads to a change in our relationships (vv. 23-25).

Some friends will become hostile.
God will make you a discipler.

Conversion brings new friendships and supporters (26-30).

Some will cling to your old reputation.

God will provide a defender and discipler.
Let them tell your story.

Be encouraged; the godly will accept you.

Conversion strengthens the church (31).

God will use you to encourage the church.

God will use your gifts to build the church.

Put into practice:

Spend time in God's Word and prayer.
Don't forsake your old friends but find new ones.
Find someone who can help you grow.
Imitate Barnabas.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

"God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, and accepts us as we are. But by His grace, He does not leave us as we are."

Tim Keller