



Jesus Brings Peace Acts 22:3-15

*As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**” And I answered, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said to me, “**I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting**” (Acts 22:6-8—ESV).*

The experience of the Apostle Paul on the Damascus Road illustrates truths about the Word of God revealed in the Gospel of John. Remember that Paul, formerly Saul, was on a mission with other Jews to arrest Christians and take them to Jerusalem for punishment. Though they thought they were serving God, they were living in darkness despite their knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures and their traditions. They were not seeking God when suddenly a light greater than the noonday sun shone around Paul and all those with him, who also saw the light. Their experience illustrates what John wrote about Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Word of God who made all things. Jesus is the life and light of all people. Furthermore, the Light of Jesus shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. In Jesus Christ, the true Light came into the world in human flesh, and Paul talked to the risen Jesus, Who still sits at the right hand of God (see John 1:1–18; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 26:64).

Those with Paul saw the light and saw what happened to Paul because of the light. Paul lost his eyesight and his vision. They did not lose their eyesight, so they could lead blind Paul to Damascus. Paul heard the voice of Jesus, but they did not understand the voice of Jesus. Paul talked with Jesus. He obeyed Jesus. He went to Damascus, and Jesus sent Ananias to heal him and give him Jesus' message. They all had enough knowledge of the Scriptures and from their experiences with Paul to know and believe they had encountered God.

From that moment on, Paul became a new person who would suffer much, as he had caused many other Christians to suffer, but he never failed in his efforts to serve Jesus faithfully. Paul does not tell us how many of those who went with him turned to faith in Jesus after they heard his testimony, but they certainly had good and sufficient reasons to do so. We do know from John 1:11-12 that "Jesus came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Furthermore, the change in Paul's direction brought peace. In Acts 9:31, we learn: "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).

As believers in Jesus, we can enjoy peace with God, peace within ourselves, and sometimes peace with others as Jesus gives us His grace and truth.