

Acts: Confidence for the Church!

A great tonic!

The birth of the church (Acts 1:1-6:7)

- *Three foundational promises (1:1-8)*
- *Ascension of Jesus and replacement of Judas (1:9-26)*
- *Empowering Spirit (2:1-13)*
- *The sword of the Spirit (2:14-41)*
- *Authentic Church (2:42-47)*
- *Gospel, not religion (3:1-26)*
- *Dealing with external and internal opposition (4&5)*
- *Sharing the work and getting the priorities clear (6:1-7)*

Foundations for world mission (Acts 6:8-12:24)

- *The gospel advances through opposition and evangelism*
 - *Stephen the martyr (6:8-8:3)*
 - *Philip the evangelist (8:4-40)*
- *The gospel advances through conversions*
 - *Saul the Pharisee (9:1-31)*
 - *Cornelius the Gentile (10:1-11:18)*
- *Dark days before significant advance (12:1-25)*

[Paul's first missionary journey begins at 13:1]

The gospel advances through conversions (Acts 9:1-11:18)

Focus on Saul's conversion in 9:1-31

Should we regard Saul's conversion as typical of Christian conversion today, or as exceptional?

In *some* respects, exceptional

In *most* respects, typical

Your conversion was far more about God seeking you than you seeking God

Your conversion was a miracle of revelation from God

Your conversion was a humbling, life-changing, encounter with Jesus that brought you to repentance and faith

Your conversion was 100% God's grace – Jesus paid the penalty for your sin

Your conversion brought you into the family of God as a forgiven sinner

Your conversion was your commissioning

Your conversion is provoking a reaction