

Passionate People

- What do people get passionate about?
- Why might **passionate** people have a harder time getting along with each other than **apathetic** people?
- In the church...
 - We ought to have **passionate** people!
 - So it would be concerning if we didn't have challenges
- Where does **god-honoring** church growth come from?

Team Effort

Acts 9:19b-31

Chinese: page 1780
 Spanish: page 1398
 Brown: page 1101
 Green: page 750



Flow of the book of Acts

Jesus said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**.” *Acts 1:7-8*

“SO THE WORD OF GOD SPREAD. THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES IN JERUSALEM INCREASED RAPIDLY, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF PRIESTS BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH.” ACTS 6:7

“THEN THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT JUDEA, GALILEE AND SAMARIA ENJOYED A TIME OF PEACE AND WAS STRENGTHENED. LIVING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND ENCOURAGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT INCREASED IN NUMBERS.” ACTS 9:31

ACTS 12:23-24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31

Acts 6:8-9:31 (Judea & Samaria)

- **Stephen (6:8-8:3)**
 - Powerful witness, arrest, defense, death
 - Burial by Christians; Persecution began
- **Philip (8:4-40)**
 - Powerful witness to Samaritans, Ethiopian eunuch, more
 - Peter & John come to “clean up” (gift of the Holy Spirit)
- **Saul (9:1-31)**
 - Stunning conversion & Ananias’s support
 - Prophecy: carry Jesus’ name to Gentiles and Jews, & suffer

Acts 9:19b-31

19b-22: Saul proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ in Damascus

23-25: • Welcomed by Jewish Christians (a big step)

26-28: • Bold proclamation among Jews (synagogues)

- Jesus: human being who died, resurrected, our savior

29-30: • Lord: Son of God (having the same glory as God)

31: • Christ: Messiah, God's promised savior (fulfillment of the Jewish expectation for God's work)

- Power: Passion & proofs that could not be refuted

- People were amazed!

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Acts 9:19b-31

19b-22: Saul proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ in Damascus

23-25: Opponents tried to kill Saul; believers rescued him

26-28: • More to the story than Luke tells here (read Galatians, 2 Corinthians, and later in Acts)

29-30: • The identity of Jesus is a life-altering question

31: • Jesus is God over every people and every country

- Not just an amazing person + great moral teaching

- Though killing is not a good approach!

- Saul has followers; they risked their lives to save him

Acts 9:19b-31

19b-22: Saul proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ in Damascus

23-25: Opponents tried to kill Saul; believers rescued him

26-28: Saul proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, after Barnabas built the bridge to the church

29-30: • These were the people Saul had been arresting

31: • Disciples were still afraid of Saul

- They doubted the sincerity of His conversion and legitimacy of his ministry
- Problem of trust rather than information
- Barnabas built a bridge
- Son of “encouragement” (exhortation)

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29-30: Opponents tried to kill Saul; believers rescued him

31: • The hunter became the hunted (like Stephen)

- Those who hesitated to welcome Saul now took great risks to protect him
- God (Acts 22:18) and people both guided Saul
- Saul evangelized in his home area of Tarsus
 - Barnabas later recruited Saul for ministry together

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31: Church (and churches) experienced peace and growth

- Different phases of ministry
- Living in the “fear” (total submission to) of Jesus
- “Encouraged” by the Holy Spirit
- Many people became a part of Jesus’ church

The Big Idea

The church enjoys healthy growth

as it lives in the Spirit

and in the fear of God rather than those
who oppose them

boldly proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ

as each part does its work

as one body

Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
 - Of our lives: “Living in the fear of the Lord”
 - Defined and guided by Jesus’ character and commands
 - Of our message: humbly and boldly
 - “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name than Jesus under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” *from Acts 4:12*
 - Goodness flows from Jesus’ identity as God

Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
 - Moved to action
 - “Encouraged (and exhorted) by the Holy Spirit” *Acts 9:31*
 - Same word can mean “urgently pleaded” *2 Corinthians 8:4*

Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
 - Moved to action
 - Empowered
 - “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” *Acts 1:8*
 - Miracles, especially heart transformation

Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
 - Moved to action
 - Empowered
 - Speaking God’s word
 - “I will pour out my Spirit ... they will prophesy” *Acts 2:17*
 - “...the wisdom the Spirit gave Stephen as he spoke...” *Acts 6:10*

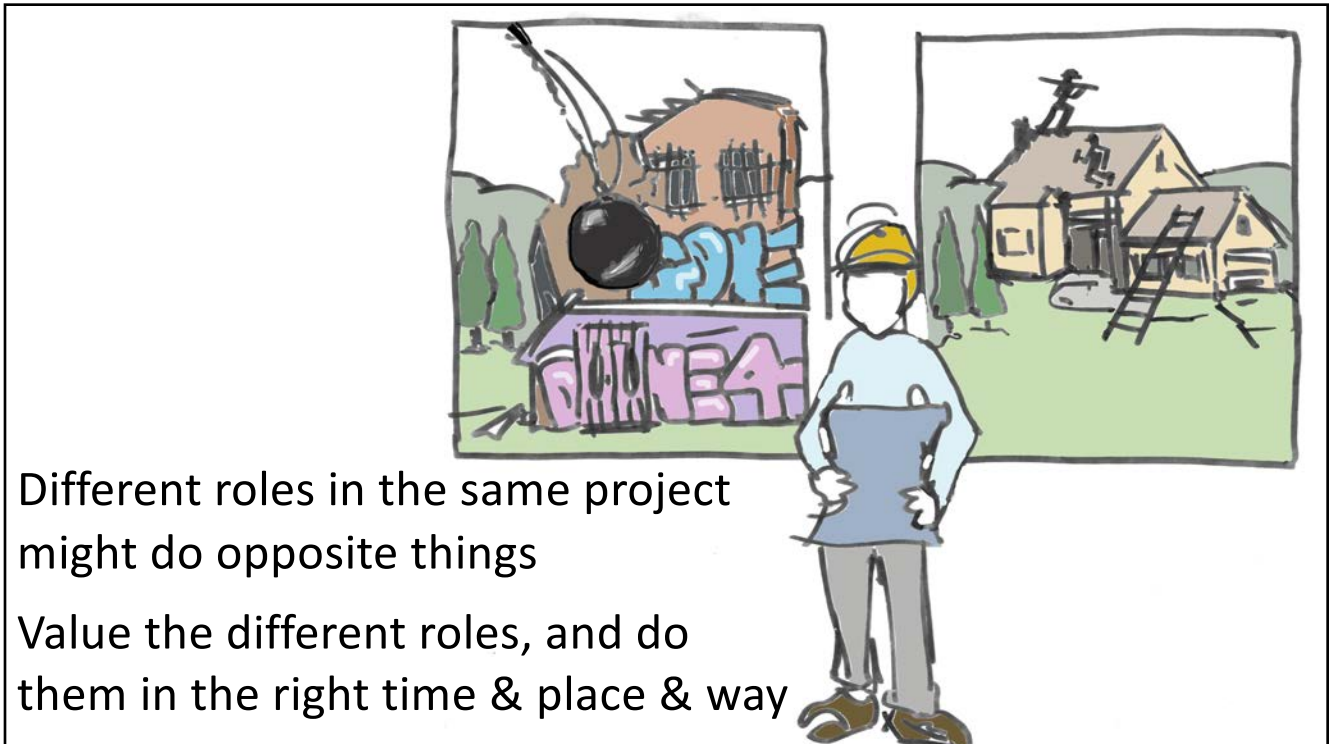
Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
 - Moved to action
 - Empowered
 - Speaking God’s word
 - Guided
 - “The Spirit told Philip, ‘God to that chariot...’” *Acts 8:29*
 - “The Spirit told me to have no hesitation to go with them”

Acts 11:12

Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
- **Work hard to work as one body**
 - Different roles:
 - Trailblazers: Stephen, Philip, Saul
 - Stabilizers: Saul’s followers, “brothers”
 - Bridge builders: Ananias, Barnabas



Application

- **Make the Lord Jesus Christ be the center**
- **Be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit**
- **Work hard to work as one body**
 - Different roles:
 - Trailblazers: Stephen, Philip, Saul
 - Stabilizers: Saul's followers, "brothers"
 - Bridge builders: Ananias, Barnabas
 - It can seem like we're working against each other, yet each role is critical when working together
 - ***Passionate people need to work harder to appreciate different passions***

The Big Idea

**The church enjoys healthy growth
as it lives in the Spirit
and in the fear of God
boldly proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ
as each part does its work
as one body**