

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **The conversion of Saint Paul**

**Purposefulness can motivate us to accomplish great things.**

### **Acts 9:1-22**

Saul was on his way to Damascus while persecuting the Christians. He had a great fall and lost his sight. He heard a voice instructing him to go to the city for further directions. In the city, he met Ananias who prayed over him. With this, Saul experienced a radical transformation of his life and began a new life proclaiming the risen Lord.

**Trust in the transforming power of the faithful and praying community.**

### **Psalm 117**

**Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
Glorify him, all you peoples!  
For steadfast is his kindness towards us,  
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.**

### **Mark 16:15-18**

This is an amazing story. In verse 16:14, we read about Jesus taking the disciples “to task for their disbelief and their stubbornness since they had not put faith in those who had seen him after he had been raised”. In verse 15, the excerpt of today, we read about Jesus trusting the same men with all their “disbelief and stubbornness” and sending them with his mission of bringing good news to the world.

**Today, we, with all our limitations and inconsistencies are trusted with this good news and called to bring this good news of Jesus to the world.**

**Saint of the Day, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul and 14 other saints are remembered this day.**

Paul was a highly educated and zealous Jewish Pharisee, who, like many of his peers, wanted to erase the notion that Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God. Paul witnessed and supported the stoning of St. Stephen for his belief, faith and mission in Christ. Paul’s own mission was to find, arrest, and imprison all who believed and followed Christ’s teachings.

However, in 36 C.E., Paul's life changed forever. While he was on his way to Damascus to find and capture more of Jesus' followers, Paul had a personal encounter with Jesus in which Jesus called Paul to bring the Gospel to all people, including the gentiles. Paul's hatred turned to joy and devotion to the Lord. He wrote that it is "for this reason that I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:29). Paul's ministry and writings bringing Christ's redeeming salvation spanned 32 years. Paul traveled through Asia Minor, Greece, Macedonia and Rome where he proclaimed the richness and power of God's love. Paul suffered for the sake of Christ, too. He endured beatings, imprisonments, and finally martyrdom in Rome in 68 C.E. through the order of the Roman Emperor Nero.

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