

# Acts 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me,  
Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

## Analysis

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**I fell unto the ground** (ἔπεσον εἰς τὸ ἔδαφος)—Physical prostration from divine encounter, echoing Old Testament theophanies (Ezekiel 1:28, Daniel 8:17). **Saul, Saul**—The doubled vocative in Hebrew/Aramaic intensifies urgency and emotion (compare 'Martha, Martha' in Luke 10:41; 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem' in Matthew 23:37). The risen Christ addresses Paul in his Hebrew name, affirming his Jewish identity even while redirecting his zeal.

**Why persecutest thou me?** (τί με διώκεις)—The pronoun 'me' is emphatic. Jesus doesn't say 'my followers' but identifies personally with his persecuted church. This reveals the mystical union between Christ and believers (compare Matthew 25:40: 'inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me'). To touch the church is to touch Christ himself.

## Historical Context

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On the Damascus road, circa AD 34, around noon (Acts 22:6; 26:13). Paul was 6 days from Damascus with authority to arrest believers. The supernatural light brighter than midday sun (Acts 26:13) and audible voice transformed Christianity's greatest enemy into its greatest missionary.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's identification with his persecuted church ('why persecutest thou ME?') shape your understanding of Christ's presence in suffering believers?
2. What 'Damascus road' moment disrupted your trajectory and redirected your life toward Christ?

### Interlinear Text

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ἔπεσον	τε	εἰς	τὸ	ἔδαφος	καὶ	ἤκουσα	φωνῆς
<b>I fell</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>unto</b>	<sup>G3588</sup>	<b>the ground</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>heard</b>	<b>a voice</b>
G4098	G5037	G1519		G1475	G2532	G191	G5456
λεγοῦσης	μοι	Σαούλ	Σαούλ	τί	με	διώκεις	
<b>saying</b>	<b>unto me</b>	<b>Saul</b>	<b>Saul</b>	<b>why</b>	<b>me</b>	<b>persecutest thou</b>	
G3004	G3427	G4549	G4549	G5101	G3165	G1377	

### Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 2:9** (Parallel theme): Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.

**Matthew 25:45** (Parallel theme): Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.