

Acts 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

Analysis

The Lord gave Ananias specific instructions: go to Straight Street, to Judas' house, and ask for 'Saul of Tarsus.' The specificity shows God's omniscience - knowing exactly where Saul was. The phrase 'for, behold, he prayeth' marks a significant change - the persecutor now prays! Prayer evidences new spiritual life; Saul's prayers demonstrated his regeneration. Reformed theology emphasizes that effectual calling produces prayer - the regenerate heart naturally cries out to God (Romans 8:15). Saul's prayer life began at conversion and would characterize his entire ministry.

Historical Context

Tarsus was a major city in Cilicia (modern Turkey), a center of learning and commerce. Saul's identity as 'of Tarsus' marked him as a Roman citizen from a significant city, which would prove providential in his ministry (Acts 22:25-29).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why is prayer a mark of genuine conversion and spiritual life?
2. How does God's knowledge of Saul's exact location and activities demonstrate His omniscience?
3. What does the detail of these instructions teach about God's sovereign orchestration?

Interlinear Text

τὴν δὲ κύριος πρὸς αὐτόν Ἀναστὰς πορεύθητι ἐπὶ
which And the Lord said unto him Arise and go into
G3588 G1161 G2962 G4314 G846 G450 G4198 G1909

τὴν ῥύμην τὴν καλουμένην Εὐθεΐαν καὶ ζήτησον ἐν
which the street which is called Straight and enquire in
G3588 G4505 G3588 G2564 G2117 G2532 G2212 G1722

οἰκίᾳ Ἰούδα Σαῦλον ὀνόματι Ταρσέα· ἰδοὺ, γὰρ
the house of Judas Saul for one called of Tarsus behold for
G3614 G2455 G4569 G3686 G5018 G2400 G1063

προσεύχεται
he prayeth
G4336

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:39 (Parallel theme): But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

Acts 22:3 (Parallel theme): I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Acts 9:30 (Parallel theme): Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

Acts 11:25 (Parallel theme): Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

Acts 11:13 (Parallel theme): And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

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