

# Acts 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

## Analysis

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Ananias continued his protest: Saul 'hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.' Calling on Christ's name marks Christians - prayer to Jesus as Lord demonstrates His deity and believers' dependence. Ananias feared Saul's official authorization from Jerusalem's religious authorities. Yet this very fear highlighted the magnitude of God's grace about to be displayed. From a Reformed perspective, human impossibilities showcase divine power - transforming the authorized persecutor into the authorized apostle demonstrates God's sovereignty over human plans and authorities.

## Historical Context

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The high priest's authority to arrest Christians extended throughout the diaspora through cooperative synagogues. Ananias rightly feared that Saul's official mandate posed genuine danger to Damascus's Christian community.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does 'calling on Christ's name' teach about prayer and Jesus' deity?
2. How does the magnitude of Saul's opposition magnify the miracle of his conversion?
3. Why does God's grace triumph over human authority and opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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|        |       |                |           |       |        |                   |         |
|--------|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| καὶ    | ὢδε   | ἔχει           | ἔξουσίαν  | παρὰ  | τῶν    | ἀρχιερέων         | δῆσαι   |
| And    | here  | he hath        | authority | from  | G3588  | the chief priests | to bind |
| G2532  | G5602 | G2192          | G1849     | G3844 |        | G749              | G1210   |
| πάντας | τοὺς  | ἐπικαλουμένους | τὸ        | ὄνομά | σου    |                   |         |
| all    | G3588 | that call      | G3588     | name  | on thy |                   |         |
| G3956  |       | G1941          |           | G3686 | G4675  |                   |         |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 9:21** (Parallel theme): But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

**Acts 7:59** (Parallel theme): And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

**2 Timothy 2:22** (Parallel theme): Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Acts 22:16** (Parallel theme): And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 1:2** (Parallel theme): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

