

So much was happening in this thing called the church, the body of Christ. It was made up of lives that were radically changed by the power of the promised Holy Spirit. That was then, and the same Holy Spirit is present among those who have surrendered to Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their lives. Saul was breathing hatred for Jesus and His people. He was stopped in his tracks by the appearance of the living Christ. In an instant his life was changed and the destiny of the world would be forever impacted by that one changed life. Jesus told His followers that if they would abide in Him they would bear much fruit. And it happened. Think about it. And it's still happening as we abide in Him. Much fruit: that's why we're here; we are to bear much fruit in the power of the Spirit. Let's see the pattern as it's unfolded, as the Spirit strengthened and encouraged the growing church.

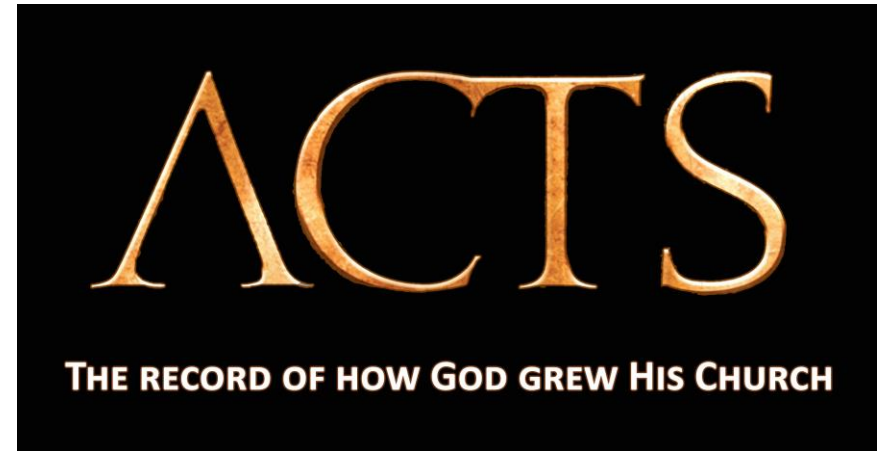
Changed...

Convinced...

Connected...

Personal Application and Group Interaction

1. Who is your primary source of encouragement?
2. What was involved in Saul's ability to go from being such a hater of Christians to one who was powerfully effective as an advocate, proving that Jesus is the Christ?
3. In what ways has our church been strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit?
4. Who has God used to encourage and strengthen you?
5. In whose life are you being used, in the power of the Holy Spirit, as an encourager? How has that resulted in that person's spiritual progress, all to God's credit and glory?



Encouraged by the Holy Spirit

Acts 9:20-31

**Pastor John
March 18, 2018**

