

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)**

WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT:

1. **THERE'S A HIGHER _____ IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD THAN _____.**

*I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. **Acts 9:16 (NIV)***

*Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. **2 Corinthians 11:24-28 (NIV)***

2. **GOD CAN CHANGE _____.**

*This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. **Acts 9:15 (NIV)***

*... Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. **Acts 9:19-22 (NIV)***

3. **_____ STILL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN GOD'S _____.**

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! ..." **Acts 9:10-15 (NIV)***

*Go therefore, and make disciples... **Matthew 28:19 (NIV)***

4. **GOD WILL NOT _____ HIS _____ AND HIS _____**

*As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **Acts 9:3-6 (NIV)***

*... I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18 (NIV)***

SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?

1. **_____ FOR THOSE THAT _____.**

*You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. **Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV)***

2. **BE _____ AND _____ !**

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. **2 Timothy 1:7-8 (NIV)***

3. **SEE _____ OF MY LIFE AS SOMETHING GOD WANTS TO _____ FOR THE _____**

*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. **Acts 20:24 (NIV)***

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. **John 16:33 (NIV)***