

The Beginning of Paul's Ministry Acts 9:19-22

Context: Saul, the former persecutor of the church, has now been saved. He goes on to Damascus where Ananias put his hands on him, and the scales fell from Saul's eyes. It goes on to tell of Saul's first few steps as a Christian.

1. He Associated Himself with Other _____ (vs. 19)

Paul would share in their beliefs and principles, their study of the word, their edifying, and their service.
Hebrews 10:25

2. He _____ Christ as the Son of God (vs. 20)

He was no longer preaching tradition, ceremony, or religion. Neither was he preaching his own experiences. He was now preaching Christ.
2 Cor. 4:5

3. He Stood as a _____ of Life-Change (vs. 21)

"Paul was no obscure figure. His persecuting the followers of Christ had been so great that he was a household name." -John G. Butler¹

His life changed so dramatically that he was willing to die for the other side now.

2 Cor. 5:17

4. He was Faithful in _____ (vs. 22)

a. *He was Empowered*

"increased the more in strength"

Power does not come where there is no purity. If you want the power of the Holy Spirit, you must empty self and be filled with His Spirit.

b. *He Proved Christ*

"Proving" to unite with one with a conclusion. It actually means to show the truth in such a persuasive way as to draw the hearer to the obvious conclusion.

Note: It's not a matter of how sharp the sword is. It's a question of how skilled is the swordsman?

We have the word of God, which is sharper than any two-edged sword, but we must be skilled in it.

Conclusion: this is a great example of starting, now let's continue on in God's grace.

¹ Butler, John G. Paul: The Missionary Apostle. Clinton, IA: LBC Publications, 1995.