

Acts 9:21-22

Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

Today's devotional may sound a little crazy and some of you may be a little upset about it. But, reading today's devotional verses, this is speaking of Paul, who in the past, persecuted the church. In fact he even tells of the things he did to the church.

† *Acts 22:4-5 (NLT) And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, binding and delivering both men and women to prison. The high priest and the whole council of leaders can testify that this is so. For I received letters from them to our Jewish brothers in Damascus, authorizing me to bring the Christians from there to Jerusalem, in chains, to be punished.*

Paul was a pretty bad person who hated the Christians and had them beaten, had them thrown in jail and even killed them. Now that's pretty bad. But then he (Saul) met Jesus and was converted to Christianity.

† *Acts 9:15-16 (NLT) But the Lord said, "Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for me."*

Now this is what came to me. What if Hamas was to become Christians. What if they, the ones who persecuted the Christians and Israelis, became believers? I know this sounds crazy, but they felt the same way about Paul (Saul).

So I let's continue to pray for our President and our leaders.
Pray for those who are working and helping out those in need.
Pray for those who may still be alive and trapped by Hamas.
Pray for the families of those who have died.
Pray that the church can be a light in this time of darkness.
Pray for Jesus to be glorified in all of this.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

And finally, I would encourage you to pray for those of Hamas and their salvation as well. Because, you never know what God could have in mind, just like they didn't know what God had in mind with Paul! But then God says.

† *Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*