

### Acts 9:1-3

***Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.***

Have you ever been going somewhere, like to work or home, and for some reason you felt like going a different way? Or maybe you were going about your morning, and it seemed like you would be on time to go to work, when all of a sudden something happens, and you end up leaving 10 minutes later than you were planning on leaving? Or what about when you are praying, when all of a sudden, someone out of the blue comes to mind and you feel this urge to pray for him or her? Could these be the Holy Spirit prompting us, or even protecting us from harm?

But you have to wonder, (If you never thought about it until now) how many times the Lord has intervened on our part when we don't even know that He has or has used us to intervene in prayer for others and they will never know about it, until we all get to heaven. I remember one instance many years ago when I was driving to work, when all of a sudden, pastor Church Smith was lain upon my heart, and I felt an urgency to pray for him. So I did, I didn't know what to pray for or what was going on in his life right at that moment, and I still have no idea, but I will find out when I get to heaven.

But think of what's going on in today's devotional verses. Saul (Paul) was on his way to Damascus with the sole intent of destroying believers by having them bound and imprisoned. Now the believers in Damascus didn't know he was on his way, even though they knew who he was.

† ***Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem."***

But even though they knew about him, they had no idea that their lives were in danger of Saul coming to their town. But as we read on, we read that the Lord intervened and prevented Saul from doing what he had intended to do.

† ***Acts 9:4-6 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."***

And if you have read the book of Acts, then you know that this is where Jesus spoke to Saul, and changed his name to Paul, and Paul was converted to a being a believer and was saved that day. But not only was Saul (Paul) saved that day, but possibly hundreds of Christians were saved from what Saul was about to do to them. And they didn't even know it. They were like you and I, going on about their everyday lives living as believers, hanging with family, going to their jobs, wives/moms taking care of their homes, family's going to church and hanging out with their friends, but never knowing what God was actually doing in the background to protect them (and us).

This should make us stop and wonder how many times the Lord has intervened for us and our family even just today, and how many more times He has done so in the past, protecting us all and doing things we never will know about, until we get to heaven. Then all things will be revealed, including those who wanted to harm us, and how God had protected us. Including being 5 minutes late to wherever, which was done on purpose to possibly protect us from getting into an accident and getting hurt or hurting someone else.

It's kind of like us as parents with our kids. Don't we do so many things for them, simply to protect them and provide for them that they have no idea that we are doing? We don't do it for a thank you, but simply because we love our kids.

So today, tell the Lord thank you for all those things you never see or know about, of how He has intervened for you and your family. But He does it because He loves us, and we are His children, that He is protecting.

† ***Psalm 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.***