James #15

What is edifying your soul?

Open up today in the book of Acts chapter nine RF.

Now in Acts chapter nine we see the conversion of Saul of Tarsus into the Apostle Paul. Though it was not that smooth or quick.

In fact, it took quite a few years for the Apostle Paul to be accepted by all the original followers of Christ, not just the 11 apostles.

Also, those who were there during the resurrection period of TLJC, they did not accept Paul for several years.

It is believed many early congregations founded under the original 11 apostles didn’t not warm up to Paul as an apostle for a long period of time.

Remember Paul was in and around the region of Damascus for nearly 3 years after his conversion.

During that time, he spent a long period of time alone near the desert region of Arabia under the power of the HS, learning BD as well.

/Act 9:22 But **Saul kept increasing in strength**(*endynamoō*) **and confounding Jews** who lived in Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

Saul was now becoming a dynamic speaker for the resurrected Messiah. Paul was quickly building incredible ECS due to his previous knowledge of the OT.\

END-DO-AHMOTT-O, one of the root words speaks to dynamic power – it traces back to a Greek term; DOO-NA-MUS, we use that today in modern English for - dynamite!

Paul was a rare case of the Edification Complex within the soul escalating at a very high rate.

When he was on the verge of death later down the road – he would be brought into a face-to-face teaching session with TLJC in the 3rd heaven. Mystery doctrine for the CA would be breathed into his soul by Christ Himself.

[Act 9:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/23/s_1027023) When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,

The rumors of Saul of Tarsus’s conversion spread quickly and many in the Sanhedrin wanted his head.

[Act 9:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/24/s_1027024) but their plot became known to Saul. They were also closely watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death;

/[Act 9:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/25/s_1027025) but **his disciples took him at night**and let him down through *an opening in* the wall, **lowering him in a large basket.**

The escape was like that of the spies from the house of Rahab (Jos 2:15) and of David from his own house (1Sam 19:11). Many of the heroes of the Bible were saved by unique methods, often by the skin of their teeth!\

It is never how we imagen it will happen nor is it in our timing.

The Apostle Paul is an extremely rare case, of a dynamic and speedy construction of the ECS, as well as the quick elevation into authority.

Most of this was because Saul had been a serious student and expert on the Torah and the OT prophets.

Yet his life reflects many of God’s leaders in the OT – he had many challenges, attacks, narrow escapes and incredible miracles surrounding his life.

[Act 9:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/26/s_1027026) When he came to Jerusalem, he tried *repeatedly* to associate with the disciples; and *yet* they were all afraid of him, as they did not believe that he was a disciple.

Galatians chapter one recounts aspects of this journey into Jerusalem.

/The Apostle Paul was converted then given authority for nearly 4 years, before he finally had a level of acceptance by the Apostle Peter and James (Jesus’s brother). Barnabas played a continual role in the bridge between the early church leaders and the last Apostle – Paul. Unity only happens when Christians develop a solid Edification Complex of the soul. \

The flesh is always falling in and out of confidence. It is always wavering and being tossed about by every emotional wave or new concept that hits it.

There is very little evidence the Apostle Paul ever met, face to face with anyone else accept the Apostle Peter and James, the brother of Jesus.

Some scholars believe the Apostle John may have been in Jerusalem during this trip as well, yet we do not find that in scripture.

 REPEAT

[Act 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/27/s_1027027) But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus at Damascus.

This may have been ongoing for a few weeks or a few months.

/[Act 9:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/28/s_1027028) And **he was with them**, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul finally had fellowship with Apostle Peter and James for several weeks. Then he began preaching all around Jerusalem.\

Its believed Paul slept at Peter’s house for a few weeks.

[Act 9:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/29/s_1027029) And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic *Jews;* but they were attempting to put him to death.

[Act 9:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/30/s_1027030) Now when the brothers learned *of it,* they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

/The Apostle Paul would head back to his hometown of Tarsus where he would teach, study, as well as keep up his trade as a tent maker for another 4 years. Even the Apostle Paul had to endure more training and God’s timing, to come into a fullness of who he was designed to be in Christ.\

After this period of time the Apostle Paul would ignite a series of missionary journeys and establish groups of new converts and congregations everywhere he travelled. Not to mention writing all his letters and notes that completed the canon of scripture.

The Apostle Paul had more frequent flyer miles then the other apostles.

/[Act 9:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/31/s_1027031) **So the church** throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed peace, **as it was being built up**; and as it continued in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **it kept increasing.**

Everyone is relaxed because inside of the soul of the majority of the members of these different groups, was this structure of the Edification Complex of the Soul.\

We have a unified church that had peace and quiet and blessing because it had positive momentum. Everyone is relaxed because inside of the soul of each was this erected structure.

/[*Act 9:31*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/9/31/s_1027031) *So the church – ekklēsia,* the called-out ones, the body of Christ was unified in all these areas. The assembly is unified even though it has several different teachers and groups. Those Bels who anywhere, in a city or small village, constitute such a unique citizenship and are united into one body, one mind.\

ECK-LAY-SEE-AH, means a unified group, all of the same mind, all of the same calling.

You see some religions, take this as a call of having one leader over many churches and it was never intended as that.

It was never intended as denominational lock step nonsense – it was naturally happening, organically happening because the mind of Christ was unifying them.

*/Act 9:31 - as it was being built up – oikodomeō*; (Greek verb), the building up of a structure, the process of edifying. The unity under an accurate teacher is a building process that benefits all involved, pastor and congregation. We do not grow in seclusion and especially away from accurate Bible Doctrine.\

OIY-CON-DA-MAY-OH, this is the verb form of edifying, to build up, the action of construction. Often used in the ancient term for the building of a home.

Our LORD used this Greek verb in some of HIS teachings;

/Mat 7:24 “Therefore, everyone who **hears these words of Mine, and acts on them**, will be like a wise man who **built his house on the rock.** 25 “And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* **it did not fall**, for **it had been founded on the rock**.\

TLJC is known as the ROCK in scripture.

The action of building is upon the Bel.

Jump over to Galatians chapter two we will close there today.

/Your soul structure has to be built upon the ROCK (mind of Christ), that is the true firm foundation, unchangeable, unshakable. The Edification Complex of the Soul is a building process and a renewing process. Eventually it purges human viewpoint out, as it establishes doctrine from Christ as the new standard, the firm foundation, the full spiritual authority of the soul. \

Church hopping gets many Christians in trouble because they are not building with consistency, strength and accuracy.

There are rare times you outgrow a good pastor-teacher, yet if it does happen, be careful how you move on to the next teacher.

Just as when one pastor goes home to be with the LORD, you have to move on to a new one. A pastor who is teaching accurately, teaching what the SPIRIT is saying to the church.

You can never slack on building your ECS into a fullness of Christ.

 REPEAT

/1Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, **like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it**. But each person must be **careful how he builds** on it. 11 For **no one can lay a foundation**other than **the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ**.\

In Galatians we see the first letter, at the end of the first missionary journey of the Apostle Paul. At this point the Sanhedrin had a few agents infiltrating many of the groups of the new Jewish converts.

They also had growing group of Gnostics influencing many new Christians as well.

The Apostle Paul recounts a conflict between his teaching of grace and the direction some of the Jews under Peter’s ministry were going in.

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

[Gal 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/2/12/s_1093012) For prior to the coming of some men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and separate himself, fearing those from the circumcision.

The brother of TLJC, James, was trained under the Apostle Peter to become the pastor in Jerusalem.

/[Gal 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/2/13/s_1093013) The rest of **the Jews joined him in hypocrisy,** with the result that **even Barnabas was carried away** by their hypocrisy.

Nothing destroys unity more so than legalism and false doctrine. It brings destruction into the construction of a doctrinal soul.\

The circumcision is the reference about the Jewish Believers who came down from Jerusalem.

Barnabus was Jewish, from the tribe of Levi, who loved the teaching of grace.

Yet even he began to react with legalism toward eating with the Gentiles.

[/Gal 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/2/14/s_1093014) But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “**If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews**, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

After being born again, Peter was no longer partaking in Jewish rituals, he was now a Christian under the law of grace & the filling power HS.\

Everything was fulfilled in Christ – either it was or it wasn’t. Why do you keep adding into or practicing that which Jesus fulfilled?

That is the question the Apostle Paul is pointing to.

/This was a strong rebuke from the Apostle Paul to the Apostle Peter, keep in mind this was done in front of a group of Bels. There is no room for legalism and false doctrine to breath within the true teaching of the grace plan of God. It has to be swiftly stomped out. Peter handled this with great patience and understanding, signifying his own growth.\

The Apostle Peter would later applaud the teaching of the Apostle Paul and give him high regard as an Apostle.

(See 2Peter 3:15-16)

The Apostle Peter, by going along with this legalistic behavior, opened a doorway for Jews to claim exclusive rights to a relationship with God.

If something is done…complete or fulfilled, you can never add too it or go back and try to keep fulfilling it.

 REPEAT

/Rom 10:4 For **Christ is the end of the Law** for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Mat 5:17 “Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill**.\

The tearing of the veil in the temple when Christ gave HIMSELF over to death, signified the days of the Jewish temple and the age of Israel had been stopped.

There was a dramatic change, something new arrived.

TLJC died for everyone – an intimate relationship with GOD exists for every Bel who seeks it.

The temple is now within, the priesthood is now within every Bel.

The full life, death, burial and resurrection, along with the ascension of Christ sealed the deal for all of eternity.

/There is absolutely nothing left to fulfill or add into, we go forward in CHRIST. The work of salvation, prophecy - past and future as well as spiritual power and knowledge, a resurrected life, is all fulfilled in CHRIST. We do not go back into rituals, commands or a status from another age. WE stay in UNION with the ONE who fulfills everything! \

Jesus Christ told the apostles at the last supper – there is now a new covenant.

Jesus Christ taught HIS apostles everything is fulfilled in HIM.

Jesus Christ spoke publicly that the kingdom of GOD is at hand, everything the OT was pointing to was now here, in the flesh.

HE told them I MUST SUFFER and die…then be resurrected to fulfill everything.