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Jesus and Paul



Paul became a great man

- Brought the gospel to the West
- Freed us from deadening traditions
- Transmitted huge portions of God's word to us



The key to understanding how
Paul became great:
His name change

“Saul” → “Paul”



Before he met Jesus: “Saul”



What “Saul” was before he met Jesus

- A brilliant young man with a promising future
- A powerful man with the right background
- A feared religious terrorist & leader with popular support

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Before he met Jesus: “Saul”



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After Jesus got hold of him: “Paul” (lit.: “small”)

“But whatever
was to my profit I
now consider
loss...I consider
them rubbish...”

-PH 3: 7



I shall call him
"mini bin"

The story of Paul

Jesus reduced
a powerful man
to a small man
to make him great.



How Jesus made Paul
great:

#1 He took away his
self-confidence

(and gave him a conscience)

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How Jesus made Paul great

About noon, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.

-Acts 26: 14



How Jesus made Paul great

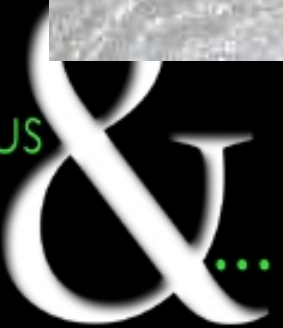
We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? **It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**”

-Acts 26: 14





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How Jesus made Paul great:

#2 He took away his
religion

(and gave him the truth)



How Jesus made Paul great

“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.”

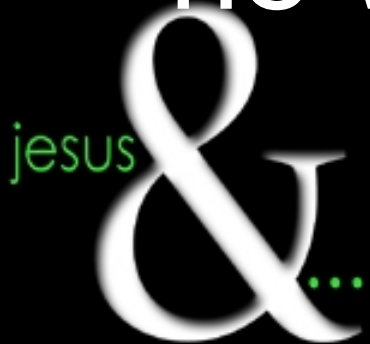
-Acts 9: 5-9



How Jesus made Paul great

...Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing...for three days he was blind...

-Acts 9: 5-9





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Jews f̄r Jesus

BEHOLD YOUR GOD

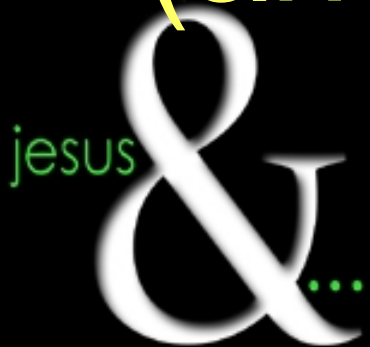
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How Jesus made
Paul great:

#3 He took away his
safety

(and gave him hard tasks)



How Jesus made Paul great

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. **I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.**”

-Acts 9: 15-16





“The Christian West is slowly dying from lack of courage.”

-Alexander Solzhenitsyn

How Jesus made Paul great

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.

-2 Corinthians 11: 23-25



How Jesus made Paul great

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

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-2 Corinthians 11: 26

How Jesus made Paul great

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.

-2 Corinthians 11: 27





"Will prove to be one of the most life-changing and culture-changing books of this generation."

—RANDY ALCORN

A TEENAGE
REBELLION
AGAINST
LOW EXPECTATIONS

SO HARD THINGS

ALEX & BRETT
HARRIS

FOREWORD BY CHUCK NORRIS



How Jesus made Paul
great:

#4 He took away his
comfort

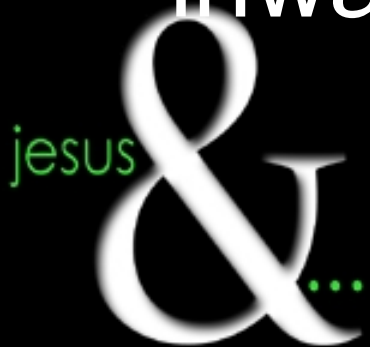
(and gave him compassion)



How Jesus made Paul great

Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

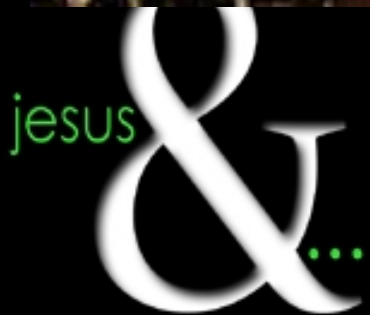
-2 Corinthians 11: 28-29





“Becoming a true Christian not only reorients our beliefs, but also reorders our loves.”

-Augustine



How Jesus made
Paul great:

#5 He took away his
strength

(and gave him His grace)



How Jesus made Paul great

To keep me from being conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me **a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan**, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.



How Jesus made Paul great

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

-2 Corinthians 12: 7-9





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How Jesus made Paul great

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made **perfect** in weakness.”

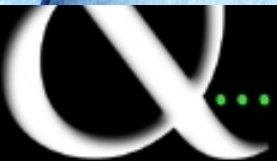
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

-2 Corinthians 12: 9





“Jesus is
enough”



How Jesus made Paul great

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

-2 Corinthians 12: 10



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