



HEROES OF THE BIBLE

PAUL THE APOSTLE

AKA: Saul of Tarsus

Startling facts: This man was not always a follower of Jesus. In fact, we first hear of Saul in relation to the stoning of Stephen, a disciple of the early church. Saul was there watching what took place.¹ Certain that Christianity was a dangerous belief and should be stopped, Saul began going from house to house to imprison those who believed in Jesus! One day, on his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians, he was struck by a light that blinded him and caused him to fall from his horse.

“Saul, why do you persecute me?” asked a voice.

“Who are you?” asked Saul.

“Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.”

After this experience, the Holy Spirit sent Ananias to pray for Saul's eyes and he was healed. Saul was renamed Paul, and he immediately started spreading the good news of Jesus to others. From then on, nothing could stop him, not even imprisonment, violent interrogations, shipwrecks, conspiracies, poverty, hunger, homelessness, and stoning!

Did you know? Paul was not only a Jew but also a Roman citizen. He used this to speak to people from both cultures in a way that was easy for them to understand.

Coollest trait: Paul was wholehearted in everything he did. He said, “To the Jews I became like a Jew in order to win Jews. To those under the Law I became like a man under the Law, in order to win those under the Law (although I myself am not under the Law).”²

You can too: If something is worth doing at all, it is worth doing wholeheartedly. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”³

Footnotes:

¹ See [Acts 7:58](#).

² [1 Corinthians 9:20 ISV](#).

³ [Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV](#).