



# Paul

**Breakthrough!:** Paul, you are one of the most surprising figures in Christianity.

**Paul:** I started out as a Pharisee, a devout Jew who lived by the letter of the Law. This new religion, called the Way, was growing rapidly, and some of us felt it had to be stopped before things got out of control. So, I became a defender of the Jewish faith—and ended up persecuting a lot of Christians. I thought I was pleasing God, but I was terribly, terribly misguided.

**B:** What changed you?

**Paul:** Jesus appeared to me. To make a long story short, there were flashes from the sky and the voice of Christ saying: “Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?” I became a changed man, and learned everything I could about Jesus.

**B:** Wait, I thought your name was Paul. Why did Christ call you Saul?

**Paul:** There’s an easy explanation. My Jewish name is Saul. But the Roman version of my name is Paul. I became better known as Paul since I spent most of my time preaching in the Roman Empire.

**B:** You certainly got a lot done after Christ appeared to you.

**Paul:** I was unstoppable! From the moment of my baptism, I could do nothing but preach the Good News!

**B:** You must love traveling. You sure got around!

**Paul:** Honestly, I got terribly seasick! But I had no choice. There were so many people to reach—Jews, Gentiles, the rich, the poor, the educated, the pure of heart. I needed many more years.

**B:** Under your leadership, the Church expanded from Jerusalem to Rome, the capital of the empire.

**Paul:** It wasn’t just me; there were lots of other Christian missionaries spreading the Good News. It was because of the power of the Holy Spirit. I was just an instrument.