

The Church lived in SHEER TERROR OF Saul

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² 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.

([Acts 9:1-2](#) NKJV)

God PROTECTED the early church from Saul

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ([Acts 9:3-4](#) NKJV)

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ ..., “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying,

([Acts 9:10-11](#) NKJV)

Heroism is deciding GOD'S OPINION MATTERS MOST

¹³ ...Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ ...he has authority...to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel... ¹⁷ ...Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul,... ([Acts 9:13-17](#) NKJV)

Who were the Rope Holders?

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. ([Acts 9:19 & 22](#) NKJV)

**(1) Followers of
Jesus who forgave
and accepted Saul**

²³ ...after many days were passed, the Jews plotted to kill him. ²⁴ But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him ([Acts 9:23-24](#) NKJV)

**(2) Men of Courage
who protected Saul
from death**

The Rope Holders' heroism was an act of ANONYMITY

²⁵ Then the disciples took him by night and let *him* down through the wall in a large basket. ([Acts 9:25](#) NKJV)

ANONYMITY PROVES *God's opinion matters most*

¹ "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ([Matthew 6:1-3](#) NKJV)

Heroic Anonymity is an UNCOMMON thing

²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ([Philippians 2:20-21](#) NKJV)

Heroic Anonymity requires **HUMILITY** to remain unknown

³ Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself
([Philippians 2:3](#) NKJV)

Heroic Anonymity requires that we **FIND OUR IDENTITY** in Christ

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ([Colossians 3:23-24](#) NKJV)

Some practical ways to show heroic anonymity:

- Family Thanksgiving & Christmas Basket
- Pay for another's meal
- Leaving groceries at someone's door
- Make an anonymous donation



Read [Acts 9:19-25](#). How did the disciples that held the ropes for Saul show “heroic anonymity”? Is it easier to do things anonymously, or when you get credit? Watch the [Batman Week 3 video](#). Talk about how each of you can show “heroic anonymity” this week.