



## God Loves and Miraculously Transforms Militants and Terrorists! - What Can He Do for You? By Karen Sue Nyquist

**1. Introduction** - Through the power of Jesus Christ, God is transforming militants and terrorists, extremists who are full of fear, hatred, and violence, and giving them positive purposes for living. This is wonderful news! God's great and merciful love extends to all who don't know Him. He knows that many are living in spiritual darkness and His desire is to bring people into His glorious light and He offers a life of love with powerful new purposes.

**a. First**, we'll look at the life of a religious extremist, a terrorist, Saul of Tarsus, whose story is in the Bible. He came to God through a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. We'll see how Jesus lovingly forgave his sins and transformed him into one of His followers. Saul even worked powerful miracles in people's lives. **b. Next**, we'll see God's purposes for transforming each of us. **c. Lastly**, we have links to testimonies of lives that were transformed: a militant atheistic marxist; an extremist Hindu persecutor of Christians; and a Muslim Hezbollah fighter, hater of all infidels and of other Muslim factions. Many former atheistic militants believed that "religion is an opioid of the people" and "the source of all evil." Yet after experiencing visions of Jesus Christ or hearing His voice, their previous beliefs are being challenged, they're experiencing a profound change of heart, choosing to believe in God, and are becoming Christians. Religious extremists often believe they are acting on God's behalf, but through spiritual experiences with Jesus, such as dreams, visions, or epiphanies, they're encountering Jesus' love and power, being impacted deeply, renouncing their past actions, deciding to follow Jesus, and being transformed by His love, peace, goodness, and joy. (Galatians 5:22-23).

### 2. Key Elements of Saul of Tarsus' Story -

**a. Saul's Violent Persecution of Christians:** Saul was a Pharisee, a strict Jewish religious leader, who believed he was pleasing God; persecuted early followers of Jesus, entered their homes, dragged them out, arrested them, and even officiated at a public stoning. Why? to destroy the new Christian movement. (Acts 8:3; 7:57-60; 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3:5-6)

**b. Saul's Pursuit of Christians:** Saul traveled with legal authority to Damascus to arrest and bring even more Christians back to Jerusalem for punishment. (Acts 9:1-2)

**c. Saul's Encounter with Jesus:** On the way to Damascus, Jesus (who'd already ascended to heaven) miraculously appeared to Saul in a vision with a blinding light, asking, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Jesus took these attacks against His followers personally. He then explained His desired transformation for Saul's life. (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-10)

**d. Saul's Transformation:** The vision left Saul blinded for three days, humbled, repentant, and believing that Jesus is the Son of God. His companions brought him to Damascus, where he met Ananias, a follower of Jesus, who healed his eyes and baptized him. Saul was so dramatically changed, that he became a follower of Jesus and even started going by the name of Paul, showing that he was a "new man." (Acts 7:7-22; 9:7-19; 13:9; Ephesians 4:22-24)

**e. Paul's Powerful New Purpose in Life:** For the rest of his life, Paul was preaching and teaching that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles (*all non-Jews*). His ministry was full of miracles that helped improve other people's lives, healing them of diseases and delivering them from demonic oppression. Most of the New Testament consists of letters that he wrote while imprisoned for his faith until his martyrdom. His 13 letters tell how to have the right relationship with God and others, and have been teaching and inspiring millions for more than 2,000 years. (Acts 9:20-30; 14:8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 20:9-12; 28:3-6)

**f. Apostle Paul's Personal Testimony** - The vision so impacted him, that he became a follower of Jesus, was arrested for his faith, and was put on trial. You may read the testimony that Saul (now Apostle Paul) gave in court, which is recorded in the Bible. (Acts 26:12-23)

**3. What Did Jesus Tell Saul in The Vision?** - Jesus told him, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **a**) to make you a minister and **b**) a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. **c**) I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, **d**) to whom I now send you, **e**) to open their eyes, **f**) *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and **g**) *from* the power of Satan to God, **h**) that they may receive forgiveness of sins and **i**) an inheritance among those **j**) who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26:15-18)

**4. Why Does God Want to Transform Extremists and Us?** - Because He loves us! "... whoever believes in Him (*the Lord Jesus Christ*) should not perish (*die and go to hell*) but have

eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:15-17)

**God uses transformed people to transform nations and the world!** Jesus taught His followers to pray, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10).

**5. How Does God Want to Transform Extremists and Us?** - God desires to reveal His truths to us (so we have to let Him open our spiritual eyes), and turn us from following the way of spiritual darkness to following His way in His glorious light. Our old way was following the power of Satan, now we can experience God and His power. Once we have faith in Jesus and receive Him as our Lord and Savior, God can forgive us of our sins, adopt us as His sons and daughters, and give us the inheritance of eternal life. When we receive Jesus, His Spirit comes to live inside of us, to help us to understand God’s truth, and to start changing our lives. This change is called sanctification, which means He wants to purify us and set us apart for His purposes. (John 1:12; 14:26; Acts 2:36; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:9; Hebrews 10:14; Philippians 2:13)

**6. What Are God’s Purposes for Transforming Extremists and Us?** - With Jesus’ Spirit inside, now we can become His ministers and His witnesses, telling others about Jesus, that He came to be their Savior, saving them from a life of sin, and from hell. Jesus tells us to, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons (*evil spirits*); they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (*be healed*).” (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 28:3-6)

**7. In What Ways Does God Change Hearts and Minds of Extremists and Us?** There are many testimonies of individuals leaving extremist groups after: **a)** having visions or dreams of Jesus, **b)** watching a movie about the life of Jesus, **c)** by watching the loving lifestyles of true Christians, **d)** by listening to Christians witness to them about Jesus Christ, **e)** by reading materials explaining the gospel of Jesus Christ, **f)** and by reading the Bible (especially the New Testament), then visiting a church.

**8. Use These Links to Watch Testimonies of Extremists Who Became Christians - Militant Marxist (and Atheist) Finds God - <https://share.google/U8kw6pOK8IcjYEIQI>**

58:14 - This is an interview of Sy Garth, Ph.D. a former militant atheist and communist who found fulfillment in Christianity after a search for purpose, influenced by scientific evidence and personal experiences, detailed in his book Science and Faith in Harmony.

**INDIA: Hindu man who persecuted Christians converts [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>watch**

5:15 min. - Raji was a member of an **extremist Hindu** group that targeted Christians. He despised the young Christian preacher who kept visiting his village.

**Former Hezbollah Fighter Found Jesus in Prison?/The 700...[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>watch**

10:55 min. - While in prison, a Hezbollah fighter encountered a man with a bright holy light surrounding him, he knew this was Jesus.

**200 Muslims in Gaza Reportedly Accept Christ after Seeing Him in 'Visions and Dreams'**

Muslims in Gaza recently came to Christ after they saw Jesus in visions and dreams and realized they had shared the same experience, according to a new report from the region.

**The Jesus Film | English | Official Full Movie HD YouTube · [jesus.net](http://jesus.net)** - You can watch this movie at this link.

**9. Our Invitation** - Please, visit our church where you can feel God’s presence and we preach and teach the Bible. You can ask many questions and study the Bible. When ready, you can receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, get baptized in water, receive His Holy Spirit, grow in your faith, and become stronger in Jesus Christ while fellowshiping with other believers.

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