

# QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APOSTLE:

**Acts 1:12** Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. **Acts 1:13** And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. **Acts 1:14** **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. **Acts 1:15** **And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples**, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) **Acts 1:16** **Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled**, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. **Acts 1:17** For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. **Acts 1:18** Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. **Acts 1:19** And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. **Acts 1:20** For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. **Acts 1:21** **Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,** **Acts 1:22** **Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.** **Acts 1:23** And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. **Acts 1:24** **And they prayed**, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, **Acts 1:25** That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. **Acts 1:26** And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**An obvious crisis had occurred. Jesus had been betrayed and Judas had committed suicide!**

**What to do? How to fill his part of the twelve?**

## Qualifications:

- **A companion of Jesus & the other eleven disciples**
- **A co-witness of the resurrection**

This, of course, is the primary role / function / calling of an

- **Chosen according to those qualifications**
- **Confirmed by God!**

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**Proverbs 16:33** The lot is cast into the lap; But the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

**But what about Paul?**

**This hounded Paul his entire life.**

**Externally – used by his enemies Internally – the pain of his past**

**What do we know about Paul?**

- **Paul was a co-witness of the resurrected Christ!**

**1 Corinthians 9:1** **Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? 1**

**Corinthians 9:2** **If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 15:8** **And last of all (ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων) he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time (τῷ**

**ἐκτρομέματι).** **1 Corinthians 15:9** **For I am the least (ὁ ἐλάχιστος τῶν ἀποστόλων) of the apostles**, that am **not** meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **1 Corinthians 15:10** **But** by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**Paul was:**

**Least**

**Last**

**Like → in every way but one**

- **Paul was called by the Lord ( personally& by name)**

**Romans 1:1** **PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, Romans 1:2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) **Romans 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **Romans 1:4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of

holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **Romans 1:5** **By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:**

**Galatians 1:1** **PAUL, an apostle,** (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

**Ephesians 1:1** **PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,** to the saints which are at Ephesus...

**Colossians 1:1** **PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,** and Timotheus our brother,

**1 Timothy 1:1** **PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ** by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

**2 Timothy 1:1** **PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ** by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

### ➤ **Paul was commissioned like the other apostles! (with a mission)**

**1 Corinthians 9:1** **Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? 1**

**Corinthians 9:2** If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: **for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.**

**Galatians 1:15** But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **Galatians 1:16** To reveal his Son in me, **that I might preach him among the heathen (ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν);** immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: **Galatians 1:17** Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: **for he is a chosen vessel unto me,** to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: **Acts 9:16** For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

**Acts 22:21** And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence **unto the Gentiles.**

**Acts 26:16** But rise, and stand upon thy feet: **for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Acts 26:17** Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, **Acts 26:18** **To** open their eyes, **and to** turn them from darkness to light, **and** from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. **Acts 26:19** Whereupon, O king Agrippa, **I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:**

**Romans 11:13** For I speak to you Gentiles, **inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles (ἐγὼ ἔθνῶν ἀπόστολος),** I magnify mine office (τὴν διακονίαν μου δοξάζω):

**Romans 15:16** **That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (εἰς τὰ ἔθνη),** ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

**Galatians 2:7** But contrariwise, when they saw that **the gospel of the uncircumcision (τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς ἀκροβυστίας)** was committed unto me, as **the gospel of the circumcision (τῆς περιτομῆς)** was unto Peter; **Galatians 2:8** (For he that wrought effectually in Peter **to the apostleship of the circumcision (ἀποστολὴν τῆς περιτομῆς),** the same was mighty in me **toward the Gentiles (εἰς τὰ ἔθνη): Galatians 2:9** And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; **that we should go unto the heathen (εἰς τὰ ἔθνη), and they unto the circumcision (εἰς τὴν περιτομήν).**

**1 Timothy 2:7** Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) **a teacher of the Gentiles (διδάσκαλος ἔθνῶν)** in faith and verity.

**2 Timothy 1:11** Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and **a teacher of the Gentiles.( καὶ διδάσκαλος ἔθνῶν)**

### ➤ **Paul was chosen...differently**

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**1 Corinthians 15:8** **And last of all (ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων) he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time (τῷ ἐκτρώματι).** **1 Corinthians 15:9** **For I am the least (ὁ ἐλάχιστος τῶν ἀποστόλων)** of the apostles, that am **not** meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **1 Corinthians 15:10** **But** by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

This is always clearly stated - & never hidden

Paul was a non-believer before the Damascus road

In fact, Paul was a rabid, hostile unbeliever

Paul persecuted the church

**Acts 7:54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. **Acts 7:55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **Acts**

**7:56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. **Acts 7:57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, **Acts 7:58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: **and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **Acts 7:60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, **Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Acts 8:1** And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. **Acts 8:2** And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. **Acts 8:3** As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

**Acts 9:1** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, **Acts 9:2** And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

**Acts 22:4** And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. **Acts 22:5** As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

**Acts 26:9** I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **Acts 26:10** Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice (**ψῆφον**) against them. **Acts 26:11** And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

**Galatians 1:13** For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, **how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: Galatians 1:14** And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. **Galatians 1:15** But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **Galatians 1:16** To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

**Galatians 1:23** But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us **in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. Galatians 1:24** And they glorified God in me.

**Philippians 3:6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**1 Timothy 1:13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. **1 Timothy 1:14** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. **1 Timothy 1:15** This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. **1 Timothy 1:16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

### ➤ Paul was also a companion of / to the events!!!

**Acts 22:3** I am verily a man which am a Jew,

**Born** (**γεννημένος ἐν Ταρσῷ τῆς Κιλικίας**) in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet **brought up** (**ἀνατεθραμμένος δὲ ἐν τῇ πόλει ταύτῃ**) in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and **taught** (**πεπαιδευμένος**) according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

**Acts 7:51** Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. **Acts 7:52** Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: **Acts 7:53** Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. **Acts 7:54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. **Acts 7:55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **Acts 7:56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. **Acts 7:57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, **Acts 7:58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: **and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **Acts 7:60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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