

Setting A New Direction For Your Life

Acts 9:1

The New Year is always associated with making new resolutions and establishing goals to bring about desired change in one's life. It is an opportunity for new beginnings and fresh starts. The great news for everyone is this: God is all about fresh starts and bringing people to a new direction for life. If ever there was a person in the Bible who had a fresh start in life it was a man named Saul. Let's discover from his life how we can set a new direction for our lives.

1. Don't let the past set your direction for life.

"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest..." Acts 9:1 (NIV)

"Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'" Luke 9:61-62 (NIV)

"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

"What in my past is taking my life in the wrong direction?"

2. Bring your plans and goals in alignment with God's.

"He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who

belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem." Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

"Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

Matthew 6:33-34 (The Message)

"Have I examined my plans in the light of God's word and will?"

3. Let Jesus overwhelm you with His glory and power!

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied." Acts 9:3-5 (NIV)

"Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually." Psalm 105:4 (NASB)

"Keep your eyes open for God, watch for His works; be alert for signs of His presence." Psalm 105:4 (The Message)

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12 (NIV)

"How desperately do I want to seek Jesus and follow Him?"

4. Patiently listen to Jesus for His directions.

“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:6 (NIV)

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!’” Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

*“My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.”
John 10:27 (NIV)*

“What do I need to change in my life to better listen to Jesus?”