

February 8, 2015

SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

Making An Impact As His Follower

Acts 9:31-43

The story of the transformation in the Bible is a reminder of how God is able to bring His change into the lives of people and establish His direction for life. We see in the continued story of the book of Acts how God used the followers of Jesus to accomplish His purpose. The truth of Jesus's words in **Acts 1:8** became a reality: ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses...”*** These words of Jesus are a reminder for us today of our responsibility to impact our world as a follower of Him to fulfill His purpose and plan.

1. We live in the reality of the Holy Spirit's presence.

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”

Acts 9:31 (NASB)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

John 14:16-17 (NIV)

2. We approach our everyday lives as our mission.

“As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda.” **Acts 9:32 (NIV)**

“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.” **Acts 9:36 (NIV)**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.” **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.” **Romans 12:1 (The Message)**

3. We allow Jesus to work His power through our lives.

“There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. ‘Aeneas,’ Peter said to him, ‘Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat.’ Immediately Aeneas got up.” **Acts 9:33-34 (NIV)**

“For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” **Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for His purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.” **2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT)**

4. We face life through prayer.

“Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.” **Acts 9:40 (NIV)**

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NIV)

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NIV)**

“But you, dear friends, must continue to build your lives on the foundation of your holy faith. And continue to pray as you are directed by the Holy Spirit.” **Jude 1:20 (NLT)**

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.” **Jude 1:20 (NIV)**

5. We must not limit what God can do through us.

“He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.” **Acts 9:41-42 (NIV)**

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” **Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)**