

## Setting a New Direction for Your Life

*God's Way is Best-Commit to Him and His Kingdom!*

Acts 9:5-19

Apostle Paul definitely set a new direction for his life. *He fixed his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2). *He fought the good fight, finished the race strong and kept the faith* (2 Timothy 4:7). He did not stay the course and keep the faith on his own. Early in his journey with Jesus, Saul/Paul met a devout follower of the Way named Ananias who was called by Jesus to go meet Saul from Tarsus. Ananias overcame his fears and walked by faith to meet Saul and pray for him. Ananias listened and obeyed the Lord's command. Ananias was a **committed follower** who *trusted the Lord with all of his heart and leaned not on his own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5-6). His path was made straight on Straight Street as he said these words to Saul of Tarsus, *"Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 9:17).

Because of the faith and obedience of Ananias, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and he could see again. Saul was baptized, regained his strength and set out on his missionary journey as God's chosen instrument to carry Jesus' name to the Gentiles and to the people of Israel. He knew he would suffer much but he knew that *God's grace was sufficient for him and that God's power would be made perfect in his weakness* (2 Corinthians 12:8). *He considered everything a loss in comparison to what he had found in Christ Jesus, his Savior. He wanted to "know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead"* (Philippians 3:8-11). Like Jesus, Paul went wherever the Spirit led. He was faithful to God's call, **fully committed**, and set apart for God's purpose in God's Kingdom.

## Matthew 6:9

*Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

## 2 Chronicles 16:9

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are **fully committed to him**.*

## Jeremiah 1:5-8

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*

*Ah, Sovereign Lord, I said, I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.*

*But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child'. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you, declares the Lord.*

## Jeremiah 29:11-13

*"I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all our heart."*

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*STOP – Who do you say that I am? Do you know me? I know you.*

*LOOK – Do you understand what I've done for you, in you, thru you?*

*LISTEN – Are you listening to me, to my word, my Spirit, my people?*

*LOVE –*

*Do you love me? Feed my sheep (yourself, family, neighbors).  
Go! Serve, baptize, teach, heal, follow, make disciples!*

*BELIEVE – Do you believe me?*

*RECEIVE –*

*Have you received my Spirit?*

*Do I have your heart?*

*Are you **fully committed to me**?*