

## CHANGE OF PLANS

Acts 9:6

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Life sometimes seems boring, we get into a routine and nothing ever seems to change and then some people don't want any change in their life style, leave things the way they are, don't upset the routine, etc. When God has His way in a person's life, there are often sudden changes in direction and then again sometimes some things remain the same, but a new outlook, a new perspective is given and one continues in his/her same environment but everything seems to have a different reason, purpose. Faces are the same, surroundings are the same, but everything and everybody is seen in a totally different outlook. This happened to Saul, who was then renamed, "Paul."

### I. GOD USES VARIOUS METHODS TO GET ONE'S ATTENTION

1. Saul (Paul) was going about his normal business, on his way to persecute Christians.
  - There was nothing new about what he was doing.
  - There was nothing new about where he was going.
  - There was nothing new about the road he was traveling.
  - There was no new experience he had just experienced, everything was routine.
  - Everybody has their routine lay of life, just as Saul/Paul did.
2. God changed things for Saul/Paul.
  - Suddenly in the normal, routine trip Saul was making, things changed.
  - There was a loud voice and a blinding light that came out of the sky.
  - Saul fell to the ground, blinded and startled, perhaps scared.
  - The voice identified itself as "Jesus" and suddenly Saul/Paul was changed, converted.
  - God uses different ways to gain our attention, not so much like He got Saul/Paul's but each person usually has to be approached differently and God know exactly how to get our attention.

### II. DOING WHAT GOD WANTS IS THE NEXT STEP

1. Saul/Paul asked what it was that Jesus wanted of him.
  - Doing what God wants after God gets one's attention is the next thing - obedience.
  - Sometimes one questions as to whether God has the right person for the "job" if He wants us to do this or that as there is a question as to being "qualified" to do what God wants.
  - Sometimes God wants us to do something we'd rather not do or think we can't do.
2. Jesus revealed what He wanted Saul/Paul to do little by little, step by step.
  - What God wants us to do is often revealed a little at a time.
    - Like Saul/Paul, we take only one step at a time doing what God wants.
  - Often we'd like to speed things up and even try to get ahead of God's plan.

### III. GOD SOMETIMES CHANGES THE PURPOSE BUT NOT THE DIRECTION

1. Saul/Paul continued on at the pace he had been traveling before his encounter with the Lord but for a different reason/purpose.
  - The direction had not been changed by Jesus, but the purpose/reason had.
  - Saul/Paul's life's purpose was changed from this moment on after Jesus got his attention.

2. Often God does not change our direction either, just the purpose.
  - Sometimes there is no "new path" but the same old familiar way.
  - Sometimes we are to continue going the direction we have been going, but there is a new purpose.

#### **IV. THINGS CHANGE AFTER GOD GETS ONE'S ATTENTION**

1. The same old ways, things take on a different look and meaning.
  - One becomes more "satisfied," patient when before there was boredom, impatience.
  - One feels that there is a divine purpose behind all that he/she is experiencing now.
2. Vision is often not given for a new environment but to make the old, familiar things more vibrant, more alive, more purposeful.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Who has not been bored with his/her present way of life? Who has not wanted change? Who has not longed to find his/her purpose in life?
2. When God speaks to a person and that person hears God, there is ALWAYS change that takes place.
  - Sometimes there is a drastic, total change, sometimes there is a change of direction, a change that generates questions, etc.
  - Sometimes, however, things remain pretty much the same, except a new "outlook" on life and one's purpose in life is changed and things become bright and "rosey."
3. God speaks to every person at one time or other, but sadly, not everybody hears or is even aware that it was God speaking. They attribute what happened to them as "coincidence," or luck, etc...
  - However, some people recognize that it is God getting their attention.
4. Paul is an example of what happens to a person who hears God and obeys what God says. One's life is changed and he/she is blessed.