

Prepare the Future by the Holy Spirit (Insight)

Introduction - Insight (Definition)

- an instance of apprehending the true nature of a thing, especially through intuitive understanding:
- Synonyms - perception, intuition, understanding (to grasp).

A) Prepare For the Future...a Self-Directed Journey (Acts 9:1-3)

1. Your will, your desire, your agenda

A self-directed journey is one in which self is the directing force behind the preparations.

At the center of your preparations is your will influenced by your desires defining your agenda

Saul's Confidence in himself (Philippians 3:4-6) – a natural asset for the religious leaders...a spiritual asset chosen and prepared by God for His future purpose:

- Born and raised in Tarsus...a center of Grecian culture (Philosophy, Oratory)
- Circumcised of the stock of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin...
- Sent to Jerusalem to study...the center of Hebrew culture (Legalism)
- A Hebrew of the Hebrews...learned in the Hebrew scripture (Gamaliel)
- Concerning the law, a Pharisee...legalistic ideology
- Concerning zeal persecuted the church...
- Concerning the righteousness of the law blameless...

2. Self-Sufficient

Sourcing your preparations is a goal of self-sufficiency

Saul sourced his journey through the approval of the high priests (letters of authorization, team of authorized personnel, provisions for the journey to Damascus)

3. Ambitions

The objective of your preparations are your ambitions

Saul's ambitions were to root up and tear down the "Way"

B) Prepare the Future...a Prophetic Directed Journey (Acts 9:4-18)

1. Reset

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Saul's confrontation – the light interrupted his preparations (journey), the voice challenged his ambitions (vs. 4-5)

2. Rise Up

Saul's Instruction – arise (rise up) and go without knowing what lies ahead (v 6)

3. Change

Saul's Change - the transition...change of direction for his calling (v 18)

C) Babylon's Furnace...what lies ahead, ready and committed (Acts 9:19, Philippians 3:8-11)

1. **Truth** - complete commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (i.e., the Power of the Resurrection)
2. **Sacrifice** - willing to be a sacrifice...sharing in Christ's suffering (i.e., the Fellowship of His suffering)
3. **Ready** – for rough times ahead...persecution, isolation, confrontation (i.e., Conformed to His death)

Conclusion

Prepare the Future by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:20-23)

- Immediately he went... obedient to the Holy Spirit
- Others amazed at what he had become...born of the Holy Spirit
- Increased in strength and boldness...empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Loved not his soul unto death...committed to the Holy Spirit

What future does the Holy Spirit have instore for you? (Acts 9:31, Isaiah 60:1-3)

- Are you an “admirer” of Christ or a “disciple” of Christ?