



## **BIBLICAL LESSONS FROM QUARANTINE:**

### THE APOSTLE PAUL

[GALATIANS 1 *emphasis vss. 13-24*]

#### **Introduction:**

Walking straight is always easier than turning around

Paul was a straight walker in terms of Judaism (Philippians 3: 4-6)

As a straight walker he had fire and focus and passion and purpose

His turnaround Damascus Road experience (Acts (9: 1-3))

#### **Responses to a turnaround experience or experiences**

1. Denial of experience and retrenchment
2. Narcissism that looks for a scapegoat to blame
3. Disillusionment that births bitterness
4. Quarantine that
  - a) Examines, enlightens and empowers
  - b) Heals and gives hope
  - c) Renews, restores, and resurrects
  - d) Tests, trains and transitions

#### **The Quarantine of the Apostle Paul (Galatians 1: 15-19)**

1. CLARIFICATION
  - a) God what are you saying to me at this season of my life?
  - b) What are the lessons you want me to learn at this time in my life?
  - c) How do I know your voice and will amidst all the other voices I hear from within and without?
  - d) What is your vision for my life at my age and during this season?
2. CONVERSION
  - a) Lord Jesus, help me to yield with faith and without bitterness to what you reveal
  - b) Lord Jesus, help me to seek your glory first and foremost
  - c) Lord Jesus, since others will be impacted by your will for my life, help me to trust you to cover and keep all of those whom I love and hold dear
  - d) Give me patience and perseverance when things happen that I do not understand
  - e) Help me to pray daily Psalm 139: 23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
3. COURAGE
  - a) Lord Jesus, grant me courage to face Arabia---the unknown
  - b) Lord Jesus, grant me courage to face Damascus---my past
  - c) Lord Jesus, grant me courage to face Jerusalem----my most vehement opposition and critics
  - d) Since I will not win over everyone in Jerusalem, Lord Jesus grant me courage to face failure
  - e) Lord Jesus, grant me courage to face Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus)---my family and friends who may look upon my conversion as betrayal.

## 4. COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus help me to emerge from this season of quarantine with new determination that lasts a lifetime and leads to eternity---

- a) Galatians 6: 17---"From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body."
- b)
- c) Philippians 1: 21---"For me living is Christ and dying is gain."
- d) Philippians 3: 7-14--- Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- e) II Corinthians 4: 16-5: 1--- So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- f) II Timothy 4: 6-8--- As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.