

## International Conversation Café

Lifestyle Topic:                      How Does God Guide Us?

**First**, God guides the believer in Jesus.

Psalm 32 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

*How do you feel about the idea of being guided by God?*

**Second**, God has a purpose for our lives, to love him and do the good works he brings to us.

Ephesians 2:8-10 "God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.

God made us. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do."

*How do you feel about the idea of God having a plan for individual people?*

**Third**, our priorities will determine our choices. If our purpose is to get rich, be successful, and be famous, then we will make choices to get to that end. If our priorities are to love God above anything else and to do the works he planned for us, then we will make choices that fit that direction. Consider the life of Saul/Paul described in Acts 9.

Saul hated and persecuted the followers of Jesus. He was on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus to find believers and arrest them so they would be put to death.

On his journey, Saul approached Damascus. Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground. He heard a voice speak to him. "Saul! Saul!" the voice said. "Why are you opposing me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," he replied. "I am the one you are opposing. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there. They weren't able to speak. They had heard the sound. But they didn't see anyone. Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind. He didn't eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a believer named Ananias. The Lord called out to him in a vision. "Ananias!" he said.

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

(God told Ananias to go to where Saul was, place his hands on him to restore his sight. Ananias was hesitant because of all the reports about Saul and his intent to take believers back to Jerusalem to be killed. God reassured Ananias that he had a plan for Saul.)

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. He placed his hands on Saul. “Brother Saul,” he said, “you saw the Lord Jesus. He appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He has sent me so that you will be able to see again. You will be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Right away something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes. And he could see again. He got up and was baptized. After eating some food, he got his strength back.

Saul spent several days with the believers in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues. He taught that Jesus is the Son of God. All who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Isn’t he the man who caused great trouble in Jerusalem for those who worship Jesus? Hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” But Saul grew more and more powerful. The Jews living in Damascus couldn’t believe what was happening. Saul proved to them that Jesus is the Christ.

*Put the story in your own words. How did Saul’s priorities change?*

*Give examples of people who achieved their goals based on their priorities.*

*Give examples of how your priorities guide you.*

**Fourth,** God gives us wisdom.

1. The Holy Spirit helps us understand God’s word. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, “But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
2. We ask God to give us wisdom. Proverbs 3:5,6 “In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path.”
3. We listen to the advice of wise people around us. Proverbs 15:22 “Plans fail without good advice. But they succeed when there are many advisers.”
4. We use common sense, which has to do with practical good judgment.

*Why would someone consider what God wants when they make a decision?*

Go through the steps you would take to:

Buy a car

Find a job

Find a marriage partner

Decide on an educational major