



Acts 26:13-15 (NIV) ¹³"About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. ¹⁴We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied."

"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth." (Acts 26:9)

"And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them." (Acts 26:10)

"Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme." (Acts 26:11)

"In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them." (Acts 26:11)

"On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'" (Acts 26:12-14)

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads." (Acts 26:14)

"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.'" (Acts 26:15-16)

1. If You've Been Blinded by Religion, God Wants to Open Your _____.

"I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes..." (Acts 26:17-18)

2. If You've Been Blinded by Religion, God Wants to Show You the _____.

"...and turn them from darkness to light..." (Acts 26:18)

(over)

3. If You've Been Blinded by Religion, God Wants to Overcome the _____.

"...from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God..." (Acts 26:18)

"...so that they may receive forgiveness of sins..." (Acts 26:18)

4. If You've Been Blinded by Religion, Jesus Came to Restore Your _____ with God.

"...so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)

Want to Go Deeper?

- Memorize Acts 26:18.
- What positive and negative impacts has religion had on your life?
- From what do you need to deconvert so that you can have a real relationship with God?
- If you are ready to accept God's invitation to a new life, let us know and we will help you with next steps.
- Read *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit* by Charles Swindoll.

Please let us know the commitments you are making to God by using the Communication Card. We will pray for you.