What’s Next?

Your younger sister Laura is coming for a visit with you in St. Louis for the weekend. In contrast to previous visits in which the goal was just hanging out, she seems really down emotionally in her last call. She remembers how you had struggled in college over a choice of a career. Assuming that you are now comfortable in your choice, she needs advice on how to help her and her best friend Joan with a similar career decision. This request is not just for sisterly advice. Laura has grown in her Christian faith while at college and really wants to use Biblical insight to provide the basis for their thoughts.

The previous week, the Bible study she and Joan attend had been reading about Paul’s conversion. As they were leaving their friend’s house, Joan turned to Laura and said,

“Laura, I can’t get that scripture we just read out of my mind about Jesus speaking to Paul immediately after his conversion. Just think if you had heard, ‘Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’ (Acts 9:6).”

“You know that I am really worrying about where I am to go after we graduate next Spring. Wouldn’t it be great if Jesus would appear to us as he did Paul and give us directions on where to go next?”

Laura is really overcome because, as with Joan, she is graduating in the spring and anxious as well. Both of them had played varsity basketball at their university over the past three years. With the end of this next season, both face a future in which they have to make a career decision that was for the first time not influenced by their interest and ability in basketball. While professional basketball is a possibility for Joan, the likelihood of a long term career as a professional is remote.

With a big hug, Laura had said, “You know I cannot remember actually ever going to the Bible to help in a real life situation. Why don’t we meet for lunch next Tuesday to chat about what the Bible may say that could help us? Let’s commit to really preparing for this and being able to compare notes on what we find.”

Joan and Laura have come from very different backgrounds. You and Laura have been blessed by a family whose focus has been on their Christian faith. Both of you were baptized in your early teens. Despite this family focus, there never was much discussion about applying Biblical principles in everyday life. Of course, you remember the basic moral values that your parents emphasized as you were growing up. The church you attended was a small main line church that, as much as you can recall, taught traditional Christian values. There may have been more
to it but either your parents did not openly talk about them with the family or, equally likely, you just were not interested.

In contrast, Joan comes from a family who had to be called nominal Christians in that they did occasionally attend a neighborhood church but what faith they had could not be considered central to their family life. When Laura asked, Joan identified herself as a believer but she had never been baptized. What was central to Joan’s family was athletics. She is the youngest of three children with the older being both boys. Her dad was on the road a lot as a furniture broker but when home you would have to say that his life was consumed with athletics. This outlook first rubbed off on the boys and then Joan.

Joan and Laura followed different paths to collegiate basketball. Laura was a multi-sport athlete with good natural skills but no real concerted interest in basketball until her junior year in high school. Having developed late, the only recruiting interest she saw was from smaller liberal arts colleges. She made her decision to walk on at XYZ University after talking with one of the coaches. After two years, she was awarded a scholarship. In contrast, Joan had developed early as a basketball player. What made her unique in her high school team was that she was tall for her age and yet found it most comfortable as a shooting guard. By her junior year, she was being actively recruited by several universities. She elected to attend XYZ University on a full ride scholarship.

By their junior year, both girls had settled into their roles on the team. Joan continued to develop as a shooting guard and became a pivotal part of the team’s success. Her performance in her junior year had placed her on the second team all-conference team. Laura became a valued defensive specialist. She often was assigned to the better scoring guard/forward on the opposing team.

Joan’s coming in a couple of days has created a real opportunity for you. In contrast to what Laura may have assumed about your career decision it was not done with any explicit Biblical insight. Therefore, your look for help from scriptures will be valuable for you as well as Joan and Laura. Given the short time of Laura’s visit, you must first find what scriptures are most valuable to help them in planning their future after college and basketball but also you need to lay out real advice based on that insight.
ASSIGNMENT

To be successful, athletes must deeply commit themselves to their sport. This commitment often starts at a very young age. But, what happens when their athletic career is over? Provide a scripturally based recommendation on how the two girls should adapt to their new future.
My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: