

Living With Renewed Hope2

Part 2

January 14, 2024

Scripture Text: Isaiah 43:18-21 NIV 18 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.20 The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, 21 the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

VERSE 18 *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

Many times, we can get stuck in the Rut of past experiences and what the Lord did for us.... back when! It is wonderful to be able to recall the powerful things that the Lord accomplished in our lives. Those events are there to remind us to keep looking to Him, while moving forward in faith!

Don't think that God is saying that the past things are unimportant. In fact, we are to remember that He is the Living God. It is He that makes a difference every day of our lives and with Him all things are made possible. This is what Paul had in mind when he said, "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: *forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead*" (**Philippians 3:13**).

When we focus on our situations and how God is going to work things out... it becomes a waste of energy and unnecessary stress on our part. We need to put our energy into thanking and praising Him without knowing the details!

VERSE 19 *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

God always delights in doing new things in helping us live with the possibilities that with Him in our lives all things are made possible.

When we view things in the eyes of our flesh there is the tendency to focus on all that is negative. We look and not see the possibilities of God taking weak things, broken things, abused things, rejected things, and making them great in His hand.

Observing things as you walk in the spirit allows you to see and be amazed at what God can and is doing. **1 Corinthians 1:28-29 ESV** *God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

The way that God chooses to do new things are often the very things that make us uncomfortable. The introduction of new things may require a new level of faith! It is a faith that requires you to solely trust in His word and not what you feel or even the advice and promises of others!

When you are being tested in the wilderness the commonplace things that you relied upon or no longer available. You learn to stretch out to your only provider.... Lord, "You said....!"

Our experiences with the Lord are never to immobilize us with doubt and fear. On the contrary, they are to empower us to speak to the mountain to be removed in the Name of Jesus!

VERSE 20 *The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,*

We, who have been created in the image and likeness of our Creator can choose or whether we to bring honor to God. The animals are born with the instinct and can recognize where their blessings come from as they honor God! As God provides for the animal kingdom, He also provides for those who believe and trust in His miraculous power for provisions.

David wrote in **Psalms 34:1-3 KJV** *1 I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. 3 O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.*

VERSE 21 *the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*

God can always depend upon those whom He has redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ to praise Him. For they are the ones who have been born again. **John 1:12-13 ESV** *12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Applications:

It is always good to remember what God has done in your life.

To dwell on what could have been hinders seeing what God is doing.