

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING!

We need to be aware that God is at work doing a new thing!

KEY POINTS

- ❖ New things can be wonderful, especially when they're things that we want, need and know. On the other hand, a new thing can also be daunting, especially when we don't understand or see it.
- ❖ God is in the business of creating and doing new things. In fact, He is the architect of the new. When He said "Let there be..." in Genesis 1, it was new. When He breathed into man, who became a living soul (Gen. 2), it was new. Throughout the Bible we read about God at work doing something new:
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
 - Ezekiel 36:26 NASB: "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."
 - John 13:34 KJV: "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you."
- ❖ In Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV, God, through the Prophet Isaiah, encourages the children of Israel to "forget the former things" and not to "dwell on the past" or as the New Living Translation puts it, "Forget all that."
- ❖ For the new to emerge, there needs to be a letting go of the old. Learning from the past is great, but living in the past prevents us from embracing the future.
- ❖ God is not stationary. He is a living and moving Being who is present everywhere. "But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King" (Jeremiah 10:10 ESV), and in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28 NIV).
- ❖ When God moves, we move; when God directs, we obey and follow.
- ❖ It can become very comfortable staying in the same place. Because the children of Israel were in captivity, they could not see a way forward, so their default position was to look back and bask in 'the good old days.' God, however, was telling them, "Do not dwell on the past." Why? *He was doing a new thing.*
- ❖ In Isaiah 42:9 ESV, God says, "New things I now declare." We cannot stay in the past thinking about how good things were, or wishing things could go back to 'how they used to be.' Past miracles are wonderful but they cannot sustain or hold us forever. Each day is a new day. *God is doing a new thing.*
- ❖ Isaiah's writings to God's people came at a dark period of their history. Exiled, in captivity in Babylon, they had lost everything and were homesick for their

KEY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

- ❖ land and the blessing God had promised them.
- ❖ The Israelites had "forsaken the Lord...spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him" (Isa. 1:4 NIV). Because of this, God allowed them to be taken captive. God had given them the blueprint for success but, instead, they had disobeyed Him.
- ❖ They did not deserve to receive anything from God, yet He loved them and earnestly wanted to help them. God was still their God and they were still His people (see Isa. 43:2-3a NIV).
- ❖ Remembering has its place, but if we continue to focus on the past, we will miss what God is doing in the present!
- ❖ Faith Sanctuary, Child of God, look up and look ahead. God has greater things in store. God has not abandoned us, He is still with us, walking with us and working things out for our good. We may have gone through the water, through the river, through the flood or even through the fire, but God has kept us and we're still standing.
- ❖ He fights for us and is working on our behalf. "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 KJV).
- ❖ Hear these words from Psalm 42:11 KJV: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." HOPE in God.
- ❖ Your situation will pass. Your position won't remain the same. The only constant is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is unchangeable – the same yesterday, today and forevermore. His word is true and He is doing a **new thing!**

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Re-read the scriptures and references in the lesson. How does God feel about "new things"? And how should we feel about them? Discuss.
2. Is God against remembering anything from our past? Is Paul, in Philippians 3:13-14? Discuss.
3. How can we encourage each other in the Lord in times of uncertainty and change?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, thank You for the promise of answered prayers and especially for the promise of Your Holy Spirit. You truly are a good, good Father.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What is the best or the last "new thing" you have experienced (in school, job, family, or any other sphere)?