

God created man with an inward drive to move forward.

God never instructed man to give up, give in, to submit to unfavorable circumstances.

God did instruct His people to build memorials and to celebrate the past, but never with the intention of becoming leashed to the past.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"

\*\* The past is a wonderful place to learn, a lousy place to live

God has always refused to be confined by history, to be seen as an historical figure.

Learn from it, Celebrate it, Get over it!

# Embracing the New: Moving Forward with God

Isa 43:19 (NAS95) "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

**BackStory:** The people were fixated on a past event, it was a great event, but it was the past.

Isa 43:16-18 (NLT) I am the LORD, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. [17] I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick. [18] "But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

God has never wanted His people so fixated on what used to be, on the old that they miss the new.

And there is always a new!

Before I chase rabbits I want to extrapolate a but more out of vs 19

God is saying that the future is better than the past

Your future is better than your past

\*\*My future is better than my past.

God said he was opening a roadway in the wilderness.

A roadway that was not there before, could not be seen before but suddenly there it is

Its a new roadway

God said He was producing rivers in the desert, life in a dead region, provision in the middle of poverty.

Opportunities where there were none just a few minutes ago.

Why weren't they there before? Because they are new.

But the question, the only question is will you perceive it?

There is no doubt about God's part.

The new is like the waves of the ocean washing up on the shore. Wave after wave after wave.

Unstoppable.

But will you be aware of it?

Or will the pain of your past so captivate your mind that you are blind to the new?

1Sa 16:1 (NLT) Now the LORD said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

Saul had invested so much time, prayer and love into Saul - the old - that he could not get over it and he would have missed David - the new.

Apparently to partake of the new we gotta perceive it. Which in the original language

**yāda'**: A verb meaning to know, to learn, to perceive, to discern, to experience, to confess...

So you gotta see it, say it and seize it!

God is doing a new thing in our lives.

He is doing a new thing corporately and individually

Actually if it isn't true individually it won't be true corporately

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

God is continuously at work, creating new opportunities and paths for us.

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## - Illustration: Testimony of Sabriya

Lam 3:22-23 (NAS95) The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. [23] They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

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## The Danger of Dwelling on the Past

Isa 43:18 (CEV) Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past.

Focusing too much on past mistakes, failures, or even successes can prevent us from seeing the new things God is doing.

Php 3:13-15 (NASB) Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [15] Therefore, all who are mature, let's have this attitude [I call this the Apostolic Attitude]; and if in anything you have a different attitude [way of thinking], God will reveal that to you as well;

**YOU HAVE TO FOCUS ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GO MORE THAN ON WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN.**

Race cars move so fast that the slightest change in course - the slightest turn of the wheel - quickly produces big changes in your position on that track. Surprisingly, where you look can shift your body enough to turn the wheel just enough to send you in that direction. Even if that wasn't where you intended to go.

In other words, your focus determines your direction.

That's why race car drivers are taught never to look at the wall. Look at the wall and that is where you will end up - crashed.

Luk 9:62 (AMPC) Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back [to the things behind] is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luk 9:62 (TPT) Jesus responded, "Why do you keep looking backward to your past and have second thoughts about following me? When you turn back you are useless to God's kingdom realm."

Matt 11:12 The Kingdom is forcefully advancing.

Moving forward in a purposeful way

Faith remembers the past but focuses on the future.

Heb 12:2 (NAS95) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:2 (TPT) We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!

Heb 10:38-39 (NAS95) BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. [39] But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

God provides for us even in the most desolate and challenging situations.

Embrace the new thing God is doing in your life.

Be open and ready to move forward with faith.

Ask for God's guidance and strength to leave the past behind and embrace His new plans.