

PAST BLESSINGS AND PAST FAILURES

Past blessings can hold us back because we want the same again! Thank God for times of refreshing in the past— but God is moving on – He is doing a new thing – bigger and better than ever before. Past blessings are for a time gone by – this is a new blessing for a new day!

Past failures can hold us back too! We've let God down in some way – 'surely He could never use me – again?' We are reminded of Peter – a disciple close to Jesus – "I'll never forsake you Lord". Yet He let His closest Friend down by denying he ever knew Him – at a time when He needed him most. But Jesus restored him by the lakeside of Galilee, and days later, Peter preached probably one of the greatest gospel sermons ever on the Day of Pentecost, with the result of 3000 saved and added to the church! None of us are 'worthy' – but Jesus makes us right before God through His precious blood, shed for us on Calvary! Let's forget the past – good, or not so good – it's nothing compared to what God is going to do!

"GOD HAS CALLED YOU, HE WILL UPHOLD YOU AND HE WILL COMPLETE HIS WORK IN YOU"

(Romans 8:28-30) "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified." (Zechariah 4:6) "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

Matthew 25:23 "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant;"

"I am confident of this, that the One Who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

When You Trust And Obey The Lord You Will Feel A River Moving In You, Peace And Joy!

- I Am Your God - Over You.
- I Am With You - By Your Side.
- I Will Strengthen You - From Inside Of You.
- I Will Help You - All Around You From Wherever The Enemy Comes.
- I Will Uphold You - From Underneath You.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Seeking A New Vision And A New Interest In The Things Of God.



(Isaiah 43:18,19) "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I Am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I Am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah's writings to the children of Israel came at a bleak period of history. They are

in captivity, they have lost everything they thought they would keep forever, and they were home sick for the land and the blessing God had promised them.

The 1st Step: To Embracing The New Thing What God Wants To Do In Your Life



CHANGE YOUR FOCUS -- QUIT LOOKING BEHIND START LOOKING HEAD.



Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62) If you are continually looking

behind you cannot see where you are going. If you are ever going to move on to new things in Christ you must learn that ... You Cannot Depend Upon Past Victories To Sustain You.

THE ISRAELITES HAD FORSAKEN GOD

The Children Of Israel Had Failed God Miserably

Every time He blessed them with good things, they returned to Him evil things:

1. **God gave them the Temple** - They gave Him idol worship.
2. **God gave them truth** - They lived and proclaimed a lie.
3. **God gave them His commands** - They lived like they were suggestions.
4. **God gave them wealth** - They used it to abuse the poor.
5. **God gave them Himself** - They gave Him nothing except rejection.



All their previous victories were doing nothing to set them free. They needed a new work, a new miracle, a new victory. The children of Israel did not deserve to receive anything from God. Yet He still loved them and He earnestly wanted to help them change.

"LETTING GO THE PAST FOR NEW OPPORTUNIES"

Notice God's Message: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I Am doing a new thing!" God was not condemning them for their past, they could do nothing to change it. Instead God was holding out the hand of hope. He is in effect saying: **Forget about your past -- I Am giving you an opportunity to start over.** "Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

If You Are Going To Get Anywhere In Your Spiritual Life You Must Understand That... You Cannot Live On Yesterday's Faith



The children of Israel had experienced great spiritual blessings throughout their history. From the first Passover, to the crossing of the Red Sea, to the conquering of the Land of Canaan, to

the building of the temple, the children of Israel had seen the hand of God at work in and through their lives. Yet their faith in what God had done was doing nothing to deliver them from their present situation. Their old faith was not sufficient enough to deliver them from their present problems. They needed new faith, a new vision for what God could do. They needed a new portion of the faith that had brought to pass all the victories from before.

The 2nd Step: Embracing The New Thing What God Wants To Do In Your Life Is To CLARIFY YOUR FOCUS -- DISCOVER WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU

What do you see when you view your life? Do you see possibilities or problems? Notice what God said: "I Am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." The children of Israel had a choice. They could view their past and the problems of their present, or they could focus upon what God wanted to do in their lives. **Way -vs- Desert
Streams -vs- Wasteland**

In Order To Discover What God Wants For You, ...
You Must First See Yourself As God Sees You

The children of Israel felt as though they were getting just what they deserved because of the way they had lived. Some even believed that God would never have anything more to do with them. But they were wrong!!! You may feel like your past has made your life a wasteland but in God, your life can become a stream of life.

"CHRIST HAS ALREADY GIVEN US A NEW BEGINNING"

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1,2) "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." (Colossians 1:21,22)

The Greatest Step To Embracing The New Thing What God Wants To Do In Your Life Is To Commit Yourself To God's Plan

In order to discover what God wants for you, ... You must see your possibilities as God sees them. God is able to transform the desert areas of your life into fields of blessing and abundance. God can take a dried up useless life and transform it into a life of purpose and grace. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians: 17, 18) **God had already set into motion the events and people who would lead Israel out of captivity and back into the land of blessing. But it was still up to them to decide if they wanted what God was offering.** If they refused God's plan, if they refused to follow where God was leading, then they would be doomed to remain in their captivity.



Stop Looking in Review Mirror

DO NOT LOOK BACK!

"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, I Press On Toward The Goal For The Prize Of The Upward Call Of God In Christ Jesus...." Philippians 3:13,14

God does not want us to be backward looking, going through life looking in the rear vision mirror. But we so often can't help ourselves. We remember the hurts of the past and the mistakes we made. It's time now to look ahead and focus on what's before us. God wants to do a new thing in our lives. He wants us to rise up to our full potential in Him. He has called us to do mighty things. He will even make a way when we feel lost, and refresh us when we're burning in the heat. We have got to keep on moving forward. It's only in moving forward that we ever accomplish what God has called us to. We can't stay where we're at, nor can we go backwards. The only direction we can go is forward. Yes, it can be hard – but it's the only way if we want to move on in God and grow.