

MESSAGE: Don't Let The Past Define You

Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV v18 - Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. **v19** - 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.

Letting Go of the Past: The verse instructs believers to stop dwelling on "former things", which can include **past failures, sins**, and **even past victories** because fixed attention on the past can hinder spiritual growth.

The "New Thing": Verse 18 serves as the setup for the famous promise in **Isaiah 43:19**: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?".

We all have things in our past that we wish we could change. Mistakes we had, opportunities we missed, people we hurt or those who hurt us.

But here is the reality, you can't go back, you can't re-live even yesterday, no matter how much you want to, **but you can choose what you do "TODAY"**.

- You can't choose what you are going to do tomorrow because tomorrow is not promised to you. You can only plan for tomorrow and the future.
- **Proverbs 27:1 NKJV** - Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth (this scripture warns against arrogant planning or assuming we have guaranteed time).
- **Matthew 6:34 NIV** - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

We can start fresh where we are right now. God is not asking you to pretend the past didn't happen. **He is asking you not to let it define you.**

"God is saying move forward, trust me because he is not done with you".

Maybe you are uncertain about which way to go and that is okay because God does not expect you to have it all together and all figured out. **You just need to take one step at a time.**

"The scripture highlights a transition from past failures to future hope". **Faith isn't about having a "PERFECT MAP"**. It is about trusting that God knows the way even when you don't.

Every struggle that we are facing right now **is not random, it is not meaningless.** God is using it to **grow your faith, to build your character** and to **draw you closer to Him.**

Most Christians are struggling with anxiety, doubt, in a state of complete lack of trust in God and many believers are trying to navigate a mix of fear and faith.

God's plan is bigger than what most of us can see right now. His timing is not always our timing, and this is causing fear and doubt in a lot of people's hearts and minds.

We keep looking back at past failures, relationships, miss opportunities and Satan is messing with the mind by telling you, **where was God then.**

People and specially Christians forget God's Word. **2 Corinthians 5:17** states, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here". This means, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. A new, righteous, and spiritual life has emerged (spiritual rebirth). That is why the Past keep defining us because **"spiritual rebirth has not happened"**.

Conclusion: We must trust the God that is not limited by your past mistakes and who sees the bigger picture that we can't see. **Spiritual rebirth** must happen to stop the past from defining your future.

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AMEN.....

Last Bible Study Homework: Homework: Who each are and what does it means; “Jehovah”, “Jehovah-Rapha”, Jehovah-Jireh”, “Jehovah Shalom” and “El-Elyon?

Jehovah: The name Jehovah means " **I AM WHO I AM** " (Exodus 3:14-15), representing God's self-existent, eternal, and ever-changing nature (Hebrew: YHWH).

Jehovah-Rapha: “**For I Am The Lord Who Heals You**” (Exodus 15:26). God's ability to heal physical, emotional, and spiritual ailments.

Jehovah-Jireh: “**The Lord Will Provide**” (Genesis 22:14).

Jehovah-Shalom: “**The Lord is Peace**” or “**The Lord Is Our Peace**” (Judges 6:24).

El-Elyon: Hebrew name for God that translates to “**God Most High**” (Genesis 14:18-20)

Tonight-Homework: **What Spiritual Rebirth is happening in your Life?**