

## NEW THINGS

### INTRODUCTION

Our God, though He remains the same always, He loves new things and He loves to do new things! Think about the account of creation, His spirit was hovering over the waters and everything was chaotic, void and without form. God spoke out and created new things, plants animals, seas, skies and man, and God stepped back and looked at and saw that it was very good.

While we have the account of Genesis, Revelation also speaks of new things, **Revelation 21:1 & 3-4** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

The Bible is bookended by accounts of God's creating new things. As we read through the pages of the Bible, we find a continual picture of God making things new.

Our key scripture for today's message is this: **Isaiah 43:18-19** (NKJV) "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

As God loves doing new things, I believe He has new things in stall for each one of us even at the beginning of the year 2017. Let's have a closer look.

### MESSAGE

#### A NEW JOURNEY

The moment we respond to God's call to salvation in our lives, a journey of new things begins:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When we are born-again, we are born-again into a whole new life:

- Our whole perspective changes.
- People can see that we are different.
- In some people, alcohol, smoking or drug addictions are instantly gone.
- This is all due to the supernatural indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

Because of our salvation, we are not only made new, but God has given us a new song! It is a song of salvation.

**Psalm 40:3** (NLT) He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord.

- ***If you are here today and you have not yet experienced this new life that God offers in Christ Jesus, then you need to ask Him to come in today.***
- ***If you have been born again, but the fruit of the new life is not present in you, then you also need to respond to the Lord and ask Him to grant you a fresh and a new encounter with Him.***
- ***Are you singing the new song, the song the angels can't sing?***

### **A NEW THING EVERY MORNING!**

But the new things don't stop when we are born-again, we receive something new from God every morning!

**Lamentations 3:22-23** (NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not Consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

- God's mercy and compassion towards us is new every morning!
- We need that new mercy every morning because we are not perfect!
- The enemy wants to bring us under condemnation for our failures and our sins, but God has promised us a new thing! New mercy every day means that we can live the abundant and forgiven life to the fullest.
- Psalm 23 states, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me EVERY DAY of my life".

### **When we get it wrong, Paul encourages us with these words:**

**Philippians 3:13-14** (NLT) No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us

- Paul was saying, "even I have not reached perfection", but every day, I get up and I start anew and I don't look back!
- ***What are you looking back on?***
- ***Where is the enemy condemning you?***
- ***Have you taken hold of your new beginning that Christ Jesus has for this day yet?***

### **A NEW THING TO DO**

When we are born-again, God makes us a new person.  
When we live for Him we receive His new mercies every day.

And then when we enter God's dream for our lives, every so often God tells us: "Get up, I have a new thing for you to do".

One of the greatest Biblical example of God giving someone a new thing to do is Abram.

**Genesis 12:1** (NKJV) Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. God was moving Abram to a place he had never been before.

- God didn't even tell Abram where to go, but He had a new thing in store for Abram.
- God was going to change him from "Abram" which means "exalted father", to "Abraham" which means "father of a multitude".
  - As Abram, he would have been okay, he would have had some prestige, "exalted father". That was life without God.
  - But when he allowed God to do a new thing in his life it was no longer all about one person, Abram, it was about Abraham, and the multitude that became God's people and out of whom the Messiah, Jesus Christ was born!

When God brings about a new thing in your life, your own limited plan and goal and dream is no longer so important, but God's dream, God's plan and God's people become the new big picture. Instead of your own, self-achieved blessing, you start to experience a multitude of blessings!

God's call to get up and do a new thing is unique and different in each of our lives. Abram had to pack up and move, Gideon had to stop seeing himself as weak, but see himself as a man of valour, David had to move from the bear and the lion and go and conquer a giant, Peter had to stop sitting fearfully in the boat and get out to walk on the water and Paul had stop persecuting the Christians and become one, resulting in him having to face and endure severe hardships, but each of their lives left a mighty impact on their own generation and the generations to come!

***What is the new thing God wants to do in your life? Are you willing to do it?***

### **IT TAKES OBEDIENCE TO DO A NEW THING**

The first choice Abram had to make when God spoke to him was whether he would obey or not. Gideon, David, Peter and Paul also had to make a choice to obey God before He could take them into the new thing He had planned for their lives.

Each of these men knew how important it was to obey what God had said. They understood that it was the key to going moving into the new thing God was doing in their lives.

**1 Samuel 15:22** (NKJV) So Samuel said: Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

If God tells us move into a new thing and we do not obey and, how will we ever experience what He has for us?

***Have you heard the voice of the Lord saying, "I want to do a new thing in your life?" Have you been willing to obey?***

## **IT TAKES FAITH TO DO A NEW THING**

**Hebrews 11:8** (NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- Abram didn't even know where the Lord was taking him to, but he went!
- David stepped out on that battleground without fear and said to that Giant, "how dare you defy the armies of the living God".
- Peter stepped out of that boat into that turbulent sea.

None of these men were guaranteed a positive outcome but they chose to obey God in faith regardless!

When we choose to move out in faith, then God can direct us to where He wants us to be.

***Are we willing to step out into God's new thing for our lives in faith, not knowing what will happen? Do we trust God enough to know that "all things work out to the good of those who love Him".***

## **THERE IS A BLESSING IN THE NEW THING**

**Genesis 12:2-3** (NKJV) 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gideon led his people to victory over the Midianites and a great multitude of enemies and became a Judge in Israel, David became king, Peter walked on water, Paul became a great Apostle and wrote much of the New Testament. His writings and insights in God's continue to change lives.

Moving into God's new thing can be challenging, it may cost us, it may require sacrifice, but God has a plan for our lives and He **WILL** reward us for our faith and obedience.

## CONCLUSION

2017 is a year of Jubilee. It represents a year during which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest. It speaks of freedom, it speaks of bondages that are broken, it speaks of new beginnings. People were given the opportunity to start over and it was a time of great joy.

We have a new life in Christ, we have new mercies each morning, we have a new song of salvation to sing, and God has a new thing for us this year

**Isaiah 43:18-19** (NKJV) "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

- God's new thing is not limited to work for us to do, it could be health in place of sickness, employment in place of unemployment, joy in the place of depression, salvation in the place of being lost.
- He may even be calling us to do something we have never done before. New things mean change, many people resist change: Charles Kettering said, "People are very open-minded about new things - as long as they're exactly like the old ones."
- Walt Disney on the other hand said, "we keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

Let us step out in faith and obedience from today on, ready for God to do the new thing He wants to do in each of our lives.