

**Readings for the week of April 6/25:**

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, *“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

Sometimes, we focus on what we don't have, and we remember our past mistakes or disappointments. When we have those thoughts, we may even feel that things will never change for us.

Yet, in Isaiah 43:19a, God says, “I am about to do a new thing”. Scripture tells us in James 1:17 that, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*

God never changes, but sometimes He will do something in our lives that is new to us. Once we've become reconciled to God the Father through Jesus the Son, we are forever changed. Our heavenly Father has restoration in store for us, as long as we are willing to surrender our thoughts, desires, dreams and goals to Him. He has a better plan for us than we can even imagine.

We often experience sorrows, but the Lord is able to turn those into joys and give us reason to rejoice. Genuine restoration comes only from Him.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul reminds us that our restoration is a work in progress. It isn't complete. In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul writes,

*“Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Don't give up! The same God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, can accomplish more in your life than you would ever think possible.

Just remember, sometimes before God can do the new things in your life that He wants to do, you need to stop looking behind you at past experiences. The best is yet to come for you. As the saying goes, "keep on keepin' on."

*"With God, all things are possible."* (See Matthew 19:26b)