

A New Thing

By Pastor Marvin R. Barham

Isaiah 43:7-19 *7Even every one that is called by my name: **for I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. 8Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. 9Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. 10Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant **whom I have chosen**: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. 12I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. 13Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it? 14Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships. 15I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King. 16Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; 17Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow. 18Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 19**Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.***

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever yet His mercies are new every morning. We see the nature of God's diversity everywhere. We see the pattern of His consistency. But sometimes we fail to see the awesome wonder of His creativeness. As we look at nature there are many different kinds of trees. No two trees are exactly alike except in their design. Each has roots, a trunk, limbs, branches, and leaves. So, they are different but the same. What is the point? Though our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (His heart, character, nature, and will never changes) yet He does not allow things around Him or that He has created to remain the same. What He is through us, around us, and in us is constantly changing. You have heard the phrase, the only constant is change. This is true of God working in you and I. I find three wonderful examples of this pattern of God's nature:

First, God always has a desire to do something new in creation. Before the worlds were created there was only God and God said let there be and there was and the Lord saw that it was good. Then God said let us separate the day from the night, the land from the waters; let us create the beast, the fish, and the fowl. Then He said, let us create man in our own image and give him dominion over all the earth. Then God said, let Me give man a choice and man chose and everything changed. Storms, natural disasters, death and separation from God were not part of the original design. God did not choose to create it and bring it into the plan. The sovereignty of man's willful choice created in the image of God brought it into the design. So God promises us that it will not remain as such. Thank God for change that which is the result of our horrible choices God can make a way to change for His good pleasure. **(2 Peter 3:13** *13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*)

It is evident throughout history that changes are the result of choices good or bad. As a result we either grow positively or negatively. Either way, growth only comes with change and with change always comes conflict. However, the result or outcome of the conflict is in direct proportion to how our hearts choose to respond. Your choices thus have creative power as did God's. God chose to create and you are the result of His choosing. God chose to love you and let you choose to either love Him back or not. Again, your choosing is a result of His choosing to allow you to choose.

Second, God establishes a new covenant. God is a God of covenant. Covenant is part of His nature. Why covenant? He chose covenant because there is no way out of a covenant. If I make covenant with you and you choose to not uphold the terms of the covenant it does not change the fact that the covenant remains. Even if you or I die, the fact that we made a covenant remains. The covenant does not dissolve but is eternal. The covenant is transcendent of you and I. It is not written and is more than an oral agreement or ritualistic symbolism. It is an eternal, non-tangible commitment of the heart.

Before creation God had established a covenant with Himself that the wages of sin was death. As a result God made a new covenant with man that grace could be extended and a man's heart be right with God if he strictly observed the law of God including some 613 commands. The law of God was perfect but again, man and his choosing was not. So, God established a new covenant in which the law was fulfilled through the loving sacrificial death of God's Word on the cross taking on the consequence of man's breaking all the previous covenants with God thus making the law of love the way for a man to be right with God. (**Romans 10:4** *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*)

Finally, God desires to do a new thing in you. God loves you so much that He is not willing to let you stay as you are but desires to make you more like Him; to make your life more like His. God is constantly calling us to surrender so that He can take over and replace the junk in us with the beauty of His Holiness; to replace the pain with His healing; to replace the sadness with His joy; to replace the loneliness and emptiness with His fullness of life and relationship. The most awesome constant about God is that He is constantly trying to change you to be more like Him. He is constantly trying to change your life that you may know the fullness of His. (**John 10:10** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*)

What new thing is God trying to do in you? Will you let Him? If not, Why?