

INTRODUCTION

- Today marks the first day of a brand new year.
- For many people, this is the time of year that they make resolutions for their lives in effort to change or improve themselves.
- For some, they will spend this entire new year reflecting on last year's mistakes and failures, never going forward to do something greater.
- Today, I want to talk to you about how to forget the past and live in the present while welcoming a great future.

JUST FORGET IT

"People who live in the past generally are afraid to compete in the present. I've got my faults, but living in the past is not one of them. There's no future in it." –**Sparky Anderson**

"Most people are prisoners, thinking only about the future or living in the past. They are not in the present, and the present is where everything begins." –**Carlos Santana**

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own." –**Jesus Christ**
(Matthew 6:24)

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (KJV)

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: **old things are passed away**; behold, **all things are become new.**

18 And **all things are of God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

- God does not want you to live with the experiences of old.
- He desires this so much that He Himself gives you new things as He takes the old things away.
- Many people fear letting go of the past, thinking that they will have nothing left to hold on to.
- God never asks you to get rid of something without Him agreeing to replace it with something better and new.

Romans 6:4 (KJV)

*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.***

- There is a newness of life that God has for His kids to walk in.
- This new life does not include your former life.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17** talks about us being in Christ - having our old man pass away and gaining a new life.
- Romans 6:4** talks about the same exact thing.
- We are to put to death our past and our old way of doing things.
- We are to bury our old man, with it's old habits, mistakes, insecurities, shortcomings, and sinful nature.
- We are to **now** put on a new man that the Bible says we are to walk in.

Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

*And that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- For God to start doing something new in your life, you are required to stop doing something old.
- 2012 will not be different if you do not change **"men"**.
- You will have to make a conscious effort to take off the **"old man"** and put on the **"new man"** – then you will have to start walking around in the newness of that life.
- Most people do not walk in newness of life because they have never taken the new man for a test drive.
- They continue to start back up the old man because it has no learning curve.

BE PRESENT

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

18 *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*
19 *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.*

- You have to forget the past/old in order to see the new.
- God works in the present, not the past.
- There are many scriptures that refer to God working in the present tense.

(Malachi 3:10, Romans 8:1, Hebrews 11:6)

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NLT)

18 *But forget all that — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.*
19 *For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

"Where God takes you from is nothing compared to where He'll take you to." –**Matt Shearin**

- God has promised to bring you out of whatever mess you were in, so much so that He is creating new paths and provision for you right now.
- Things that were not there in your life before, He is created them now.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (AMP)

18 Do not [earnestly] remember the former things; neither consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing! **Now** it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- Whatever you were confused about in 2011, whatever you were lost in and couldn't find your way out – 2012 God is making a way in that area.
- Whatever in your life seemed dry and dead last year, 2012 God is bringing life and refreshment to that area.
- Stop remembering the former things, the past things of your life.
- Start looking to the present things that God has promised you in His Word.
- Cease the moment, lay hold on the **NOW** times of your life.
- Stop living in **THEN** and start living in **NOW!**

"Your attitude is a library of your past, a spokesman of your present, and a prophesy of your future." –**Guy Peh**

Isaiah 43:18-19 (MSG)

18 Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history.

19 Be alert, **be present**. I'm about to do something **brand-new**. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

-Be present.

-This year, stop looking at the past and hoping for the future – determine to **be present**.

-God cannot change your past but He can change your future.

-Your future only changes when you lay hold on your present and begin to walk the way that He desires for you to walk.

-No matter the resolutions that you make this year, determine to be one thing – **be present!**