

New Thing

Isaiah 43:18-19

January 11, 2026



DAY 1: RELEASING THE FORMER THINGS

READING: ISAIAH 43:16-19

God invites us to release our grip on the past—not to forget His faithfulness, but to avoid limiting Him to old patterns. The Israelites remembered the Red Sea crossing, but God was doing something new: bringing water in the desert instead of drying up water for passage.

What past victories are you clinging to so tightly that you cannot see God's fresh work? He specializes in reversing expectations and doing the unprecedented. The new thing requires letting go of the old thing.

Today, ask yourself: What former patterns, mindsets, or comforts is God asking me to release so I can step into His new work? Trust that what He asks you to surrender, He replaces with something better aligned with His eternal purposes.

DAY 2: THE PRAYER OF EXPOSURE

READING: PSALM 139:23-24

This is perhaps the most terrifying yet liberating prayer in Scripture. When David asks God to search him, he is inviting divine investigation into the hidden corners of his heart—the normalized patterns, the grievous ways, the distorted thinking we have accepted as normal. This prayer requires courage because God will expose what we have buried or excused. But notice the ending: "lead me in the way everlasting." The exposure is not for condemnation but for direction. God reveals to heal, uncovers to redirect.

What patterns have you normalized that lead away from abundant life? What anger, fear, or worldly standard has become so familiar you cannot imagine life without it? Pray this prayer today, trusting that God's searching leads to His leading.

DAY 3: THE PATH THROUGH PAIN

READING: HEBREWS 12:1-11

The new thing God desires to do does not always look like comfort or ease. Jesus Himself walked the path of suffering to accomplish the ultimate new thing—redemption and restoration for all creation. Sometimes God's new work comes through the valley, not around it. The hardship is not punishment but preparation. The difficulty is not abandonment but development of faith muscles. Consider the cross: it appeared to be the end, but it was the doorway to resurrection and new creation. Your current struggle may be the necessary path to the new thing God has prepared. The valley has purpose. Do not despise the discipline or hardship; it is producing endurance, character, and hope.

What you are walking through now may be preparing you for what you are not yet ready to receive.

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DAY 4: DISCOVERING YOUR TELOS

READING: REVELATION 21:1-5

Your life is aimed toward something—the question is what. The world constantly broadcasts its telos: gain, gather, consume, and grip what you can because this is all there is. But Scripture reveals a different chief aim: God is making all things new, and He invites you to participate in that renewal. Your telos is not an escape plan but a restoration plan. When you align your life with Jesus' ultimate aim—bringing renewal of His Kingdom into every space—your daily decisions gain eternal significance. Your work, relationships, creativity, and service become expressions of Kingdom restoration.

What is your life currently aimed toward? Does your chief aim reflect the world's empty promises or God's redemptive purposes? Ask God to reveal your telos and align it with His mission of making all things new.

DAY 5: THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

READING: MATTHEW 16:24-26

Following Jesus is the greatest adventure, but not by the world's standards. It requires denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Him into places of surrender and sacrifice. Yet in losing your life, you find it. In releasing control, you discover freedom. In dying to self, you experience resurrection life. The new thing God wants to do in 2026 may require you to give up what you have been clinging to—a distorted mindset, a false security, a worldly ambition.

But here is the promise: what God asks you to release, He replaces with something infinitely better. The best is yet to come, not because life will be easy, but because you will walk in alignment with the One who is making all things new. Will you trust Him enough to let go? Will you step into the fresh start He offers?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, search me and know my heart. Show me what You are asking me to release so I can embrace the new thing You desire to do in my life. Reveal my telos and align it with Your Kingdom purposes. Give me courage to walk the hard paths that lead to transformation. I trust that You are making all things new, including me. Amen.