

**January 16, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Isa. 43:18-19** *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 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.* (NIV)

I cannot tell you how many people I have counseled over the years that are stuck in a place of un-forgiveness. And it is not necessarily against someone else, but against themselves. In fact, one person said that they knew they had been forgiven, but they couldn't forgive themselves. Isaiah is reminding the people of Israel, who are in captivity, that they must not be stuck in the failure, discouragement and sin of the past. Instead, they need to look forward to what the LORD is in the process of doing. We must focus on the good things that the LORD is doing rather than the bad things that we have done. If you are saved, those things are gone. They've been paid for and are covered by the blood of Christ.

Because of this, the LORD is reminding us all to remember that every good thing comes down from Him and that He is always at work doing amazing things which we couldn't even think or imagine. Our perspective is everything. If you are always walking around like the character in Winnie the Pooh named Eeyore, you are only looking at things from your own depressing perspective. Instead, we need to see things from the LORD's perspective. He is working things out for our good. He can take any situation and turn it into a blessing. Ask Joseph, who spent time as a slave, a prisoner and ultimately was elevated to second in command of all of Egypt. In **Gen. 50:20**, Joseph replies to his brothers who had thrown him in a pit, sold him into slavery and told his father that he was dead. *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.* (NIV)

**Dear LORD, help us to focus on what you are doing instead of on what we have done. Everything You do is for our good. You are making a way for us in this wilderness we live in. In Jesus Name, Amen**