## **NEW**

Many people have recently expressed the view that they are sensing change. Not just with the spiritual climate but in all aspects of life. I've heard them say, "Pastor, I feel God is doing a new thing. How do I prepare myself for what is about to take place?" The truth is, our God is always doing a new thing! In Isaiah 43:18-19 the Lord says, "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 desert and streams in the wasteland." Can you hear what God is saying? Can you perceive it - recognise what He is about to do? The Lord starts off by giving some sound advice; He says, "Leave your past behind you." For some of you, it may feel like you're in a desert right now (a wasteland) but get ready, God is building a super-highway! He's creating a river to release a torrent of blessings. Yes, God has already started to do a new thing in your life. So prepare yourself!

What is happening now will require a new way of thinking, a new way of relating to the past, and new views and ideas for the future. Yes, God <u>is</u> doing a new thing! But how does this relate to you today? The two Greek words used for "new" in Luke 5:37-38 give us insight into this. "And no one puts new ("neos") wine into old wineskins; or else the new ("neos") wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new ("neos") wine must be put into new ("kainos") wineskins, and both are preserved." The new wine, that fresh and energetic experience you are having, cannot be poured into an old brittle vessel. It can only be poured into a vessel that is completely different in essence, nature and character from that which is contrasted as "old." The word "kainos" implies, "something that has never existed before" - like the new birth! Hence, whenever God decides to do a **new thing**, He will do it through vessels that are completely new in nature and character.

The trouble with most of us is that we do not like change and therefore we hinder what God wants to do in our lives. To get the full benefits of the **new thing** God is going, you must break away from anything that's still attached to your past. I'm not saying, "Don't remember the good times." However, any unhealthy connection with negative things that have happened to you, will keep you imprisoned in those memories. Accept change! Embrace change! The **new thing** that God is doing is all about change. See yourself as a vessel of honour that has been specifically designed for this new season. Esther was told, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14) I truly believe that everything that has happened is to prepare you "for such a time as this."