

"The Journey"

Part 2 - "The Newness"

Memory Verse: Psalms 40:3 - And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Anyone that has asked God to forgive their sins and received Jesus Christ as their Savior is described as a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). With that experience there are so many unknowns concerning the Christian life. Although the excitement may manifest itself in different ways for different people, it is always truly exciting. In November of 1984 after making the most important decision of my life, to trust Christ as my Savior, I really didn't know what would come of my life and the impact that one decision would make in my life at that time. All I really knew was that there was some type of "newness" about life. In the midst of the many challenges that I faced I felt an incredible sense of relief that I had made the right choice and that somehow my life would never be the same; I was right!

So very ignorant to the things of God yet so very encouraged by them as well. I was truly experiencing what the Bible described as "all things are become new". So many questions and it seemed so few answers. How can I change the way that I live? Does God really love me the way that I hear people say that He does? What will I do with my life? What *should* I do with my life? What does God want from my life? All questions that I have since learned are common and sincere. For me, I really did not know where or how to start; I just knew that I was different than I was before and I liked it.

Like most people I knew there were a handful of things that I should start doing, one was going to church. Even the unsaved know that Christians are supposed to go to church and it makes me wonder what they think of Christians who don't. So then, knowing little to nothing my girlfriend (who is now my wife) and me set out on this journey called the Christian life.

In this part of our series we will seek to find Bible references to "newness". In our journey we will seek to learn whether this experience of "newness" is something that is unique to some and not others, or perhaps, do each of us have the opportunity and privilege of this experience throughout our Christian life. Always keep in mind that our Christian life should not be governed only by experiences. However, there are many experiences that reflect the teachings of the Bible that we can use to learn and increase our faith. So then, the first scripture we will look to will be our memory verse for this part of our series. However, we would not benefit nearly as much if we did not also look at the first two verses prior.

Psalms 40:1-3 - I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

As we read these verses we begin to see that David was describing a chain of events in his life. These events unfolded from what was certainly a very dark time in his life to what became a very good time in his life. As we look at how these events unfolded we will see a pattern to be followed. Any person has the same opportunity to

experience the same results as David experienced. We too can have a "new song in our mouth"! We will look at our text from three different perspectives; "David's position", "God's response" and "The Observer's blessing".

1. Vs. 1a - David's position. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

- **David waited patiently.**

Perhaps like many of us, David learned the hard way. David knew if God was ever going to do anything on his behalf it would be by God's grace and in God's time. David was willing to wait on the Lord and it appeared that it was not just for a short period of time because it also says that David "**waited patiently for the LORD**". Perhaps God's reluctance to show up and show out for David in the time that David might have thought to be better and sooner was to teach David another lesson.

For our learning: God can never increase our faith if He doesn't first develop our patience; faith and patience go hand in hand.

Part of the "newness" of the Christian life is that we do not and cannot always have to have everything figured out all the time. Many Christians want to hurry God like they hurry everything and everyone else. The sooner we learn it the better, God is not committed to our calendar, we must surrender to His. It might be safe to say that some of the "newness" of the Christian life might not be as easy as we may have thought it would be and developing patience is one of those things. After all, if we were really honest, how many of us look forward to waiting? But if we are going to hear from God and/or receive anything from God, there will always be a time of waiting. In fact, the only thing that we did not have to wait for is the grace and mercy of God when He saved us; praise His name, He gave it to us in an instant!

For our learning: Do not misunderstand patience for being a negative experience in the Christian life, it can be anything but that. Patience is developed out of a heart that is consistently reliant on the provision of God in every area of our lives and that can and should be a beautiful experience.

- **David waited patiently for the LORD.**

While David waited, he stayed focused upon his resource. Notice what the verse does NOT say; it doesn't say that David waited for anything else or anyone else. In other words, it doesn't say that he waited for his answer, his need to be met, his storm to be calmed or his fears to settle. He waited on God!! He knew that all he needed was in the storehouse of the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psalms 106:7-15 - Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. 9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. 10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. 12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. 13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

The history of the children of Israel was a valuable reminder for anyone that chose to reflect upon it and learn from it. Anytime they got ahead of God things did not go their way and so it is and will be for us. To forget what He has done and to not wait on His direction is a sure recipe for failure.

2. Vs. 2b,3a - God's Response. And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:

It would be an understatement to say that God's response was absolutely amazing! We do not know for sure but whatever David asked for he got far more than that. God always gives us what we need and more! For the new believer this time is so real and so evident. The details may be a little different but in reality, if you are a Christian God did the same thing for you that he did for David.

What was God's response?

- **And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.....**

Remember, David waited "patiently" for the Lord. Those that wait patiently for the Lord might wait long but they will never wait in vain. The Bible says that God heard David's cry; though David may have cried long and sometimes wondered whether God even heard him at all, he soon found out that in spite of how he may have felt, God heard him. Just knowing God hears should be enough until God decides to move.

For our learning: Could it be that God is waiting for us to know that He hears before He begins to act on our behalf? Seal the truth of God's word in your heart that He hears all of our prayers and groaning and never stop praying based on what you do NOT see.

- **He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.**

None of us could say it any better! If you have been saved by the grace of God it has been nothing short of a miracle that you are. David uses metaphors to describe his experience of being rescued by the grace and mercy of God. No one has to go through what some of us have been through in order to be described in such a way. **He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay.....**out of the pit of despondency and despair; out of the pit of His judgment for my sin and the pit of the degradation of my own will and way. He scattered the clouds of uncertainty and began to pave the way for peace and order. All of this, you might say, is new for us!

and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.....this speaks of foundation; if there is anything that we need in life it is the spiritual foundation that only God can provide. The mercy is completed by the setting of our feet upon a rock; Jesus Christ is that rock upon which we now stand as believers. We are no longer left to ourselves to figure out the way that we should go. God can and God does "establish our goings". That's speaks of His ability to provide stability for us. God pulls us from one place that is anything but stable, the horrible pit and the miry clay, to a place that is stable.

Notice the newness of this progress: He brought me up, He brought me out, He anchored me down and He leads me on!!

God is all about progress and process. He has a method for our spiritual growth and we would be accurate in saying, by application, it is much like the process we see here in this verse. The pit of sin that we have been in may have looked different for everyone, but the likeness of each one is the same; we cannot work ourselves out of it. Only by the grace of God can I be forgiven of my sin and "brought up" out of it.

- He brought me up.

Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Ephesians 2:1 - And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

- He brought me out.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 *And such were some of you: but ye ARE washed, but ye ARE sanctified, but ye ARE justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

- He anchored me down.

Proverbs 10:25 - As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Isaiah 48:13 - Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Matthew 7:24,25 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

- He leads me on.

Psalms 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 32:8 - I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide (advise, consult, give counsel) thee with mine eye.

For our learning: By faith we believe this has happened and is happening. When our circumstances appear to be anything but stable, remember, God's word supersedes what things may appear to be. In other words, while things may not appear to be going our way that does not mean that God is not working on our behalf.

- **And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:**

David proclaims that not only is his heart filled with peace because he has a firm foundation but his heart is also filled with joy. Fresh mercy calls for a new song! When all things are become new the newness is revealed in so many different areas of our lives. Can we ever think of a better reason to sing than our sins are forgiven and we are in a right standing with God when once we were His enemy?

Notice what he says, "**He has put a new song in my mouth**". Keep in mind that David got this new song after he had been praying. He said that "God heard his cry". We could say with good reason that God gets His singers out of the place of praying and weeping. However, we cannot have the joy of the Lord without the sorrow for sin. Many times when a person knows what they are saved from they are those that appreciate it the most.

Luke 7:47 - Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

I have met many who are amazed by God when they think of what they used to be. What a miracle of mercy to make a saint from such a sinner as I was. The song is not necessarily the issue, it's the fact that it's a new song and it's the song that God puts in the mouth that flows from the new heart; it's ALL new!! I remember standing around my grandmother's piano as a boy and singing Christmas carols as she played the piano. I knew the songs but knew very little of their meaning, they were never personal to me. It meant little to me, only that it was Christmas. In 1984 as a young man I was saved on November 29th. That next Christmas was different and they have all been different since. Hearing my grandmother play and singing the songs did not only bring on a new meaning for me, I was a new person and in the same way all of the songs were new as well.

Even praise unto our God..... Notice what David says, "**Our God**". You see, you cannot praise another man's God. If God puts a new song in a person's mouth, they have a right to sing it, they ought to sing it and they must sing it! All that we do for ourselves never has the sweetness of that which God does for us.

For our learning: By your walk with the Lord and your consistent growth in the Lord, develop the sincere passion for praising the Lord. Our praise will always be the overflow of our maturity and gratitude.

Vs. 3b - The Observer's blessing. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

The result of the overflow of our lives will be the blessing for others. It is not possible for anyone to live Christ and others to not see Christ in them. Our greatest witness is a changed life, "many will see it, and fear". Not fear us, but fear the Lord who is in us. Never underestimate your ability to make a difference in the lives of others based on the difference that God has made in you. We are not to simply absorb the light of Christ in our lives, we are to reflect it.

A Biblical example:

Matthew 15:30,31 - And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: 31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered (they marveled, amazed), when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

In Matthew 15 we see people being brought to Jesus with various needs and we can be sure that each of them had tried various ways to have their needs met. The lame, blind, dumb, maimed and "many others" were brought to Jesus. It mattered not to Jesus what the condition was, all that mattered is that they came to Him.

Several things we see in the example:

- The needs were great and the needs were many.

Wherever we find people we will find needs. There might be some who have greater needs than others but there will never be any with no needs at all. One of the most beautiful pictures in this story is described by the following..... **And great multitudes came unto him, having with them**.....perhaps we can be confident in saying that the ones who appeared to have the greatest needs were brought by the ones who appeared to have fewer needs.

Psalms 70:5 - But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying

Psalms 72:12 - For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

For our learning: The more the Lord meets our needs the more sensitive we should be to the needs of others. One sure way of knowing the Lord is working in our lives is when we begin to have a burden for Him to work in the lives of others.

- The needs were met and many saw it.

Insomuch that the multitude wondered (they marveled, amazed), when they saw.....Change is real and change looks like something; whether it is good or bad it always looks like something. As you begin to grow in the Christian life, the "Newness" of your life will be a testimony in the lives of others. Hope is always birthed in the life of a person when they see someone else overcoming the things that they are struggling with.

For our learning: I never want people to be amazed at the change in my life, but I would love for them to be amazed by God who has produced that change. Anytime that we take credit for the change we are carelessly drawing attention to ourselves, and any person that draws attention to themselves is an obstacle to Jesus Christ. The "newness" will only be more of the oldness (the flesh) if we try to take credit for it.

Another example; The blind beggar.

Luke 18:43 - And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Many saw it and they glorified God.

When they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Notice what they saw, **"the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see"**they saw the people that experienced the change. No doubt they could see the Lord and they did and the Bible could have described it the same way but for some reason the Lord wanted us to know that when people see people who have been changed **"they glorify God."**

Would to God that each of us might have the same experience; that others might see us and glorify the Lord because of what they have seen. Not perfection, not superiority and certainly not better than anyone else; just a noticeable, consistent change that speaks to the fruit of the humble, grateful follower of Jesus Christ.

This "Newness" and what it looks like is best described by Jesus.....

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

According to Jesus this is not something that is forced..... **Let your light so shine before men**...It appears to be something that might be described as the "overflow" of our lives. When we are growing in the Lord and experiencing the "newness" of the Christian life, or if we have been saved for many years and the "newness" is often our experience, it will naturally flow into the other areas of our lives for people to see. Again, we see the result..... **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

For our learning: It would do us well to first see if there is any noticeable change in our lives that WE can personally see. If we can't see any, we can be sure that others can't see it as well.

So then, are you in this place of "Newness"? Do you remember the newness and has your walk with the Lord become a little dry? Regardless of how long you have been saved, does God and His work in and around your life still amaze you? If so, grow and pray in order that His goodness and His closeness will never grow old. Always make spending time with Him and His word a priority on your life. Always look for and ask Him to give you opportunities to be a blessing and encouragement to others. Learn more about Him and you will learn more about yourself in the process, and as you do, others will look at your life and glorify God!!