

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

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Isaiah 43:18-19

Life is full of surprises. Some lift us with joy—an answered prayer, an open door, a sudden breakthrough. Others shake us—an illness, a loss, a setback. Here's the tension: the world's "unexpected" brings fear, but God's "unexpected" brings hope, confidence, and future. Today, we can EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED from the LORD because He is good and He is great. Here are 3 principles that help to position us to receive God's new thing:

1. **FORGET the Former Things** (v.18) - The Hebrew word 'zakar' means "to remember, call to mind." Here it's used negatively - "do not recall, do not dwell." God was not asking Israel to deny their past but to stop living chained to it. Too often we keep replaying failures like a broken record or limiting God to the way He worked before.

He says, "Forget all that - it is nothing compared to what I am going to do." His power is not confined to yesterday's miracles. What He did at the Red Sea was mighty, but He was about to open rivers in a desert! Ephesians 3:20 tells us He can do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Forgetting means refusing to let the past—good or bad—become a lid on your faith.

2. **EMBRACE the Unexpected** (v.19b) - God asks: "Shall you not know it?" The Hebrew word 'yada' goes deeper than intellectual knowledge. It means intimate, experiential knowing—like the closeness between husband and wife. In other words: "Will you truly open yourself to My new work?"

This requires full surrender. To yada God's work is to trust Him enough to embrace the unfamiliar, the surprising, even the uncomfortable, believing it will ultimately reveal His goodness.

Embracing the unexpected means leaning not on our own understanding but trusting that His ways are higher (Isa. 55:8-9).

3. **OBEY even when You Don't See It** (v.19a) - God declares: "Now it shall spring forth." The Hebrew verb 'tsamach' means "to sprout, bud, or grow." It paints the image of a seed pushing through the soil—hidden at first, but unstoppable in its growth.

This is how God's promises work. Just because you can't see them yet doesn't mean they haven't started. Faith acts before the evidence shows. Obedience is our part. Even when the pathway isn't visible, we walk as if it already exists, trusting the God who "makes a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Are you facing a situation so overwhelming that unless Jesus intervenes, you don't know how it will work out? Could it be that the real change God wants to bring is not only in your circumstance, but in you?

Let go of the past (forget). Open yourself fully to His surprising work (embrace). Step out in faith even when you don't see the outcome (obey). His "new thing" has already begun—like a seed sprouting underground, ready to break forth in your life.

Making It Personal:

1. **Insight** - What is ONE new insight the Holy Spirit has given me?
2. **Conviction** - Something pierced my heart or convicted me? Take action now!
3. **Share** - Received something I want to share with someone else?