

## SERMON NOTES - New and Old

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

There is a balance needed between being **rooted & steady in the old things we've learned**, and being **led, open, flexible and teachable in the new things** the Lord wants to give us.

GOD IS ABOUT NEW THINGS:

Isa 43:15-19 NKJV - "15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." 16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters, 17 Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick): 18 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert."

A new Commandment, A new Creation, A new Covenant , New Mercies every morning

Notice above, where He says "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old" (vs 18), He has just asked them to remember some old things about Himself (vs 15 & 16). So there must be a way to do both and still obey Him.

BUT HE ALSO WANTS US ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN THE OLD

Col 2:6-7 NKJV - "6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Notice that we must be "rooted" and "established in what we've been taught", BUT we must walk as we did when we first got saved (open, teachable, humble).

Consider these verses which show both elements:

Lam 3:22-23 NKJV - "22 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

Rom 8:14 NKJV - "14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

Rom 10:17 NKJV - "17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Mat 4:4 NKJV - "4 But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' ""

Jde 1:3 NKJV - "3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

Mat 13:52 NKJV - "52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 9:16-17 NKJV — "No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. "Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Rom 10:17 NKJV - "17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (*Rhema*) of God."

Eph 4:14 NKJV - "14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"

### Errors / signs we may be too rigid

- Dogmatic. Not willing to learn or change or be challenged or Repent.
- Not seeking new understanding. Satisfied. Settling. No longer hungry or asking. Mat 5:6 NKJV - "6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."
- Proud and judging others. Feeling superior. The older son in the Prodigal son story is an example (Lk 15:25)

### Errors / signs we may be too flexible / "blown around by every wind"

- Emphasis on feelings, words, visions, spectacular, prophecies etc. Trust feelings more than truth in His word
- Change viewpoint often
- No genuine repentance when changing view
- Haven't counted the cost in advance of decisions
- Always moving looking for a new exciting thing
- People / senses focused rather than conviction and faith focused

### Old Things we should discard?

1. Sin - Heb 12:1 NKJV - "1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"
2. Error and wrong thinking
3. Shame &/Or pride in past performance
4. Bitterness / judgement / old offences
5. People and relationships that don't help us grow in Him - 1Co 15:33 NIV - "33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

### New things we should embrace?

1. Obedience - His commands and promises - 2Pe 1:4 NKJV - "4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
2. More intimacy and surrender - Jesus is our example
3. New knowledge and treasures from His word

### BE ROOTED BUT REMAIN LED

Psalms 1:3-4 NKJV — He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Psalms 23:1-3 NKJV — The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

### The Correct attitudes and actions

1. Be firmly convinced and act in faith upon what God has shown you
2. Always be listening, studying, seeking in humility and with right attitude - to obey
3. Always be ready for God to search you completely, holding nothing back, having no "sacred cow" off limits areas, and being willing to let Him change anything He wants to
4. When convinced, repent properly

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.