"When the Lord Does a New Thing" 當神做新事時

What keeps us from seeing what God wants to do?

¹⁶This is what the Lord says – he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷who drew out the chariots & horses, the army & reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: ¹⁸"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness & streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 賽 43:16-19

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The greatest obstacle for us to seeing what God is doing is focusing
on what he used to do
Forget not his faithfulness but forget <u>the form</u> it came in.
God's character does not change but <u>his way of doing things</u> will change.
Remember the past but <u>do not live</u> in the past.
Isaiah says, this time, the Lord will not make a way thru the waters,
he will make a way in the wilderness .
And David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." 2 Samuel 撒下 5:19
And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees." 2 Samuel 撒下 5:23
<u>It was a different strategy</u> to deal with the same enemy/location.
16 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved." Matthew \pm 9:16-17
The new work of God can't be contained in <u>old or outdated forms</u> .

1. GOD ORCHESTRATES THE CHANGE, <u>NOT US</u>
神策劃改變,而不是我們
We don't begin with <u>what we think</u> needs to be changed.
19"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed." John 約 5:19-20
Old mindsets will not be able to handle <u>new & needed changes</u> from God
New wineskins mean <u>a readiness</u> for the new things of God.
Change is the <u>non-negotiable cause/consequence</u> of renewal.
Non-biblically mandated traditions keep us <u>from being renewed</u> .
2. KEEP IN STEP WITHTHE SPIRIT
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal. to 5:25
⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 徒 16:6-10
Not just the what that is important but also the <u>how and when</u>
3. RENEWAL LEADS TO 更新到使命
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It leads us to being a loving presence of Christ in our neighborhoods.

 $^{^{37}}$ "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew \pm 22:37-39