



All Things New

Moving Forward During Difficult Times

All Things New: A Shift in Perspective

A theology professor recently wrote, *"The lesson is that life, in the end, is about loss, and suffering itself is the teacher."* Paul says he has given up everything for Christ, and that it has been more than worth it. The point is not that this crisis is good or that God wills it, but that through the losing and suffering involved in it, we might learn to cherish more deeply the surpassing value of Christ.



PRAY: All Things New Prayer

O God, to what new thing are you leading me right now? Open my heart and give me courage to embrace it. Amen.



STUDY: Philippians 3:7-11 REFLECT AND DISCUSS

1. *"The lesson [of the pandemic] is that life, in the end, is about loss, and suffering itself is the teacher."* (Leonard DeLorenzo) What do loss and suffering teach us?
2. What have you sacrificed for the sake of God or loved ones? Career opportunities? Money? Time? What makes sacrifices feel worth it . . . or not worth it?
3. Philippians suggests that even the best and brightest things in life pale in comparison to knowing Christ. How might this truth change your life, or at least your attitude about life?
4. Read and discuss Elizabeth Bishop's famous poem, *"One Art."* Is losing something you intentionally practice every day? Or is it *"disaster"*? Or both?

