



REFLECTIONS

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**Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?**

Isaiah 43:18-19

A World of Possibility

We look forward to the day when life is happy, when our bodies are stronger, when our children are wiser, when...well, you fill in the blank. Yet it may be surprising how much we cling to the past. The past is more real than the future, yet more unreachable. We can reach back only to reminisce; but we reach forward toward what can be. One is a memory the other a dream. One, experiences lived, the other objectives pursued.

The past though has its role to play. From the past we learn what the future might be. We learn what we want to eliminate and what to make better; and we learn what we want to keep and to reproduce. From the past we learn what makes us feel good and what brings us pain. We felt exhilaration that comes from joy, and the anguish sorrow brings. We learn what perishes and what endures; what is shallow and what runs deep. We learn the ruin from indifference and the inspiration from love.

The past is a base to build from, but the past is not a place we can live. We live only in the fleeting present toward an ever-changing future. Our lives have purpose, and the purpose is to make something better about tomorrow. It is disturbing if not sad how few of us are clear about the difference that we are called to make. The primary focus of our lives seems to be making a living, leaving a legacy, and building a comfortable retirement. These may be worthy goals, but they are means to an end not an end themselves.

Each day God brings something new into our lives. He opens doors by introducing us to new people; He opens doors by changing situations; and He opens doors as wisdom grows. God opens doors and invites us to walk into a world of possibility—possibility that springs from the past, points toward the future, but lives only in the fleeting presence of today. That's where God calls us to live. Our call to make a difference is more than a dream. It is a way of life that summons us to view each day as a new beginning to share joy and peace with those around us.

It is also the way of life that will bring the happiness we long to find.

“You are the light of the world,”

Richard +

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