

Open to the Unexpected Moving of the Holy Spirit

ISAIAH 43:18-19

*"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?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

ACTS 16:6-10

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. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 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.

PRAISE

God, you are mysteriously three-in-one, you are beyond our understanding, your ways are not our ways and your thoughts are not our thoughts.

We praise you that you are a God who saves in an unexpected way, not through power, position, and authority, but through service, suffering, and sacrifice.

We praise you that you are not a God who is in any way dependent upon us for accomplishing your work in your world, but choose to invite us to partner with you.

We thank you, Father, that you are a God at work in your world, building your kingdom of heaven here on earth. And we are amazed at the ways that you work in and through us, sometimes in spite of us.

Thank you, Jesus, that you are the head of the church.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you are at work drawing people to Christ.

PRAYER PROMPTS

We praise you for your mysteriousness in...

We praise you for your work in...

We are grateful for the renewal you bring to...

REQUESTS

God, as you are at work in this world, help us to recognize that the movement of the Holy Spirit is unseen and often mysterious. Help us to see.

Teach us to listen to your call to join you in new ways.

Reorient our hearts so that we can see that you work in new ways,

open our eyes to see the new things you are doing,

open our ears to hear you calling us in maybe a new, unexpected direction.

Help us to discern together where you might be calling us to participate with you in that work.

Give us boldness and courage to step out in faith to follow you, knowing that you are a good God who wants to bless your children, who wants to show us your beautiful grace, and wants to make your name known.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Teach us to listen to the Holy Spirit so that...

Help us recognize the new work the Holy Spirit is leading us to when...

Give us courage to be obedient when...

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, continue to do the work of transforming our hearts to be like yours, longing for the world to see you and come to believe in you.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, who is at work within us,

Amen.

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