God Will Make a Way

Text: Isaiah 43:1-19

The world says, "Where there's a will, there's a way." May I suggest a Christian worldview? Here it is: "When we are willing to do God's will, God makes a way!" Let this thought sink deep into your heart. One of my favorite choruses we sing says, "God will make a way when there seems to be no way, He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me! He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side with love and strength for each new day; He will make a way, He will make a way." The Word of God is replete with this principle. One of the best examples is found in a verse that tells us what God will do when Christ sets up His golden, one thousand year reign upon this earth. Although prophetic, it holds the truth of God's way of working for today. He says in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

How and when does God make a way?

1. GOD MAKES A WAY WHEN WE HAVE EXHAUSTED OUR INGENUITY.

If we keep doing what we have always done, we will keep getting what we have always gotten. Let's break down Isaiah 43:19. God said, "Behold, [step back, take a deep breath, check this out and see what I am talking about] I [God, not man] will do [the operation of God's power beyond all of man's ability] a new thing…[something previously outside our frame of reference].

If we can get through our life and each crisis without God's Divine intervention, mercy, grace and help, who gets the credit? We do! If, however, we remove our ability and substitute it for God's ability, He alone gets the credit and glory. And is that not what God is after? For the Word says in I Corinthians 1:29, "That no flesh should glory in his presence." This thought was first given in Jeremiah 9:23, 24: "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

When our effort is subservient to God's authority, there is no limit to what He can and will do!

2. GOD MAKES A WAY WHEN MAN'S EXPLANATION CANNOT NEUTRALIZE WHAT HE WILL DO.

Years ago, I heard a man of God say, "When I try, I fail; when I trust, He succeeds." That resonates truth to my heart. This is not to discount trying. We all need to keep trying, but what it says is that if we try without trusting God to do what we cannot do, we will flounder. The Bible says in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

As we continue to break down Isaiah 43:19, it says, "…now [when we come to our end] it [the wilderness or desert] shall spring forth [the natural water source God has placed in the earth reminding us of God's supernatural provision]. The most ancient book of the Bible, Job 12:8, 9 reads, "…speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee...Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?" God has placed life lessons in the earth; the artesian well is the perfect example. Experts tell us an artesian well allows water that has traveled through porous rock to rise to the surface. This pumpless well seems to defy gravity because the pressure that builds up between layers of rock gets relieved when the water finds a path to the open air. For nearly a thousand years people have drilled wells to drink this cold, filtered water that doesn't need to be hauled up from the depths. God knew about this principle before man discovered it. I can see this is the hint that God is giving by the promise of Isaiah 43:19 when He speaks of the springs in the unlikely places such as the wilderness or desert. The waters are springing forth like the gusher effect of an artesian well. Whole towns have been supplied by artesian wells. I don't know if it's still this way today, but shortly after moving to Houston, we were informed that half of Houston was supplied by one artesian well! The other half was supplied by Lake Houston. The artesian well is a natural source that requires no pumping by man.

Man often likes to brag about how his efforts make the difference. If there is a good human explanation as to how and why God is blessing our ministry, there may be good evidence that it was not God. God blesses hard work, but He gave us the ability to work. God blesses "brain-storming," but God made the brain.

Let me tweak another cliché: "There is no limit to how far we can go if we don't mind who gets the credit." Think about this: "There is no limit to how far we can go if we allow God to get the glory." Paul understood this

when he said in I Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

3. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY WHEN WE MAKE WAY FOR HIM.

In Matthew 3: 1-3 we read, “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” John the Baptist was crying for the people to repent, for in so doing it was preparing the paths and making them straight for the Messiah. Repentance makes way for the Lord’s way. God says in Isaiah 59:2, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

Through the many years of counseling people it often comes down to their way versus God’s way. The Lord says in Isaiah 55:8, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.” One of the hardest things to do by people who love their sin is to give up their sin. Jeremiah was lamenting that insincere men of ministry were skirting the issues of real sin and glossing over the iniquity of the people when he said in Jeremiah 5:31: “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?” Notice again the response of the people, “…my people love to have it so….” I have had some of the flock whom God allows me to pastor argue with me about what is right and wrong. I have with a heavy heart informed them they were going contrary to God’s way, and His will and way will not be done in their life, but some stubbornly refuse to get right. The result is they run into a serious roadblock. One of the statements I have often heard from disobedient Christians is, “Well, Pastor, you and I don’t see eye to eye, so I’m just going to go on with my life.” The sad truth and reality is that life does not go on for the disobedient Christian; it sputters, misses and stalls. On the other hand, if one repents and seeks God, He makes a way! Jeremiah 29:13-14a: “And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity….” Isaiah 30:21a: “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it….” Jeremiah 6:16a: “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way,

and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls….” God will make a way!

-Pastor Pope-