

CCCHOW TO START A NEW 2010 PART 2 Isaiah 43:18-19 (NCV)

One Monday Evening in our Men's Fellowship gathering here at Calvary I asked one of the men, who was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, If he would take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Mario stood up and being from Italy replied, 'Wella, I've a-ried to treat-a her nicea, spenda da money on her, but besta of alla is that I tooka her to Italy for oru 25th anniversary!'

After he said that I responded to him by saying Mario you're an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary.'??

Mario proudly replied, 'I'm a-gonna go get her.'

You want to know the best medicine you can take for sleeping? Can't sleep Try counting your blessings

Last week we start a series called, "How to start a new in 2010. Last week I said the fact really is, you're going to fail quite often in 2010. Last week I said, "It's

not a matter of if you will fail – the question is when will you fail and why do I say that, because nobody's perfect.

We all make mistakes. We are all going to have setbacks. We are all going to have problems. We're going to make mistakes. We're going to have defeats and losses in the year coming 2010. The question is how are you going to handle them...

As we begin this New Year – 2010 – I want us to look at "How To Star A New?" What is God's way of you making a fresh start in 2010, regardless of what happened in '09.

The Bible says that God is very interested in your future. Read with me Isaiah 43:18 "*The Lord says, 'forget about what has happened before. Do not think about the past. Instead, look at the new things I'm going*

to do." (Repeat)

Circle "forget about". Forget about what's happened before, don't let your past hold you down, hold you back from becoming all that God has for you to become. And how does He tell us to do that, "Look at the new things I'm going to do." That's where God wants your focus, "what new things is He going to do."

Stop making excuses.

We talked about this last week at some length. If you want to start over, if you want a start fresh, you have to stop making excuses for your failures." You've got to stop blaming other people; you've got to stop using rationalizations for your failures. Why you can't; why you didn't, why you couldn't and why you failed.

T- **Take stock**

I need to take stock of my life. That means I need to evaluate all my experiences, all of my relationships. If you want to make a fresh start in 2010, you need to set down and do an evaluation of your life. Write it out write it down... God wants you to learn from them and capitalize on them. Galatians 3:4 *"You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted? I hope not..."*

As you take stock of your life in starting over, you need to ASK yourself three questions. What have I learned? What are my assets? Who can help me?

Act in faith

This is the third step in getting a fresh start. Act in faith. You have to launch out into new territory in 2010. The Bible says that the key to **changing** anything is faith. If

you want to change your circumstance, it takes faith. If you want to change your personality, it takes faith. If you want to change your wife or husband or child, it takes faith. If you want to change anything in your life, you have to have faith.

Jesus tells us this in Matthew 9. *"According to your faith it will be done to you."* That is a very simple statement but it's very powerful principle in God's realm. *"According to your faith it will be done to you."* That means we tend to get out of life what we expect. *"According to your faith it will be done to you."*

I asked this question of those who were here last week. What are you expecting in 2010? See, if you think it's going to be another tough year, another depressing year, another rigorous, hard year and you

have **no plans** for change. Guess what your year is going to be? A real bummer! We tend to get out of life what we expect... Why. because *"According to your faith it will be done to you."*

God's Word tells us.../ The Christian who says, "I can!" and the Christian who says, "I can't!" are both right. Because according to God's Word.../ You will get out of life what you expect from it – *"According to your faith it will be done to you."* So what you and I need to start expecting more of yourself, start expecting more from God, start expecting more out of life. That's the principle of faith.

You're going to go through this next year one of two ways.../ either by design or by default. But either way you're going to go through life by one of those two

ways.../ either by design or by default. You're either going to have a plan, you've taken time and talked with God and with someone who can give you biblical direction to your plan in which you say now, "This is what I'm going to do" and you stay focused on that plan all year no matter what happens in your life... and if you don't here is what is going to happen... You're going to let other people and other circumstances and problems plan your life and run your life. Most people spend most of their life just drifting through life.../ Why, because they don't have a plan. But God Word says, you should make plans, and make those plans counting on God to direct you. I want you each to know it would be my honor to meet with you and talk about what you think God wants you to do in 2010. Pastor Joan would be

honored to do the same; The Elders of this church that you elected would also be honored... Not to tell you what to do but share God's word with you as to what you're planning and try and encourage you through the year to stay focused...

Why don't people like to set goals? The number one reason people don't set goals is because of the fear of failure. See, if you set a goal and announce it to your wife/husband or church and somebody else and you don't reach it, then you'll think, I'll look like a fool and I'll feel dumb if I don't reach it. But friends, failure is not failing to reach your goal. Failure is fear of setting a goal. You fail when you don't try.../ Failure is the fear of trying.

But having the fear of failure, paralysis you, it

cripples you, it keeps you miserable the whole time.

You stay in bondage.../

Fear of failure locks you in a self-imposed prison of, “What if’s...?” What if this happens or what if that doesn’t happen and what if that doesn’t happen then what.../ What will people think.../

If you’re that person I just described I have good news for you. You can get rid of fear of failure? The answer to that question, “How do I get rid of that fear of failure is, “Faith.” That's why the third step in starting a new is all about... **Act in faith.**

Faith is not having the absence of fear in your life. Faith is moving ahead in spite of the fear in your life.

(REPEAT)

Let me ask you this question? Where do you need

to act in faith today? Where do you need to act in faith this year? Where do you need to take steps of faith to start over?

One thing I can assure.../ There's one thing that will keep you from acting in faith in 2010. It's worrying about what other people think. When you start worrying about what other people think, the Bible says that is a trap. Proverbs 29:5 *"The fear of man is a snare."* It's a trap. When you worry about what other people think, you're not going to do what God wants you to do.

You're going to do the convenient thing what everybody else is doing. You need to step out in faith. Proverbs 29:25 *"Being afraid of people can get you into trouble*

Open the Floor up to sharing:

Let us Prayer:

Pray this prayer: “Dear God, only You can fully know the hurt in my heart. You’ve seen me stumble. You’ve watched me fall. You’ve watched me fail. You know the areas of my life that I’m ashamed of. You know where I’ve hurt others even when I didn’t know I was doing it. Father, You also know how I’ve been hurt by other people. Today, as I begin the New Year I ask You to give me a fresh start. First I accept responsibility for my part of the problems in my life. I’m going to stop making excuses. Forgive me for not listening to You. Forgive me for thinking that I knew better. Help me to take stock of the good that You’ve brought into my life. Help me to learn from my experiences. Today I want to act in faith. In this simple prayer, I open up my life to

You. I ask You, Jesus Christ, to be my savior. I ask You to forgive me and to guide me from here on out. Help me to focus on You and Your word. I want to trust You to give me the power to start over and to do the right thing from here on. Come into my life and be in charge. In Your name, I pray. Amen.”