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NEW WINESKINS

In the bible days they did not have refrigeration like we have now. They grew their own food or bought it daily in the marketplace. They kept their wine (fruit of the vine) in animal skins. When wine was first made, it needed to be put into a new wineskin because it would expand. A new wineskin would expand with the wine and would not break. If they put the new wine into the old wineskin, it would not expand, and this would cause the old wineskin to burst and become useless.

Jesus talks about this in Matthew 9:17, where it says, ***“Neither do men put new wine into old bottles (wineskins) else the bottles (wineskins) break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles (wineskins) perish (are ruined): but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.”***

He is speaking a parable about the new life found in Christ. You cannot put the new things of God into our old nature. We must be born again and then be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the only way to keep yourselves from being destroyed.

Just like salvation that comes to a person and makes them new, letting go of our victories and our failures will allow us to grow. Let's not dwell upon “what was” but rather be ready for the new things that God is going to do in our lives.

Isaiah 54:2-3 says, ***“2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.”*** This word came to Israel letting them know that restoration and something new was coming. Perhaps this is a word for you too that God is going to do something new in your life. Seek the Lord and see what He has to say about expanding your “wineskin” and tent.

God is doing a shaking in this season like no other season I have seen. We must be willing to let go of everything old to allow room for the new. There may be some relationships that are pulling you back into your “old” wineskin. Perhaps now is the time to let go of that unwholesome relationship. It does not mean you never speak to that person, but it does mean that you do not let them influence your life anymore. God has something better for you.

As a final word, we are always going to have to shed the old to make room for the new. Do not find yourself stuck in the “same old, same old” rut. Make room for the new so God can expand things in your life.