



Building the New

by Darla Lauterbach-Reeves—

Are we focused on fixing the past? Or building the new?

Jesus has the power to make all things new—and one glorious day He literally and physically will. But, while we are still here, He helps us too.

He doesn't erase the past, but He provides wisdom from it. He doesn't change what hurt us, but He equips forgiveness for it and provides a testimony from it. He doesn't remove the people; He teaches us new ways of relating to them.

In heaven, all our troubles will vanish. Until then, looking to Jesus in our hurts can lead to better decisions, courage, and change.

He doesn't call us to live like our parents did. He doesn't call us to live like our friends do. He doesn't call us to cower to human beings. He calls us to follow Him. The King of the universe calls us to make Him the King of our hearts. And when we do, we should expect change. Changes in ourselves and in our circumstances.

The prophet Isaiah uses these words: "Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there" (Isaiah 43:19, GNT).

He goes to work on us and for us. Change is scary, but when we make Him the King of our hearts, we can also expect His help in these changes. He asks us to. Consider the words of the Psalmist: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you" (Psalm 32:8, NIV).

Sometimes the new things He is doing don't seem good at first. They may even appear to be the very opposite of good. I've had this experience many times. What I thought was a disaster was really Him making His way. So I've learned to trust. I say, "Lord, I know You are working. This is how You create change. *In all things.*" We need to know God is still good and always good, even—and especially—when things are not.



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Last week, I apologized to my daughter for mistakes I'd made. Almost immediately, Jesus lifted a burden from my heart. Today, no matter her opinion of me, I've done what He called me to do. And I thank God for that fresh start. May we all trust His love enough to be human. To admit where we've messed up. To humble ourselves, receive His mercy, and show our kids how to do that as well. I believe God put this burden on my heart to better my future relationship with my daughter. And I thank Him for that.

Building the new is exciting. With Jesus in our hearts, we can expect help when the waves crash. He may not stop the storm, but He will show us how to maneuver through whatever it may bring and how to receive His peace and strength in the midst of it.

We can't change our past, but we can learn from it. We can't change people's minds, but we can love them anyway—and from a distance when necessary. We can't force our way through circumstances, but we can ask God to lead the way and follow Him step by gracious step.

What are you doing today to better yourself? Your relationships? Your health? Your finances? Your future? Your something new? Let's build something beautiful with God.

*Darla Lauterbach-Reeves was raised in the church, but it wasn't until her marriage fell apart that she came to truly know her Greatest Love—Jesus—in whom she found the relationship she had always craved. She is the author of the book *He Loves Me THAT Much?* available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.*