

OV daily devotions DAY SIX (Thursday - 6/13/19)

Is God a Bridge Builder?

Isaiah 43:2 –

*When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Now here's a fresh look the theme we've tried to develop this week. Is God really a bridge builder or not? The word bridge does not occur in the Bible, so how in the world did we come up with this idea of building bridges?

This scripture lists many perils that the confronted the Israelites when God delivered them from Egypt. They were delivered, right? True, but they still had many things ahead that they would have to face. Some of them were due to the corruption and evil in the hearts of those they confronted and other things came as a result of the stubbornness of their own hearts. They were disobedient and did not obey the God who had just brought them out of slavery.

Here are some of the things that were listed **water, rivers, fire, and flame**. That's quite a list of things to confront. Ultimately they would survive, even in the face of these hazards. The passage of Moses' and Joshua's generations through the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21,22) and the Jordan River (Josh. 3:14-17) and the preservation of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego in the fiery furnace illustrate His care for Israel. He would see them through these trials.

Why not build a bridge OVER the problem? Why not put the fire out?

So, why build bridges? After all, God divided the seas in the beginning and divided the people at the Tower of Babel. I think he wanted his people to understand that you can't always walk around or over a problem. Sometimes the only path is straight through it. Everyone learns sooner or later that all of us must pass through the currents of suffering and death. *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you"* (Isaiah 43:2). Even if you are burned, overcome, or die, God will be with us in life and death.

What is it that scares us about facing the things that can hurt us?

What is the scariest thing that you ever faced?

What is the scariest thing that your family ever faced?

Had you rather have a bridge over a turbulent river or try to walk through it?

What could possibly be the benefit in fighting your way through the flames to get where God wanted you to be?
