

Dear NU Family,

Isaiah 43:18-19 is a famous and often-quoted passage of Scripture, and it is one of my favorites. It especially resonates with me after I have walked through a difficult time or completed a challenging and time-consuming project. In this passage, the prophet Isaiah reflects on the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt and God's guidance through the wilderness. He encourages the Israelites to forget the "former things" of the past, because what God has in the future is even better. As you come to the end of the semester, perhaps there are some past things you want to forget, and there are some future things you are looking forward to. I feel the same way. But before moving forward too quickly, what if we take a moment to think about the many things that either helped us grow or became "wins" this past fall? What if we created a list of our wins as a community and used them to help celebrate this coming Christmas season? I'll bet the list would be HUGE! I have listed a few of my wins from this semester below. What about you?

Wins for Phil:

1. I completed my dissertation for my doctoral degree. (I had to put this first).
2. One of my best friends received healing from cancer.
3. At last count, roughly 30 people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and embraced their prayer language this semester. (So cool)
4. There have been over 25,000 views on the new devotional web site, www.northwestudevo.com.
5. Students in 24 missions trips are preparing to reach people for Christ around the world.

If you email me a few of your wins, I will add them to my list. Let's celebrate what God has done!

Jesus, thank you for the significant wins as well as what might seem insignificant sometimes. As we face overwhelming circumstances, help us find your purpose in our work and relationships so we can develop into the people you desire us to be. I pray for our community to enjoy good health this Christmas season and that all will go well in our travels and celebrations. In Jesus name, Amen.

Merry Christmas!

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