

# 2021 New Beginnings and Opportunities

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'

Isaiah 43:19

Burslem  Church

## Be Careful What You Pray for

Listen/watch the message 'Be Careful What You Pray for' at [www.burslem.org.uk/newbeginnings](http://www.burslem.org.uk/newbeginnings)

In this message Jim brought a word he felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to share.

*Be careful what you pray for. God may give you what you ask for but not necessarily what He wants for you.\**

Read 1 Samuel 8.

- The people of Israel wanted a King to match their neighbours
- Through Samuel, God tells the people why a king would be a bad idea.
- The people of Israel, still insist on having a king.
- God grants them their request.

3 questions to ask when praying for something significant:

**1. Am I walking in step with God?**

Often, we can be so fixed on where we are going, we don't notice where God is directing us.

*'In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.'* (Proverbs 16:9)

**2. What are the consequences of what I'm asking?**

1 Samuel 8:10-18, God explains to the Israelites the consequences of their request.

**3. Is it God or myself that wants this?**

1 Samuel 8:5, the Israelites were asking out of jealousy and what they wanted instead of a place of listening to God.

Questions to think about:

1. What are your main prayer requests at this time? How do they relate to these questions?
2. Are your prayers limiting or ignoring God? If yes, how should your prayers change?

\*At Burslem Elim Church, whenever, a word is shared, we encourage you to pray and discern (1 John 4:1-4).