

## E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

There's an old saying that I learned early in life when I would face a certain disappointment or defeat. It went like this... "Get back up, dust yourself off, and start all over again."

I can't help but feel that way this day. We are still going through some tough times with the virus, in our nation and in our world. But maybe this is the time to pick ourselves up... dust ourselves off... and make a new start.

New starts happened often in the Bible. In Isaiah we find these words... "*Watch for the new thing that 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.*"

So... as we pass through these present times and go down new roads, I find myself praying hard and heavy for discord, disagreements, discontent to not follow with us down these new paths.

How can we make that happen? Those new streams of water can bring a kind of cleansing. It's all about opening our hearts and our souls to a new understanding. We don't have to keep going down roads tangled with thorns... there are new roads out there. And if we follow the lead revealed to us through Scripture, we WILL find a way.

I had a small surgery recently. It created a big, ugly scar! And on my nose, no less! I would check it every morning to see if it looked any better. It's taken a long time... but finally, it's not the first thing I notice about myself when I look in the mirror each morning. It's been a steady process of healing. For sure, that scar will probably be there forever, especially at this age! Healing is a difficult process, most times. And it often leaves scars. But if we persevere... we do heal.

Let healing begin. Wear a mask. Wash your hands, fold them and bow your head. Get the vaccine as soon as you can... do it for all of us. Pray to God that we will heal. Then... 'get up, dust yourself off, and start all over again!'"

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we pray for healing in our nation. We pray for healing from this horrible virus. We pray for strength to get down difficult paths. And we pray for our leaders, our healers, our protectors, and ourselves. Give us strength to begin again." Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.