

## ☞ Remember!

☞ Review: **The Power of Gratitude. Gratitude is the mark of a growing Christian which produces contentment, compassion, confidence and connection. Christians should be overflowing with gratitude.**

☞ It's important for us to **remember what God has done**. The Scripture is filled with admonitions to remember God's work. God has done some amazing things, hasn't he? Let' remember just a few...

☞ In Genesis 1 and 2, is the account of **creation**. With just his words, God created everything. The sun, moon, and stars; the earth; oceans, rivers, mountains and valleys; all the animals of the earth, the sky and the sea. He created human beings. Just his words are powerful.

☞ In Genesis 7, at his command the entire earth was **flooded** enough to cover the highest mountains. Yet, he spared a godly man's family as well as a pair of every basic family group of animals. God demonstrates justice and mercy simultaneously.

☞ In Exodus, God worked with **Moses** and did some amazing things. He spoke from within a burning bush; he turned a staff into a snake and back; he sent various plagues on Egypt all while protecting the Israelites; He led them out of bondage and gave them the bulk of Egypt's wealth. Then, when Pharaoh changed his mind, God provided a dry path through the Red Sea. Later he provided bread from heaven called Manna to feed the huge crowd of Israelites.

☞ God demonstrated his power through various others as well. One might think of **Joshua** and the wall of Jericho. Or **Gideon** beating the odds in a 450 to one situation; **Samson's** great strength came from God; **David's** defeat of the giant, Goliath and his many victories in battle. Then there's **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** surviving the fiery furnace; and **Daniel** surviving the lion's den, not to mention all the works he did through **the prophets**.

☞ God was especially impressive in **Jesus Christ**. Born of a virgin; perfect in every way; he performed countless miracles including healings, feeding 5,000 people with next to nothing, as well as calming a storm and walking on water. And ultimately he died on a cross to save us from our sins. And that's not all. Three days later, he rose from dead, having conquered the grave. Now he offers eternal life to all who believe.

God is pretty amazing, isn't he? He's done countless miraculous things. God is good...

It is good for us to remember what God has done. When we don't there are negative effects. Last week we talked about how people who are ungrateful become messed up in their thinking and ultimately become darkened and depraved. **When we forget** God's goodness and grace it has a negative impact on our lives.

☞ **Forgetfulness leads to Disdain.** (pride)

### **Deuteronomy 8:10-14**

**10** When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. **11** Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. **12** Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, **13** and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

When we don't intentionally remember what God has done, we tend to take the credit for it all ourselves. We begin to think we are pretty awesome. Pride leads to a downfall, which you will see in this progression...

☞ **Forgetfulness leads to Disobedience.**

### **Psalms 78:9-11**

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; **10** they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law. **11** They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.

When we remember God's faithfulness and power, we are more prone to stand strong. When we remember God's justice, we are reminded to be obedient. But when we forget these things we tend to falter and fall into disobedience.

☞ **Forgetfulness leads to Distrust.**

### **Psalms 78:22**

they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

*-- Rev. James Brown... Some years ago when I was learning to fly, my instructor told me to put the plane into a steep and extended dive. I was totally unprepared for what was about to happen. After a brief time the engine stalled, and the plane began to plunge out-of-control. After a few seconds, which seemed like eternity, my mind began to function again. I quickly corrected the situation. Immediately I turned to the instructor and began to*

*vent my fearful frustrations on him. He very calmly said to me, "There is no position you can get this airplane into that I cannot get you out of. If you want to learn to fly, go up there and do it again." At that moment God seemed to be saying to me, "Remember this. As you serve Me, there is no situation you can get yourself into that I cannot get you out of. If you trust me, you will be all right." That lesson has been proven true in my ministry many times over the years.*

When we don't remember and rehearse what God has done, we tend to waver in our faith and distrust settles in.

### ☞ **Forgetfulness leads to God's Displeasure.**

#### **Psalms 78:41-42**

Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel. **42** They did not remember his power

Did you know that you can tick God off? When we fail to remember his power and don't trust him, it can provoke him.

### ☞ **Forgetfulness leads to Dormancy.**

#### **Psalms 78:59-61**

When God heard them, he was very angry; he rejected Israel completely. **60** He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent he had set up among men. **61** He sent [the ark of] his might into captivity, his splendor into the hands of the enemy.

When we don't remember and express gratitude for God's goodness, we tend to become complacent.

Philippians 3:13 says that there are some things we should forget... but it's not referring to those things that God has done. Rather, Paul was talking about his own accomplishments and his fleshly abilities. But he did not forget what Christ had done for him, therefore, he was able to press on toward the goal and not remain dormant in his past.

### ☞ **Forgetfulness leads to Destruction.**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:17-20**

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." **18** But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. **19** If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and

bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. **20** Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.

Let's not forget God's goodness. We all go through times when we might question God and wonder what in the world is going on. But, let's never forget God's goodness and faithfulness.

### ☞ **Psalm 77:7-15**

7-9 questions God

10-12 **chooses to remember**

13-15 remembers how amazing God really is

### ☞ **Remembrance leads to Fear of God.**

#### v. 13 **God is holy**

*God's holiness is His defining characteristic. The holiness of God is a term used in the Bible to describe both His goodness and His power. It is completely unique, and utterly all-powerful, radiating out from God like an energy. In fact, God's holiness is so overwhelming, that it can actually be dangerous to approach. It's helpful to think of God like the sun. The sun is so bright and powerful that its energy radiates out through the solar system. It's a good, helpful thing to be within the sun's energy, but the sun itself is so powerful that it's dangerous to get too close.*

#### ☞ v. 14 **God is powerful**

*In The Chronicles of Narnia, Susan and Lucy, get ready to meet Aslan the lion, who represents Christ. Two talking animals, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, prepare the children for the encounter. Mrs. Beaver said, "make no mistake, if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knee's knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly." "Then isn't he safe?" said Lucy. "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king, I tell you!"*

When we remember God's holiness and power, it inspires respect and a righteous fear.

### ☞ **Remembrance leads to Faith.**

*--J. G. Machen... The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust him; the greater our progress in theology, the simpler and more childlike will be our faith.*

#### ☞ v. 13 **God is greater than all others**

v. 14 **God performs miracles**

v. 15 **God redeems people**

That's who God is. He is trustworthy. We can put our faith in him. It's forgetfulness that leads to distrust, but when we remember that God is greater than all others; he does the miraculous, and he redeems people; then, our faith is inspired. God is bigger than your problem. God can miraculously change your situation.

☞ **Remembrance leads to Future.**

**Psalms 78:3-4, 6-7**

what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. **4** We will not hide them from their children; we will **tell the next generation** the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... **6** so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. **7** Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

This is a good reminder for parents. Make sure your children know about God. Tell them what he did in the Bible and what he has done in your life, perhaps in the generations that even preceded you.

☞ So, let's **remember God's goodness...**

**Psalms 103:1-5**

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. **2** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits —

☞ **Reprieve**

**3** who forgives all your sins

☞ **Restoration**

and heals all your diseases,

☞ **Redemption**

**4** who redeems your life from the pit

☞ **Responsiveness**

and crowns you with love and compassion,

☞ **Refreshing**

5 who satisfies your desires with good things

### ☞ **Renewal**

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Let's not be forgetful; let's remember who God is and what God has done!

#### OBC stories:

*About the time we officially decided to add on to the church, we were notified that OBC was included in a will to the tune of around \$30,000. Then, just as we were finishing construction and wishing we could upgrade our sound system for the expanded Worship Center, we received a large donation of around \$50,000. And, just this year, as we've been praying to finish off the mortgage, we recently received another large donation with \$10,000 specifically designated for the mortgage. So, when I've been saying, "let's get clear by the end of the year," it's not just some wishful thinking. It's inspired by what God has already done.*

#### Personal stories:

*I remember when I should have been electrocuted and killed as a stupid teenager. We found out later that my grandma felt a strong compulsion to pray for me at that very time. God spared me in response to my grandma's prayers.*

*I remember when my car slid on ice and was headed straight for the river. At the last moment I hit something that bounced me back onto the road. It bent my rear axle, but saved me from a frigid swim in the river.*

*I remember when we moved to Oregon to complete my Bible College. On paper, our budget did not add up, but somehow God provided. God has always been faithful.*

Let's intentionally remember what God has done. He is holy and powerful; he is greater than all the rest; he does the supernatural naturally; he restores and redeems and renews. Before you leave today, share a brief memory of God's goodness with someone else and be inspired. God is good... Remember!

Prayer, then show video as we dismiss...

☞ **Video: Remember, by Lauren Daigle**