

Do you not Remember?

Most people do not **recall** what God has done in their lives, let alone any spiritual lessons from that miracle or breakthrough. **One way we can keep our hearts sensitive to God is through remembrance.**

Our ability to remember is one of the most valuable things we possess.

Purpose:

I want to use this time **to stir you up into remembrance.** No, not in the **bad things** you have been through, but in how God has been faithful and good to you.

There are certain things you need to forget—facts, but never forget the spiritual lessons. They are the ones that will eventually and ultimately transform our lives.

This will cause **faith to rise**, and you will receive from the Lord what you need for today. Remembrance is one crucial aspect of our lives that needs to be stirred up. It is key in our faith.

Some of you have been hurt in the past, but those memories are sharper than the goodness of God to you. If you have been hurt in the past, do not focus on that. You have good memories as well that can propel you to victory and believing. God's will is for you to believe again, hope again, love again, give again, serve again, rejoice again, and trust again.

- i) You won't enjoy Canaan (the promised land) while **painting negative pictures** and memories **of Egypt.**
- ii) The pictures you paint will determine whether you win or lose.
- iii) Paint pictures of the goodness of God and His faithfulness in the desert.

No matter what you are going through, God has been good to you. The Word says His mercy and grace are plenteous. This is true regardless of your circumstances and situation.

You have plenty of things God has done in your life that you can remember.

Main Text:

Psalm 77:11-12 "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings."—Psalm 77 is written by Asaph

i) I will remember

You got to be willing to remember—to remember. It is your "will" to remember—choice.

- The works of the Lord
- Wonders of old

ii) I will meditate.

- One of the major ways we remember is through meditation. Meditation is simply thinking about something.
- All thy work
- Talk of thy doings—you won't talk about what you have not meditated on.

There two levels of remembrance or remembering (exercising your memory):

Both these two aspects and levels of remembrance are as vital as one another. We should endeavor to step out in both.

a) Remembering the details of the event or what took place

i) Psalm 77:11-12

ii) This is a very crucial part of remembrance because, without it, we can't learn or draw out any spiritual lessons. You can't learn a thing from what you do not remember.

We can't learn a lesson without remembering the detail of an event. It is also possible to remember an event and yet not have learned a thing from it.

In this teaching, I want to focus on this part of remembering the details and events of the goodness of God.

b) Learning a spiritual lesson from that memory of an event.

- i) Such as, God is a good God, God is faithful, God will always find a way to provide.
- ii) There is more to remembrance than just knowing the facts. Did you learn a spiritual lesson that has furthered your faith, trust, and confidence in the Lord?
- iii) You can have memories and remember things yet miss a lesson from all of it.
 - If you did not learn a thing—you do not remember.

*Text: Mark 8:13-21 "And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf. And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and **do ye not remember?** When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. And he said unto them, **How is it that ye do not understand?**"*

- a) The word "remember" in these verses refer to; "to exercise memory, that is, recollect; also, to rehearse:" (Strong's Concordance)
- b) Jesus was not asking them if they couldn't remember the facts. They did.

- i) They answered all the questions He had, but they **had missed the very lessons from all the miracles and the goodness of God through these miracles.**
- c) Although we need to remember the facts, in the effort to do so, we should not miss the lesson of the goodness and faithfulness of God.
- d) The disciples had just seen Jesus **feed the 5,000 men, 4000 men**, and then he walked on water, yet they forgot, not facts but the lessons from these miracles and events
 - i) Feeding all these men is a big deal. Yet even twice did Jesus do it. Why were the disciples worried about not taking bread?
 - ii) If we are not careful, we can easily miss or forget one of the greatest things and miracles God has done in our lives by just being caught up in the moment.
- e) It takes **effort to remember the things God has done in our lives.**
- f) **We need to take time to ponder, recall, or consider what God has done in our lives—both facts and spiritual lessons from those things.**
 - i) None of us has a reason to gripe, complain, or bellyache.
 - ii) Complaining is a sign that we have forgotten or have drawn no spiritual lessons from what God has done and it is a sign of a hardened heart, immaturity, and insensitivity towards God.
 - iii) **They had not taken enough time to consider the miracle of the loaves**, hence could not remember the spiritual lesson and the magnitude of that miracle.
- g) A lack of remembrance and considering of those miracles, provisions, and breakthroughs clouds our ability to understand or perceive hence leading to a hardened heart.

- i) One reason we are lacking in perception and understanding is because we do not remember—we do not recall the details or the event or we did not learn a thing from that memory although we might know the facts and details.

The life of the children of Israel.

God was forever faithful and good to the children of Israel, but they did not remember.

Psalm 78:40-56 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! **Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.** How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan: And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink. He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence; And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham: But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: (emphasis mine)

- a) The main way the children of Israel tempted God and limited Him was through **not remembering all the good things He did for them.**
- b) Remembrance of the goodness and faithfulness of God removes the limits off of God—limits of unbelief.

- c) Numbers 11:5 “We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic:”

If you are?

- Mad at God
 - Disappointed in God
 - Lost faith and trust in God.
 - Have a bad attitude toward God
 - Complaining, murmuring, worried, anxious, and restless.
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- Depressed— (Psalm 42:6 O my God, **my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan**, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.)

It is because you do not remember. Remembrance is a powerful force that can instantly turn your life around.

If only you remembered, you would not have this attitude towards God. God has been faithful to you more than you have been faithful to Him. He has been good to you more than you have been good to Him.

- a) Psalm 20:7 “Some **trust** in chariots, and some in horses: but we will **remember** the name of the Lord our God.” (Emphasis mine)

i) The word “*trust*” is used interchangeably with “*remember*.”

- Trust= Remembrance
- This means that we won’t trust if we do not remember. Trust will follow our remembrance. When we trust it is because we remember.

ii) If you have a faith or trust issue with the Lord, you have a remembrance problem.

iii) When we lie, cheat, complain, compromise, it is because we do not remember.

- iv) A person who trusts God is a person who remembers, considers what God has done before.
- We can remember what God has done in our lives, the lives of others or through the word.
 - Remembering God's goodness and faithfulness stirs up our faith to believe and receive again.
- v) God has been good to you. You ought to start remembering and documenting His goodness to you.

Forget not

- a) Psalm 103:1-5 "A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."
- i) "Benefits" means "treatment, that is, an act" of good will, a recompense or reward.
- Just as there are benefits from your employer, there are benefits to a relationship with God.
- ii) We are instructed not to forget—because we do forget, and we will forget.
- Our natural tendency is not to remember but rather to forget.
- iii) When we forget what God has done in our lives, we are not blessing the Lord. Remembering what God has done in our lives will bless the Lord.
- iv) No remembrance= No blessing the Lord. You have to remember to bless the Lord.

- b) John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and **bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you. (emphasis mine)
- i) What the Lord has said to you, is what He has done or will do. His actions are not apart from His Word. He is one with His actions and Words.
 - Since He is going to remind you of what He has said, He will equally remind you of what He has done in your life—both what He has said and done.
 - ii) Remembrance is God's will.

What can we do to remember? OR How do we stir up ourselves to remembrance?

There are certain things we can do to not forget. Some may disagree, but it's a choice to forget just as it is a choice to remember—it may not be a deliberate effort, but it is still an effort. You can remember anything you want to because you will do certain things to be able to recall.

1. Focus, meditate, and think!

If you are going to remember, you have to start meditating, focusing, and thinking about those things God has done in your life.

- A. Psalm 77:11-12 "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I **will meditate** also of all thy work, and **talk** of thy doings."
- a) If we are going to get spiritual lessons from any of the events or memories. we need to meditate on that.
 - b) What we aren't focused on we will forget. One of the main ways we get to exercise our memory is through focus. We need focus to be able to remember.
 - i) We need to focus on the goodness of God in our lives. His blessings in the past and His promises in the future.

- B. Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
- a) As you begin to focus on the positives and good things God has done in your life, it will cause you to remember His faithfulness and goodness and your problems and challenges will **begin to shrink**.
 - b) Our mind is like a magnifying glass, whatever we focus on becomes bigger and bigger and whatever we neglect shrinks and becomes smaller and smaller even in impact. This is why we need to be focused on the Lord and the good things He has done in our lives.
 - c) **Forgetfulness is the devil’s strategy to get our focus off God.**

2. Landmarks or postcards, wall frames, Journaling, memorials

Today, we do everything we possibly can to remember. We name airports after people (JFK), bridges, days, buildings, birthdays, anniversaries, and so forth but we do very little to remember what God has done in our lives.

We need to remind ourselves of the times that God brought us through impossible situations. One way we can do that is through memorials (altars, stones, and so forth) and landmarks.

In the O.T, people-built memorials, which reminded them of the faithfulness and the goodness of God in their lives.

- A. Joshua 4:7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.
- B. Exodus 17:11-15 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. [12] But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and

Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. [13] And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. [14] And the Lord said unto Moses, **Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua:** for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. [15] And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

i) There are seven redemptive names that the Lord used. These served as remembrances to the children of Israel of God's faithfulness and goodness.

- Jehovah Nissi—The Lord my banner.
- Jehovah Shammah—The Lord is There.
- Jehovah Shalom—The Lord My Peace or The Lord is Peace.
- Jehovah Rapha—The Lord our Healer or The Lord that Heals.
- Jehovah Rohi/Raah—The Lord my Shepherd
- Jehovah Jireh—The Lord our Provider or The Lord will provide.
- Jehovah Tsitdkenu—The Lord our Righteousness
- Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)

C. Proverbs 22:28 "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. Proverbs 23:10 "Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

a) Landmarks were "twisted cords that were used to mark boundaries and territories of one's property. They served as reminders that such property belonged to someone else. They were not to be removed or moved. Landmarks are for memory and remembrance purposes.

b) You need deliberate efforts to be able to remember.

c) Every once in a while, we need to spend time going over these aids and landmarks for remembrance purposes.

d) CD, Tape, Video, Book, and so forth are all examples of modern landmarks and memorials.

D. 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.** [25] After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**

- a) Doing things such as communion and the Word causes remembrance which in return will bring forth spiritual lessons.
- b) The real power of communion is not in the elements per se, but rather in the remembrance of the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (the finished work on the cross). The elements are symbolic.

3. Be Thankful!

Unthankful people are forgetful people.

If we forget the details and lessons from the goodness of God in our lives, we will become unthankful. **You can't be thankful for what you do not remember.**

The more we think (remember) on the good things God has done for us, the more thankful we are.

A. Psalm 100:4-5 *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations"*

- a) Being thankful magnifies and blesses the Lord. Thankfulness is a result of remembrance. We can't be thankful if we do not remember.
 - i) Remembrance stirs up thankfulness and thankfulness keeps our remembrance stirred.
- b) What did God save you from? Being thankful involves memory and humility.
 - i) If you aren't thankful, it's because you have not engaged your memory. You have to remember the good things that God had done in your life.

- c) **Remember the pit you crawled out of** (Isaiah 51:1 *“Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.”*)
- d) **You have a history with God.** God has been good to you. **Look back and get the courage to go forward.** Decide and purpose to be one thankful fellow.
- i) We need to look back to have hope and faith for today.
 - ii) This is what we do with scriptures. **Scriptures record history of God’s goodness** that we look back at and believe and receive what we need for today.
 - The Bible is a book of remembrance and memory.
- e) Things could be a lot worse. **Thank God that things are as good as they are.**
- f) You have every reason to be thankful. You have hundreds of things around you to be thankful for.
- i) **It is a choice to be thankful.** You have to make that choice.
 - ii) Remember what God has done in your life over the years and Be thankful. If you do so, you will abound in faith (Colossians 2:17).
 - iii) If you can’t find a reason to be thankful, you are looking in the wrong place. The first place you look when looking for your glasses is your dead. You won’t find them if you are looking elsewhere.
- If you truly can’t find a thing to thank God for—thank God for Rich (myself).**

4. Doer of the Work

a) James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

i) A forgetful hearer is one who is not a doer of the work.

ii) The Word teaches us not to be a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the Word.

iii) If we remember—both the details and the spiritual lessons of the provision, breakthroughs, and miracles of God in our lives, we will be doers of the word.

As we do the word—act on the Word, we stir up remembrance—both in details and Spiritual lessons.

b) Numbers 15:40 “That ye may **remember**, and **do** all my commandments, and be holy unto your God”

i) This verse ties doing to remembrance.

ii) Our remembrance plays a major part in our “doing” or actions.

iii) If we remember, we will do (actions and behavior). A forgetful person can be seen through their actions.

iv) Our actions are an indicator of our remembrance.

v) When we remember, we do.

c) **David and Nathan the prophet**—2 Samuel 12:7-8

i) Anointed thee King over Israel, delivered thee from the hand of Saul, gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and Judah

ii) Nathan **linked** David's sin actions to a lack of remembrance—both memory and spiritual lessons.

iii) This shows that David forgot where God brought Him from to behave sinfully. If he had remembered, his actions could have been different.

iv) Ultimately, sin has something to do with forgetfulness.

- If we are forgetful, we will not live a holy life.

5. Stir up yourself to memory through REPETITION!

2 Peter 1:12-13 *“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, **though ye know them**, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;”* (emphasis mine)

- a) We have to deliberately do things that will stir us up in memory. It doesn't happen accidentally.
- b) Peter wrote to stir us up in remembrance even in things we already know. Some people might think that we do not need to be reminded of the things that we already know but this verse teaches otherwise.
- c) Some people do not like repetition. Not Peter (2 Peter 1:12-13). There is a place for repetition because we all tend to forget. We need to be reminded of certain things we already know.
 - i) There should be no shame in repetition.
 - ii) Repetition stirs up our remembrance.
 - iii) Repetition draws out spiritual lessons.

6. Rehearse your victories

- a) Psalm 40:5 *“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”*

- i) Rehearse your victories.
 - ii) Count your blessings name them one by one, Count your blessings and see what God has done, Count your blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.
 - iii) God has been good to all of us in more ways than any of us can articulate.
- b) Many of us know Mr. Andrew Wommack's (or another minister of the Word) victories and stories more than our own. We can remember and tell his stories. Many of us can even tell when he lives out a detail.

Why?

- i) He talks about what God has done in his life. He does not care if you have heard it before, He will say it again.
 - ii) He rehearses his victory, publicly and privately.
 - iii) But we do not even recall our own. We do not remember what God has done in our own lives like we do others.
- c) I remember growing up poor.

We were so poor

- i) Born in a dirt house.
- ii) Clothes with big holes.
- iii) "Tree classroom"
- iv) Barefooted at the early stage while going to school.
- v) Shoes with holes,
- vi) Fetching water at the well early in the morning and evening/nighttime
- vii) Showering outside in broad daylight.
- viii) One meal a day.
- ix) No 911

x) A vagabond at age 13-15 years. Nowhere to stay. Hardly anyone would take me in.

Now, look how far God has brought me.... How can I forget that? I have seen the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Psalm 118:23 "This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

d) Do you not remember?

- i) How God saved you and filled you with His Spirit?
- ii) How God delivered and set you free from destructive behaviors, addictions, and bondages?
- iii) How God supernaturally met your needs?
- iv) Do you not remember how God healed you? There is not a single person on earth that has never been healed of anything. Whether through the doctor, by natural remedies, or through the supernatural answering of prayers.
- v) Do you not remember God's provision? House? A car? A Job, pay increase? Promotion? Wife? Husband?
- vi) Do you not remember that unexpected check in the mail? That financial breakthrough time and again?
- vii) Do you not recall how God healed your marriage? How He brought your prodigal kids back?
- viii) How you survived that accident and escaped death? Do you not recall how you almost crushed or drove off the cliff while you were dosing behind the wheel?

Psalm 68:20 *"He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death."*

- The word "issues" comes from a Hebrew word which means "exit and/or Deliverance." God has delivered us from multiple death traps. We ought to be thankful.
 - Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD (Psalm 150:6). If you are alive, you ought to be praising the Lord.
- ix) Do you not remember how God healed people and set them free through your ministry?

- x) Do you not remember when you were broke and busted and couldn't pay attention and God showed Himself faithful time and again?
 - xi) Do you not remember how God protected you from falling?
 - xii) How about when you **were bound by sin, religion, and law?**
 - xiii) Do you not remember when you were almost dead or left paralyzed in that car accident, but God saved you and delivered you?
 - xiv) Do you not remember when **you thought you were forgotten, no one would marry you**, then Jesus intervened?
- iii) The doctor said you couldn't defeat that disease, illness or sickness and he sent you home to die. There was no hope in the world system. Then Jesus came through for you?

If you keep God's goodness in remembrance, there are reasons to rejoice! You have a reason to rejoice and have hope for the future.

You might be here, and you are going through a difficult moment in your life. I want to challenge you to take time to remember what God has done for you in the past. Your hope lies in your memory. Begin remembering, I call to memory all the good things God has done in your life. I command them to surface back into your memory.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I release your anointing to cause and help these your people to remember and recall your goodness and faithfulness to them. I pray that as a result of this thanksgiving will flow, hope will rise, faith will rise, healings, open doors, breakthroughs, and miracles will happen as they begin to remember your faithfulness to them.