

## **The Act of Remembering**

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There is a lot we have to remember. We have responsibilities, places to go, and appointments to keep. Our kids have busy schedules of their own: practices, lessons, games, and birthday parties. We have due dates and deadlines. With everything we have happening in our lives, we can easily forget.

During the days of Israel's slavery in Egypt, the Bible says, "...the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob..." (Exod. 2:23-25).

This passage is not implying that God had forgotten about His covenant with Abraham. God was not telling Moses, "*Oh yeah...the covenant I made with Abraham...I need to look into that.*" God was telling His intent to take action.

In the next chapter, God told Moses of His intention to take action: "Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites" (Exod. 3:7-8).

### **Remembering Means Acting**

In the New Testament, the apostle Peter wrote about how Christians were to develop spiritually (2 Pet. 1:1-11). Peter then emphasized the importance of his teaching: "Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things" (2 Pet. 1:12-15).

Being a Christian is not about being able to recite a couple of Scriptures. It is not about being the name the Judges of Israel or the capital of Judah. Being a Christian is about taking action. This is what Peter was trying to get Christians to understand. This is what we must remember. We must remember to diligently grow our faith.

## Things to Remember...

**1. Procrastination threatens memory.** Remembering is about prioritizing. We remember to do what is most important. There is nothing more important than strengthening our faith by developing the qualities listed by Peter (2 Pet. 1:5-11). Procrastination is a subtle but forceful influence. Constantly putting off the important work of godliness will slow, stall, and stop our spiritual growth.

We do not want to be like Felix. Paul taught him about righteousness, self-control, and judgment. Sadly, Felix foolishly waited for a more convenient time to do what was most crucial for his salvation (Acts 24:25). Procrastination is a detriment to our salvation.

**2. The cross.** We must remember the cross of Jesus daily. The self-giving love of the cross of Jesus is our focal point. The power of the cross enables us to repent of our sins and seek renewal. Paul wrote how the love of Christ compels us to be more like the one who died for us (2 Cor. 5:14-15). If the cross of Jesus is not in the front of our minds, we will not be prompted to take action to change.

**3. Keep trying.** There are many events, people, and influences which can test and try our commitment to change our character. No matter what we may confront, we must keep trying. We may have setbacks. We may give in to temptation. We may crumble under the stress of a hardship. We may lash out in anger at a co-worker. In these common circumstances, we must repent and move forward.

We must not allow past failures to hinder us from taking necessary action in our faith. Paul wrote, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14).

## Conclusion

We must remember to diligently add to our faith. We must make spiritual growth our way of life. God has promised to return in judgment. Like in the days of Israel and Egypt, God is going to punish His enemies and rescue His children. And, He will not forget. Peter closed his letter with this sober reminder: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).