

Yesterdays

Memories
are tomorrows
Treasures

Part 1

Making Memories Can Empower and Manage Our Lives in Fulfilling Our Obligations to God, Country, and Family.

Memories...positive or negative can lead us to a right relationship with our God and others.

“We interrupt this broadcast to let you know that...”

How many times in your life that your thoughts, actions, and daily events have been interrupted with a life changing statement or truth?

Where were you when the News Person stated, “We interrupt this broadcast to let you know that the President of the United States has been shot”?

What about the interruption... “We interrupt this broadcast to let you know that a plane has hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center!”

“We interrupt this broadcast to announce that Donald Trump has been elected President of the United States!”

How has positive memories affected your living today?

What about negative “sorrowful” memories? Are they affecting your life today?

How many times have you found yourself recollecting a bad memory? It doesn't even have to be a very bad memory, it could be a sad moment, a moment which angered you or even an embarrassing moment. But it is definitely prominent in your mind.

All of these things could have happened years ago and you don't want to remember them but they still come back and haunt you from time to time.

But the question is why do we remember these bad memories more than good ones?



The answer is: We shouldn't remember the bad memories over the good memories. However, if our minds have not been changed according to Scripture:

- **You may not be able to prevent sinful or harmful memories from arising.**
- **Painful thoughts might still intrude without invitation.**
Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Note: You need not labor to erase those painful thoughts or panic to escape them. They do not have to destroy you.

Instead, in Christ memories:

- **Can be redeemed.**
Our memories are bought and paid for in Christ. In Christ I am more than a conqueror. Redemption = freedom from
- **We can learn to reinterpret them biblically.**
1 Timothy 1:12-17, *"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

This Scripture teaches that a gospel-centered remembrance of your past sin will:

(1) Deepen your repentance,

No shallow repentance where one has to repent of the same sin over and over again. We remember...but, we don't dwell in the pit experience. Joseph didn't...Nor do you!

(2) Heighten your gratitude to God for His saving grace,

Paul was so grateful for the Damascus road experience. His thankful attitude did not cause him to forget; it helped him know the expanded love of a Father and His Son to an unworthy sinner such as Paul knew he was.

*Years I spent in vanity and pride, Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died On Calvary.*

Refrain:

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;

Pardon there was multiplied to me;

There my burdened soul found liberty

At Calvary.

*By God's Word at last my sin I learned; Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring turned To Calvary.*

*Now I've giv'n to Jesus everything, Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only sing Of Calvary!*

*Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span At Calvary!*

(3) Broaden your effectiveness in helping others with wisdom and compassion.

"A forgiven man can give an appeal with passion and compassion...for he has been forgiven much and he desires to tell others of the experience."

2nd stanza of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus."

*"Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness."*

*You can't teach this...you can only live it, stand firm in God's saving
grace...and be thankful for knowing a compassionate, forgiving God.*

God can redeem your nagging memories so that you might go deeper, higher, and broader, for His glory and your good.

If you dwell on past memories, dwell on those lifetime memories that will overshadow all the trash in one's past.

Making Spiritual Memories

Memories hold a very important place in our lives, now and in the future.

- *God was constantly telling the Hebrews to remember, and often would remind them of their experiences of the past.*
- *In Luke 16:25 Father Abraham reminded the lost, rich man in Hell of his past.*
- *In Luke 17:32 Jesus said, “Remember Lot’s wife?”*
- *In Phil. 1:1-7, Paul spoke some tender words to the Saints at Philippi and mentioned his memory of them in days gone by.*
- *On several occasions, the Apostle Paul mentions his memory of others who had either been with him, or had worked with him or had been won by him.*

Here are several reasons in which we should be faithful to the Lord and make good Spiritual memories.

1. **Sometimes, good memories help us through bad times. Sometime in life, we may be faced with some difficulty and may tend to think we may not survive. However, a good memory of the past may lift us up and encourage us to wait on deliverance as we had experienced in years gone by.** *“All things together work for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.”*
2. **Sometimes, good memories remind us of the goodness of God in the past. This helps us believe that God is still the same God and He can do the same thing now that He did in years gone by. He is the same God of all comfort, God of all mercy. Matthew 16:5-10,** *“When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. ⁶ “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ⁷ They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.” ⁸ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? ⁹ **Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember** the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?”*
3. **Sometimes, good memories become our last link with heaven.** By that I mean, you could get out of God’s will; you could get out of Church and leave your friends, your faith, and find yourself in a far country, however, you will never get away from the sweet memories of days gone by when you were in the Father’s house enjoying the blessings of God. In Luke 15:12-24 the prodigal son left the Father’s house, went away into a far country, yet the thing that broke his heart was **when “he came to himself” and remembered the blessings of the Father’s house. His memories brought him back and the Father rejoiced and received him with open arms.**

No memory that drags you into a sinful thought or action is worth dwelling on!

God's Word is food for thought...

Philippians 1:3-5, “I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,” **(NIV)**

Luke 2:19, “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (NIV)

Luke 16:25, “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.’” (NIV)

John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (ESV)