

The Challenge to Remember

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Introduction: We often find great strength in our memory of what God has done for us.

- A. By looking back on God's actions we can be changed. **(Isa 46:8-10)**
 - 1. Memory however is a choice. It is not automatic or easy.
 - 2. With God's wisdom we will give attention to those things that give us strength.
- B. On what memories is your life built upon?

I. The Power of memory

- A. When God's word is recalled by faith there is great power! **(1 Thess 2:13)**
- B. The disciples found a stronger faith in the Lord from what they remembered. **(Lk 24:6-8; Jn 2:22; 12:16)**
 - 1. We do not always remember at first. Events may stir us to remember. (Parents take heart!)
 - 2. It would have been better to have so strongly believed that it was always there.
- C. Peter was convicted of sin because he remembered. **(Mt 26:74-75)**
 - 1. Again, it would have been better for his faith to be strong enough to have remembered earlier and stood.
 - 2. Still he was blessed to have such a guilty conscience. This would later make him strong.
- D. Jesus disciples found great strength in difficult times because they remembered. **(Jn 15:20-25)**
 - 1. Were Jesus' words remembered? Yes! **(Jude 1:17-18; 2 Pt 3:1-3)**
 - 2. Because of these words we do not lose faith. God told us ahead of time.
- E. A memory can renew our love. **(1 Jn 4:19)**
 - 1. Why do couples take time to remember anniversaries?
 - 2. God knows that His love can transform our lives. **(2 Cor 5:14-15)**
 - 3. We must however choose to remember! This is a major element of our worship.

II. Jesus asks us to remember Him

- A. **The Lord's supper is the way we do this together. (1 Cor 11:23-25)**
 - 1. Jesus did not give the numerous holy days of men. He did however give this!
 - 2. When these things are remembered there will be great changes in your heart.
- B. **We build a greater faith.**
 - 1. In that faith we are drawn closer together in unity. **(1 Cor 10:16-17)**
 - 2. In that faith we separate from the world. **(1 Cor 6:19-20; 10:21-22)**
- C. **We are challenged to fight against sin. (Mk 14:18-19)**
 - 1. How many of us are challenged over sin in our lives. "Lord, is it I?"
 - 2. You are not "unworthy" because you have sinned and repented. You do become "unworthy because you do not remember. **(1 Cor 11:27-29)**
- D. **We find comfort in difficult times. (1 Cor 11:26)**
 - 1. We look both forward and backwards!
 - 2. We see His love in His death and know of His coming because of His resurrection and ascension. We know this life is not all there is! **(1 Pt 1:7-9)**
- E. **We renew our love.**

1. Too many people drift away from their first love. (**Rev 2:4, Heb 2:1**)
2. When we do not remember, we will in time die. (**1 Cor 11:29-30**)
3. Are you remembering?

III. The Challenge to remember

A. We must want to. (1 Pt 1:13)

1. There is a real battle for our minds. Memory is neither easy nor automatic.
2. There are many things in my life I could remember, but I choose not to.

"There is no past we can bring back by longing for it. There is only an eternal now that builds and creates out of the past something new and better."

B. I must find understanding. (Mt 13:19)

1. If I do not understand what Jesus did for me, then how can I remember?
2. Do you see why Jesus died for you? The world is unmoved because they do not know.

C. I must not allow worship to become commonplace. (Heb 10:23-25)

1. Far too many come with the demand that others make worship meaningful.
2. Others come out of a desire to be seen by men. (**Mt 6:5**)
3. If we do not willingly appear before God then we are like the world.

C. Some suggestions for the Lord's supper.

1. Come rested.
2. Already have your mind in the worship.
3. Use passages to remind you of Jesus' death. (**Mt 26; Psa 22; Isa 53..**)
4. Spend time in prayer to God.

D. Follow all that God has said. (Acts 20:7)

1. Some are satisfied with churches that rarely partake of the Lord's supper.
2. God has given great emphasis towards the first day of the week. (**1 Cor 16:2**)

"On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."

E. Make your memory a daily effort. (2 Pt 1:12-15)

1. I must have daily repetition.
2. This is called a "renewed mind." (**Rom 12:1-2**)
3. It is easy to have the things of the world push out these vital memories.
4. I must concentrate. We need that diligence that makes the word a part of our hearts. (**Acts 20:31**)
5. Memory is work! What a blessing when we succeed.

Conclusion: There is great power in the memory of Jesus' death.

A. We find strength in the example and memory of our own departed loved ones.

1. How many have their parents voices and example within their hearts?
2. Here is where men and nations can be moved to great accomplishments.
(Ex. Remember - "the Alamo", "Pearl Harbor.")

B. If Jesus is beloved to you, consider what the memory of His life can do!

(1 Cor 5:14-15)

1. Did you remember today?
2. Israel forgot God and paid a terrible price. (**Psa 78:33-35**)