

## INTRODUCTION

There is an aspect of Judaism that has it all over Christianity. That is the ***practice of remembering***. Let me give you a classic example:

### Exodus 13

3. And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

3471 years ago, God passed over Egypt with such devastating power that it compelled Pharaoh to do the unthinkable; to release an entire cast of slaves that were now essential to the building of his society. And to this day, Jews around the world observe "***Passover***."

At this time of year, Judaism celebrates ***Hanukkah***, also known as "The Festival of lights." It commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple during the successful revolt of the Jewish rebel army, the ***Maccabees***, against Rome. It is said that the wicks of the menorah miraculously burnt for eight days in the Temple without any oil; hence, the celebration is eight days. That happened 2208 years ago.

Because Judaism ***remembers***, the Jews remained a people for thousands of years, even when they were dispersed all around the world.

### Psalms 20

7. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But ***we will remember*** the ***name of the Lord*** our God.

The Psalms hold the ***secret to remembering***. So if we remember; if we live with the God of our ***past*** as well as in the ***present*** and ***future***; ***what are the benefits?***

### Ps 105

4. Seek the ***Lord and His strength***; Seek ***His face*** evermore.

5. ***Remember His marvelous works which He has done***, His wonders, and the ***judgments of His mouth***,

When we remember, we become recipients of:

- **GOD'S STRENGTH**

### Romans 10

11. For the Scriptures tell us that no one who believes in Christ ***will ever be disappointed***.

***So those who earnestly "seek the Lord" will find "His strength."*** When we remember what God has done; there is strength in that. There is ***the strength of reality***. When something happens in our past, and it happens again and again; we become confident, it will happen in the future.

With people, we call it "***gaining trust***" or "***gaining confidence***." In this fellowship, there are those brothers and sisters in the church family I have depended on in the past. On each occasion, they came through. They did what they said they would do. I have confidence in them. In the present, if they say they are going to do something, I don't worry about it. I have every confidence they will come through... ***again***.

The thing about that is; ***a person has to remember***. I remember in this instance, and that instance, when they

proved trustworthy. The same is true of God. We are so quick to move on; **God, what have you done for me lately?**

The way to have the **strength of assurance** is to **“remember His marvelous works which He has done.”** That’s why so many people keep a prayer diary. It’s amazing how much; and how quickly we forget. And when we do forget, we lose that strength.

And it isn’t just in His direct actions; it is the **understanding and execution of His teaching and principles**. I believe, above anything else, the Bible is a book of spiritual principles. They are ways of understanding that brings life.

-Every story, every poem, every bit of history carries principles. If you discern the principles, you will have spiritual direction in your life. Even the concept of being one with God; Christ within you is a spiritual principle. **They are “the judgments of His mouth.”**

If we begin to take God’s teaching seriously. We take that first step of faith, and find life is better for it; we are likely to take another step, and deeper steps. It works! It is real! We have the **power of understanding and direction**. Another benefit is...

- **INTIMACY WITH GOD**

A way in which we **“seek His face”, is by remembering**. Have you ever heard the expression, **“I have a history with that person.”** What does that mean? It means you have shared experiences. You know them. You know things about them. You have seen how they reacted to

life. You know what kind of a person they are. They are not a stranger.

Your spouse, or your children, or maybe, your friend is here today. And you have a history with that person. You remember things about them.

It’s nice to see young couples who are crazy in love. But I have to tell you, **I wouldn’t exchange their relationship with my love relationship for anything**. You know why; because **there is no substitute for time**. Three years of relationship cannot compete with thirty, no matter how intense. Real intimacy takes time, and the **power behind time is remembering**. It is true with people, and it is true with God. And of course, that is qualified by the reality, it is time spent being close.

Not only is this logical, it is the **foundational promise of Christ Himself**.

**John 14**

20. “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

It is more than mere agreement, it is more than God with you; it is God in you; communion. God becomes part of your DNA.

You know, it’s great to read Scripture and see what God has done in many lives. But it is remembering what *He has done in yours*, which makes God alive and personal to you.

Strength and intimacy naturally lead to a third benefit...

- **ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD**

**Psalms 42**

3. Day and night I weep for his help, and all the while my enemies taunt me. "Where is this God of yours?" they scoff.

4. Take courage, my soul! Do you remember those times (but how could you ever forget them!) when you led a great procession to the Temple on festival days, singing with joy, praising the Lord? Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again. Yes, I shall again praise him for his help.

Imagine David writing this. The king of the land is out to get him. There are hostile armies and assassins everywhere. David has done nothing but try to stay right with God, and it seems that the whole world is out to get him. And then comes the inevitable question, "**Hey, big man of God; where's that God of yours now?**"

**Ever have a season like that in your life?** It might be dealing with people, it might be health issues or financial issues, or even emotional challenges; you've tried to handle it right, but the question haunts you, "*where is this God of yours?*"

David has a secret weapon he pulls out, "*My soul, take courage.*" How? "*Remember those times.*" "*Remember when God put you at the top of some great things. If He did it before, He'll do it again.*" -Whatever we're going through, it will pass.

"Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again." Note the word "again." That means you remember what has happened before.

Let me say, that if you haven't yet walked through the low valleys where you have all but lost your faith; it is most likely that you will. It is a dry place, where there seems no logical reason to keep pressing on. One of the **greatest survival tools** you can have at your disposal is memory... "remember those times." Remember what God has already done.

**Our relationship with God is much like a tree.** It is a **relationship in time**: think of the part of the tree **above ground**, as the things with God, yet to come; the **trunk at ground level** is the present; and the **roots underground** are the past. Any healthy tree has roots that go as deep as the branches reaches up.

We must live Christ in **all dimensions of time**: To live Christ in the future gives us the **luster of hope**. To live Christ in the present gives us the **practicality of action**. To live Christ in the past gives us the **grounding of reality**. It takes all three!

And this is where it comes to your part of today's message. **What do you remember?** Over the past year, what has God done that you have personally witnessed, or have been a part of? What do you "remember of His marvelous works which He has done"?