

## *How is Your Memory?*

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**Introduction:** All that we know can be found in two categories – memory and testimony.

- A. What has God done in the past *for me*?
  - 1. Israel was urged to remember *their deliverance from slavery*. (Ex 15:11-13)
  - 2. This is *often repeated* by Moses. (Deut 15:15)
  - 3. As Christians we are to remember *our deliverance* from slavery. (Jn 3:16)
- B. What has God done *for me in my lifetime*?
  - 1. King David could *look back on his life* and also the life of Israel! (1 Chron 17:16, 19-21)
  - 2. Assuming our senses are not distorted then memory has evidence to be considered. Could this *perhaps be* God's providence in my life?
  - 3. Memory alone *may not give an accurate picture* of reality! The state of one's mind and the wisdom one possesses helps greatly to find real knowledge.
  - 4. I have often *reevaluated the meaning of a memory*!

### ***I. The memory of one who does not know God***

- A. Our *very thinking process* is affected by the condition of our hearts. (2 Cor 4:3-4)
  - 1. Why is it that two people can see the same thing and *have very different accounts and conclusions* about that event?
  - 2. Many in Israel did not know God, so the Passover meant little to them. They *quickly forgot that which they never understood*! (Psa 106:7-14)
  - 3. Some that may be “raised in the church” may never have known God!
  - 4. It is sad to see those rewrite their past to justify their new manmade religion.
  - 5. Many people come to view past events *based on prejudice and not on the facts*!
- B. Consider someone falsely accused, threatened and beaten by civil authorities. What *kind of memory would they have* of the event?
  - 1. To a worldly person this may alter their life and cause them to live in fear. It may be an event that is *always on their mind as long as they live*.
  - 2. A godly man will view every event in light of *the providence and purpose of God*. (Acts 5:33, 40-42; Rom 8:18)
  - 3. The strength exhibited by the apostles *came over time*. As they came to better know God they viewed both the past and the present *in a very different way*. (Jn 20:19; Acts 4:13)

### ***II. How do we see the hand of God in our lives?***

- A. We must first come to know *the existence and character* of God.
  - 1. A *truly honest heart* can seek and know. (Heb 11:1, 6)
  - 2. God has *spoken and powerfully revealed His nature* and His record in dealing with mankind. God has been good to all men!
  - 3. For most it was the personal understanding of the cross of Christ that finally *opened hearts to understand this truth*. (Rom 5:6-8; Jn 3:16)

- B. A heart that is *thankful to God each day* will build memories that will give future courage. Consider how the past points to the future. **(Isa 43:1-5)**
1. Knowing that God hears and answers prayer changes our daily outlook.
  2. These memories should remind us of the character of God! **(Deut 7:8-9)**
  3. Our memories can be a *source of great strength or one that weakens*. Our *enthusiasm for worship* comes from a reflection on our memories! **(Ps 71:23-24)**

### **III. How remembering can help us grow spiritually**

- A. When we place God's word in our hearts it *can benefit future Bible study*. **(Ps 119:11)**
1. How many times has a memorized truth helped us to understand God's will *at a future time*? **(Lk 24:6-8; Jn 2:22; 12:16)**
  2. This is a common experience with those that *really want to know God's word*. **(Jam 1:23-25)**
  3. The more we study the more evidence we have that this is from God!
- B. When we come upon hard times *our knowledge of God* can bring great joy!
1. These memories should make us joyful and very merciful. **(Deut 24:17-19; Ex 23:9; Lev 19:33-34)**
  2. This kind of suffering can make us strong when combined with the knowledge of *how God has worked with us*. **(Ps 55:18-19; Heb 13:5-6)**
  3. What is the difference between one who has become bitter and complains about their past and one who *despite their past* encourages others? **(Rom 8:18)**

### **IV. What do we remember in the Lord's Supper?**

- A. *Imagine being there* when Jesus uttered these words. **(1 Cor 11:24-25)**
1. What do we remember? That depends upon *how we have built our memory*!
  2. How is it that some are *moved and strengthened and some are bored*?
  3. *Have we forgotten* what it really means to be forgiven? **(2 Pt 1:9)**
- B. The distracted Christian can be *making memories that weaken*. **(Rev 3:16-19)**
1. We can forget what we should remember! This was *a common problem* among God's people. **(1 Cor 11:29-30)**
  2. We can go through the motions for only so long. Happiness and joy *only comes when your faith is costly*!
- C. In the holidays we often revive family memories. **(Prov 22:6)**
1. What a blessing if our lives *provoke memories of God in the minds of our loved ones*! May they one day see us crossing the finish line of faith.
  2. My son recently told me of *hearing my voice in a race* that I was not physically present. I want my voice to be in the memories of my children in other ways!
  3. Parents *our voice will be heard* in another more important race! **(Prov 1:8-10)**

**Conclusion:** May our memories become more and more about what God has done for us!