

## REMEMBER

***John 16:4** But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

Memory is one of God's most precious gifts—an ability to recall past events, promises, lessons, and His mighty deeds. The word "memory" comes from the Latin *memoria*, which means the faculty of retaining and recalling thoughts and experiences from the past. It is vital to our relationship with God because it connects us to His faithfulness. When we remember His promises and His acts of deliverance, our faith is strengthened and hope is renewed. But our memories can also be misused or misunderstood, leading us away from trusting God. That's why it's so important to exercise our memory rightly. Consider Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan deceived her into forgetting God's clear command, telling her,

***Gen 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

Eve's failure to remember God's Word accurately opened the door for temptation. Obedience to God involves actively holding onto His Word with faith, making sure our memory does not fail us at crucial moments. God Himself underscores the importance of remembrance. When He gave Israel His commandments, He commanded Moses to record His laws and mighty acts so that future generations would remember:

***Deut 31:24** And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,  
**Deut 31:26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.*

God wanted His people to have His Word written down so they would not forget His goodness or turn aside in doubt. The book of Deuteronomy is often called the book of remembrance because it contains numerous reminders of God's faithfulness and His promises. Yet, our ability to remember can be corrupted, as demonstrated by the Israelites themselves. In **Numbers 11:5**, they nostalgically recalled their time in Egypt: "We remember the fish,

which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic.” This passage highlights how easily people can focus on the comfort of the past and forget the misery they endured. They longed for the former days of slavery, forgetting the suffering, the oppression, and the burdens they carried. Their memory was skewed—not recalling the despair but instead fixating on the fleeting pleasures. This faulty remembrance led them to murmur and complain against God, rather than trusting His provision in the wilderness. They remembered the fish and vegetables in Egypt with longing, but they failed to remember God's mighty acts of deliverance and His daily provision in the wilderness. This is a warning: remembering the past with a wrong heart or perspective can breed dissatisfaction, ingratitude, and doubt.

Now, moving forward in history, we see examples of how right remembrance fosters hope. The story of Joseph is a great example. Betrayed and sold into slavery, Joseph was in prison, facing years of hardship. Yet, he remembered God’s promises and kept faith that God's plan was unfolding. When Joseph finally was elevated to a position of power, he told his brothers, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” —Genesis 50:20. His memory of God's sovereignty and His prophetic dreams sustained him through years of suffering and rejection. The story of David also demonstrates this. Even after sin and failure, David remembered God's mercy. He said, “Remember how short my time is: for what strength I have, that Thou hast given me.” —Psalm 119:49. And he constantly praised God for His enduring love: “For his mercy endureth forever.” —Psalm 107:1. Those memories of God's unwavering faithfulness gave David hope and confidence, encouraging him to seek restoration and forgiveness.

In the New Testament, Jesus Himself often reminded His followers of His promises to give them hope. Jesus Himself often reminded His followers of His promises to give them hope. Before His crucifixion, He told His disciples, “In my Father’s house are many mansions:... I go to prepare a place for you.” —John 14:2. When they were filled with fear and uncertainty, Jesus directed their focus to His words and promises — to remember that He was preparing a place for them. Their hope and comfort were sustained by recalling His assurances of eternal life and His love. The act of remembering His words gave them confidence to face suffering and death, knowing that He would keep His promises.

Similarly, the Apostle Paul exemplifies how proper remembrance inspires hope. Despite his sufferings—shipwrecks, imprisonments, beatings—Paul focused on God's faithfulness. He wrote, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” —2 Timothy 4:7. Paul's hope was rooted in his memory of God's promises, His past faithfulness, and the assurance of a future reward in Christ. This hope sustained him as he faced death, and it can do the same for us in our struggles.

Then we see the tragic story of Lot's wife as a warning about misusing memory. When God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, He commanded Lot and his family to escape and instructively told them, “Look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain.” —Genesis 19:17. But Lot's wife looked back longingly at her old life, her possessions, her comfort she was leaving behind. Her wrong remembrance caused her to turn into a pillar of salt. Jesus warned, “Remember Lot's wife.” —Luke 17:32. Her memory was not an act of faith but an act of longing for what she was told to forsake. Her failure shows us that remembering what God commands us to leave behind, without trust, can be deadly. When God calls us to move forward in obedience, we must remember His words and promises, but never cling to the past or allow longing for past comforts to hinder our obedience. Her mistake was fixing her eyes on the familiar instead of trusting God's plan—she remembered her previous life but did so with a heart of disobedience and distrust. That misplaced memory led to her downfall, serving as a stark warning for us to remember God's commands with faith, not longing.

Finally, let me emphasize that how we use our memory makes all the difference. Proper remembrance is a powerful tool that ignites hope, sustains faith, and keeps us aligned with God's will. It reminds us of His provision, His promises, and His mighty deeds—past, present, and future. When we recall God's goodness with faith, it anchors our hope and fuels perseverance amid trials. But when our memories are used to dwell on failures, doubts, or old sins, they become a trap that drags us away from the Kingdom of God. Therefore, let us carefully guard our minds and hearts. Meditate on Scripture, remember God's past acts of mercy, and trust His promises. As the psalmist exhorts us, “Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth.” —Psalm 105:5. By exercising our memory rightly, we turn it into a divine instrument that strengthens hope, encourages obedience, and brings glory to God. For in every good remembrance, we find a foothold of hope that leads us closer to His eternal promises and His everlasting love.