

Don't Forget

Leanna Bolden Eternally Speaking Now

I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. Psalm 77:11 We can all admit that it's easy to get caught up with temporal things and lose sight of what really matters. Especially during the busy seasons of life.

Whether it's driving kids back and forth for sports, getting swept away by relationship drama, over-analyzing situations at work, or just being concerned about what Christmas gifts to buy, the things meant to be a blessing can turn into a burden, if we allow it.

As I experienced this recently, I sensed the Lord respond with a super simple solution:

"Just remember Me."

I began writing two other blogs this month, but the Lord kept bringing me back to this topic. At first I resisted, as it seemed too simple, even trite.

Remember the Lord.

Is that it? Yup, it is, because here's the problem: we *do* forget.

We can lose sight of how He's actively and personally involved in the seemingly insignificant daily details. Those mundane activities on our calendar are often God's tools to get our attention... to remember Him.

May I take this a step further?

Not only can we forget that God is working in our present moments, but we can also forget what He's done in the past.

I was convicted of this myself recently. During a momentary pity party, I sank into my chair and told God I felt like He'd forgotten about me. Do you know what I sensed His Spirit gently reply?

"You've already learned this lesson."

I froze, somewhat embarrassed. He was right, I *had* learned it already. Multiple times.

In fact, I've written a book about it. (See here)

I honestly couldn't count how many times
the Lord God Almigty-- the One who created the universe-has revealed His love and ever-presence
in amazing, personal, off-the-chart ways, just this past year alone.
Yet in the midst of momentary disappointment,
I'd temporarily forgotten one of the biggest of all the lessons
He'd re-taught me only days prior.

Immediately I resolved to revisit my journal. When I did, I was reminded of additional forgotten things God had done in 2022.

Before I made it to page 20 of this year's journaling (which in total exceeds several hundred pages), I was undone before the Lord. It was humbling to reread many things He'd revealed this year that had settled in the recesses of my mind.

I was left once again in awe of His kindness, His mercy, and the incredibly individual way He lovingly, patiently reaches out to sinful mankind.

> O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is **Your name** in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!

What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?

For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet...

> O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is **Your name** in all the earth! Psalm 8:1, 3-6, 9

CHALLENGE

Forgetting what the Lord has done comes naturally to humanity.

God knows this, and He addresses it in Scripture: the word remember is found almost 230 times in the Bible and the word forget more than 110. Our loving Father repeatedly prompts His children to diligently take heed, keep in mind His commandments, recall the struggles from which He's delivered us

recall the struggles from which He's delivered us, and not forget the Lord our God.

Here are Scripture pages for further study, if you're interested: Follow **this link** for verses with the word **remember**. Follow **this link** for verses with the word **forget**.

I think the best part of all is that the Lord, who understands our weak and frail condition, tells us over and over that

He will never forget us.

"The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me."

(Then God responded),

Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands... Isaiah 49:14-16

Quick sidetrack...

Reread verse 16 above. How cool is it that God our Creator has inscribed you on His palms?

That word inscribed is from the Hebrew word, chaqaq, which means to engrave or cut in stone.

Yes, Jesus has permanently etched the essence of your very being on the palms of His hands-- the very hands that took the nails that hung Him on the Cross to die for your sins.

Wow. I should write a book about that.
Oh, wait-- *I forgot*.
I already did. (See here if you forgot to look earlier)

Back to the Challenge...

I encourage you to remember all God has done for you. Begin by looking back over your activities this year:

Scan previous months on your calendar, flip through past pages in your planner, reread your journal, peruse old emails, revisit social media posts, go through your photos, review the year's texts.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. Psalm 143:5

Take note of where you were months ago compared to where you are now.

Did you travel, vacation, or visit some place?

The Lord carried you there and safely back again.

Did you move, change jobs, or undergo unplanned transitions?

The Holy Spirit gave you all you needed to endure, even thrive.

Did you lose a loved one?

Jesus, your Savior and Best Friend, has faithfully held your hand through it all, and He'll sit beside you on the couch again tonight.

Presumably, this year has offered both ups and downs to all of us, with some ups being higher than that of other people and some downs being lower.

Wherever we find ourselves on the spectrum, may each of us not forget how faithful the Lord has been. And if we've only just begun walking through a difficult season, we have all the more need to recall past trials through which Jesus successfully carried us. Remember that His very name is "Faithful and True". (Revelation 11:19)

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13

How has Emmanuel, God-With-Us, shown His faithfulness to you this year? Take note of it all, thank Him for it, and don't forget.

Merry Christmas, dear friends.

Scroll down for a couple encouraging links.

Flashback: Read "Thankful for the Construction," a Writing from 2016

Listen Here: "Faithful Now" Song by Vertical Worship

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