

REMEMBER TO REMEMBER
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- to be mindful of, to remember, to call to mind
- to think of and feel for a person or thing
- to hold in memory, keep in mind
- to make mention of

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“I think it is good to refresh your memory”

2 Peter 1:13

1. Your early faith- Eph. 2:11

From time to time it is good to recall the excitement, the joy, the relief you experienced when you were first saved. You finally understood that by simple belief in Christ as savior that you could have eternal life. Remember what life was like before you trusted Christ? Remember the lostness, separation, loneliness and lack of purpose you had without Christ?

Many times, young Christians are often bold for Christ at first at the beginning of their walk but then many times cool off as time goes by.

That is why it is good to hear testimonies from young Christians. It reminds older believers of their own story of salvation.

That is why it is good for married couples to go to weddings – to support the new couple and also to remember the vows that they also took.

Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken** the love you had at first.

Eph 2:11 Therefore, **remember** that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

Eph 2:12 **remember** that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Heb 10:32 **Remember** those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.

“Remember Lot’s wife!

Luke 17:32

2. Remember Lot’s wife – she looked back

What a simple phrase! Yet how profound and startling it is.

Jesus did not want his disciples to forget what happened to Lot’s wife. We know from Genesis 19, that she was saved out of a city that was to be destroyed and was told by God to not look back.

However, the city she physically left was still in her heart. It still had control over her and there was apparently a fondness for what she had left and what God had condemned.

We need to refuse to let the world still have a hold on our hearts and lives after we come to know Christ. There will always be a temptation to look back. However, we need to press on towards Christ and his heavenly kingdom

We need to be like Paul and not look back on the things that once entangled us.

Lk 17:32 **Remember** Lot's wife!

2Ti 2:4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

Php 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting** what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

“Remember those in prison”

Hebrews 13:3

3. Remember those in prison- Heb. 13:3

How easy it is to forget those who are suffering for the Lord. For some reason, when we get comfortable, we often forget those who are not.

Jesus warned us that believers always will be persecuted.

This truth is actually one of our strong apologetic arguments. It is a proof of our faith is true. Jesus' words about persecution of his followers have come true for centuries ever since he spoke them. Sooner or later believers find that governments, jobs, politics, laws, schools, even some churches turn against them because of their faith in Christ.

Some lose their job because they are believers, some are shut out of academic circles, some believers cannot rent a facility for their church to meet, and some actually end up in prison because of their faith in Christ.

Those who have suffered like this should be considered heroes of the faith. They not be forgotten but should be prayed for and visited as they go through their persecution.

Heb 13:3 Continue to **remember** those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Col 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. **Remember** my chains. Grace be with you.

Jn 15:20 **Remember** what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

“Continue to remember the poor”

Galatians 2:10

4. Remember the poor Galatians 2:10

Believers should always have budgets, programs, funds, time, and helps directed toward helping the poor. We must remember to be thankful for what the Lord has given us and then think about how we can use what God has given to benefit others.

Jesus clearly reminded us that we will always have this opportunity. Every country, city and neighborhood have someone who is poor. He stated to the disciples, in John 12:8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Paul tells the converted to not steal again but work hard enough to meet his needs and to share with another. When one becomes a Christian, his life is no longer about himself and his needs. We lift our eyes to the needs of others around us and show the love of Christ which we have enjoyed.

Eph 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Gal 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to **remember** the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

Ac 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, **remembering** the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Heb 13:16 And do not **forget** to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

“Remember your Christian leaders”

1 Thessalonians 2:9

5. Remember your Christian leaders- 1 Thess. 2:9

Leadership is a lonely place. As a leader knows, even if they are surrounded by many people, they are still aware of problems that maybe only they know about. They may have a happy, joyous, edifying, praise time at church followed by some good food, but the leader knows struggles others are dealing with even at that time.

The leader goes home and goes to prayer lifting up the unsaved, the rebellious, the backslider, the sick, the broken family, the threat of false doctrine, the coldness of heart and young people who are being swallowed by the world. The good shepherd feeds, leads and protects and cares for the flock.

There certainly is a joy and satisfaction to leading and shepherding. Paul loved the ones he cared for just as a shepherd loves his sheep, as a mother loves her child, as a father guides his child, and as a fellow soldier who has his brother’s back. He reminded believers of this in his letters.

The writer of Hebrews reminds the believers to make their leader’s job easier by imitating their faith. 2Cor. 11:28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

1Thess 2:9 Surely you **remember**, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

Hebrews 13:7 **Remember** your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

“Remember to sow generously”

2 Corinthians 9:6

6. Remember to sow generously 2 Cor. 9:6

Paul is encouraged the believers in Corinth to give to the needs of poor believers. He reminds them of the laws of the harvest. The seed that is being spoken of here is money. He wants the Corinthians to be blessed. He knows if they give that they will receive.

One great reminder said, “Don’t worry about out giving God. He can shovel it in faster than you can shovel it out!”

The laws of the harvest can also be applied in other areas of our lives. Giving is a sign of love. “For God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten Son” “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” “...the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”.

Remember the laws of the harvest. (Steve Lawrence)

1. We reap only what has been sown
2. We reap the same kind as we sow
3. We reap in a different season than we sow
4. We reap more than we sow

Law 6: We Reap the Full Harvest of the Good Only if We Persevere; The Evil Comes to Harvest on Its Own

Law 7: We Can’t do Anything About Last Year’s Harvest, But We Can About This Year’s

If you want to be rich ... GIVE!

If you want to be poor ... GRASP!

If you want abundance ... SCATTER!

If you want to be needy . . HOARD!

2Co 9:6 **Remember** this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

“Remember to restore sinners”

James 5:20

7. Remember to restore sinners James 5:20

James reminds us of the blessing of restoring a sinner – sins forgiven and maybe even death.

It is a good thing to seek out those who have wandered from the faith. Jesus emphasized this when he told about the good shepherd who left the 99 sheep and went out to find the lost sheep. The lost sheep needed a faithful shepherd to find him in his lost condition. I am not sure the 99 were aware of their lost flock member, but the shepherd did for sure.

Jude also says that we should seek to help those who are swallowed up in false doctrine. As we seek them out we need to be careful that we are not infected by the same sickness they have. We need to be aware of moral temptations that go with some sins, remembering that it might even cost us. We could get burned in trying to help a fallen brother. But the reward is great and the thankfulness on their part is a great thing.

There are many examples that come to my mind of prayer warriors who prayed for many years about someone who was away from the Lord and finally came back. It takes a lot of faith and persistence in love.

Jas 5:20 **remember** this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Jude 1:22 Be merciful to those who doubt;

Jude 1:23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

“Remember God’s past provisions”

Matthew 16:9

8. God’s past provision – Matt. 16:9

How quickly we forget the history we have of God’s abundant kindnesses!

We all have heard about the little boy who said to his dad, “I know that you love me but what have you done for me lately”?

When we come to places of difficulty, especially financial needs or some physical need it is so easy to forget the Lord’s past provision. He did supply for us in the past, has he forgotten about us now?

He saved our soul from hell by his sacrifice on the cross. Should we not trust him for daily needs?

Jesus strongly rebuked his disciples about forgetting the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. It was a lesson he wanted them to remember. He wanted them to believe that he was the Great Provider. He is the Bread of Life. His logic to us is, if he can take care of the birds of the air, aren’t we more valuable than them?

Mt 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Mt 16:9 Do you still not understand? Don’t you **remember** the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?

“Remember that Jesus is coming back”

2 Thessalonians 2:5

9. Remember that Jesus is coming back 2 Thess 2:5

Paul only spent a couple of weeks in the city of Thessalonica. In that short time, many people were saved, and a church was established.

When he wrote a letter back to them later, he reminded them of the things he taught them about the second coming of Christ while he was with them. In his two letters he reminds them that he told them about; the coming wrath, the reward at Christ's coming, His coming back with His holy ones, the rapture, the importance of sanctification at His coming, the fire of His destruction, the anti-Christ, and the great delusion of the antichrist. They were left with a great amount of teaching about the second coming. He gave them great lessons on Christ's second coming.

We too should never forget eternity, His coming again, and what He foretold us when He was here.

It is good to have a hope.

It is good to know how this story ends!

2Th 2:5 Don't you **remember** that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

Jude 1:17 But, dear friends, **remember** what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

2Pe 3:8 But **do not forget** this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

“Remember to keep growing in Christ”

2 Peter 1:15

10. Remember to keep growing in Christ – 2 Peter 1:15

We must remember to keep growing in Christ.

Things that are not growing are dying. An airplane with engines that are dead can glide for a while but is slowly going down. We need to keep adding, not subtracting in our faith.

Peter tells us to make every effort to add these things to our lives; faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love.

Even the great apostle Peter added that, “I know you know this already”. As we too hear ministry and teaching and others speak to us of the Lord, we should always look for a way to freshly apply things we have known earlier on in our Christian life. Don’t get testy or bored if you hear of something you already know. There is always something there to be gained from reminders from the Word out of well known passages. Remember, you believe that the Word of God is living and active!

As we claim the promises of God, we can progress in holiness.

2Pe 1:12 So I will always **remind** you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

2Pe 1:13 I think it is right to **refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body

2Pe 1:15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to **remember** these things.

Rev 3:3 **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

2Tim. 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel